

Friends of the La Mesa Library
General Membership Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2013

Attendance: Board Members: Deborah Ives, Bob Thatcher, John Schmitz, Eileen Schmitz, and Heather Pisani-Kristl (Library Ex-officio). Absent: Bob Duff.

Members: **Robert Cerullo**, Gertrude Hoffman, Phil Hoffman, Joyce Purcell, Cathie Smith, Serena Somers, Carol Thatcher, Robin Theilman, Carole Yaremko.

Call to Order: President John Schmitz called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the annual general membership meeting. The next general meeting will be in June 2014, which will also be the election of officers. He encouraged interested parties to contact current board members with any questions and pointed out that the Friends needs a membership chair.

President's Report: John Schmitz

- The *Authors and Artists* fundraiser will be held on Saturday, May 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the parking lot north of city hall and east of the police station. Special presentations will take place inside the Community Room in the police station. A steering committee consists of Heather Pisani-Kristl (Head Librarian), John (Friends), Glenna Bloeman (writers and Kiwanis), and Patty O'Reilly (artists). Last June, this event earned \$800. By moving to May, it is hoped that schools will be able to participate. By creating a program booklet and selling ads, we should be able to raise more money.
- Shirts with the Friends of the La Mesa Library logo can be ordered through a local company. Contact John for details.
- Identifying badges have been made for Bookstore volunteers. They are in a plastic box in the cabinet.
- John attended the City of La Mesa's Council meeting on Tuesday. He reported on matching funds.

Approval of the Minutes: The November 2013 minutes were approved with minor corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Thatcher

- Bob distributed and reviewed the November financial report. He pointed out that the three Express programs were the main expenditures for Library programs. He noted that \$8300 has gone to Matching Funds so far this fiscal year.
- The last page shows Bookstore sales. The daily average was \$49.97, compared to last year's \$52.21. Double shifts on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday are reflected in the daily tallies.
- The November Statement of Financial Position and the Income and Expense Statement were accepted.

John commended Bob for his guidance of FOL as non-profit 501 c 3 organization. Both state and federal tax statuses are current.

Library Staff: Heather Pisani-Kristl

- Collaboration with the City of La Mesa and the County Library will pay for new carpeting.
- Changes in layout have created more space in the children's area for crafts and tutoring.
- New developmental toys for toddlers are in the children's area.
- There is increased seating around the perimeter and the large print area.
- A laptop bar and seating area will be along the south wall.
- Magazines have been moved to wall displays. Although it may appear that there aren't as many magazines, they are extremely popular and are simply checked out. La Mesa leads the County system in magazine circulation.

IT Report: No report

Bookstore Report: Deborah Ives

- The Bookstore will close for the holidays from December 21st through January 2nd.
- Deborah is closing the Alibris online account as it didn't bring in enough to justify the \$20 fee. Our rating was 5-stars.
- *Fill It Up Fridays* continue on the last Friday of each month. Thursday sales are down a bit as bargain-shoppers wait until Friday.
- All volunteers are now on e-mail so it is easier to contact substitutes as needed.

Members' Comments:

- In response to a question from the floor, John explained that the Friends of the La Mesa Library has its own website, maintained by Bob Duff. Steve Babbitt saves us about \$135 per year by hosting the site for free.
- John pointed out that help is needed with Membership, Publicity, and perhaps a newsletter. Please contact him if interested (friendsoflamesalibrary@hotmail.com or jcschmitz@hotmail.com)
- Phil Hoffman suggested lifetime memberships. We will research costs in other area branch libraries, and place this topic on the agenda for the January meeting. Deborah will check on the cost of El Cajon's lifetime membership.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Eileen Schmitz