

Friends of the La Mesa Library
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2013

Attendance:

Board Members: Robert Duff, Chris Gonzales (City Ex-officio), Deborah Ives, John Schmitz, Eileen Schmitz, Heather Pisani-Kristl (Library Ex-officio)

Excused Absence: Bob Thatcher **Guest:** Principal Librarian Robin Isicson

Call to Order: President John Schmitz called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: The November 27, 2012, General Membership meeting minutes were approved. There wasn't a December meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Thatcher sent the Statement of Financial Position to John Schmitz. Because of missing headings on the third page, the financial report was tabled and will not appear on the FOL website until its acceptance at the next meeting in February.

John updated the situation on past taxes. It is expected that Friends of the La Mesa Library will receive \$1400 back from an appeal.

Library Staff Report: Heather Pisani-Kristl

- There was a question of our participation in the County Library system's centennial celebration. El Cajon is handing out \$1 coupons for its Bookstore. Rancho San Diego will have punch and cookies.
- It was decided that we will mark the event at our own Library's birthday in June in combination with the *Authors and Artists event*.
- A recent meeting of City and County Facilities discussed possibly lighting the reading corners, once estimates have been made and it's determined which agency will pay how much.
- If we want shades on the west side, we will have to pay for them ourselves. Heather will ask Facilities for the likely cost.
- The County Library has been approached by a company that wants to set up Electronic Recycling Days at various branches, with a portion of the profits to go to FOL. It would require some of our limited parking spaces on either a Saturday or Sunday. It was decided to hold off until we hear how it went at some other branch libraries.
- Safa Arabo reported that La Mesa is second in the County material circulation report.
- There have been several changes in our Library's personnel. John expressed frustration with the recent churn factor. As soon as we really get to know the staff, they are moved elsewhere.
- Heather advocated for more e-books. It was moved, seconded and approved to shift \$1000 from Express to matching funds for e-books. That should pay for about sixty e-books.
- In December, there were at least twenty parents and children for story time, despite the small space.

- A new program, *English Conversation Café*, will run on the first and third Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Bookstore.
- Robin Isicson was introduced as the new regional manager for the South County branch libraries

Bookstore: Deborah Ives

- Deborah reported that she met earlier today with County staff to discuss how to make the Bookstore more ADA-accessible. Adjustments should be completed by the end of February.
- The proposed turning of a few bookcases sideways to screen the work area will not be allowed. Instead, Deborah would like to find a screen for the back corner.
- Deborah has an idea to clear out some stock with a gift bag promotion: *Fit-It-In-Friday* for \$4.00 on the Library's fine-free Friday.
- She also suggested a Silent Auction of three items once a month, starting with a set of Great Books.
- John will help Deborah inventory surplus books that she has to store at home, as the space here is so limited.

IT: Bob Duff would like ideas for the lobby DVD. Some suggestions were to:

- List County programs with pictures
- Ask the City if they have pictures of Parks and Recreation classes and events
- Get old photographs from the Historical Society
- Pitch "I'm a Friend of the La Mesa Library" with pictures of library events

Bob would like to promote special old books and prices on the website, if Deborah can review and select approximately eight books.

President's Report: John Schmitz

- John reported that membership renewals would be going out in early February.
- The County announced that new automated book kiosks were being tested in rural areas and could be added to the system. They probably won't fit in La Mesa at this time.
- Coordinating work is beginning for the June *Authors & Artists event* with authors already expressing interest in returning.
- John asked Heather if she would be interested in participating in the La Mesa Parks & Recreation Foundation as there has been more coordination with La Mesa on programming. It was decided that she would not. John will be the primary intermediary.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Eileen Schmitz