

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

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

Excused Absence: Bob Duff

Guest: Robin Erickson County (Library Regional Manager)

Call to Order: President John Schmitz called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. Because of attendees' schedules, the Reports were reordered as follows.

Library Staff: Heather Pisani-Kristl

- Jessie Goodwin has taken a position with the San Diego City Library. Her vacancy will be filled soon. There is also a new part-time tech, Julie Silva, who will work Saturday - Tuesday.
- The Library had about 101 volunteers in the last year, who contributed 842 work hours per quarter-year.
- Plans for improvements:
 - The Children's Area is newly painted. One of the large standing bookshelves there will be removed while new shelving will be put in the nook.
 - Chris Gonzales said that if the carpeting cost can be kept low, the City will put \$1500 toward lighting costs. It was clarified that FOL will not be covering lighting costs.
 - Magazines will be put on the wall. New tab chairs will accommodate laptops. Cushioned stools will go next to a new electronics bar on the south side.
 - The City of La Mesa has approved the concept of tinting the high windows over the western entrance but would need to review pop-ins. Chris suggested having experts come in to analyze and estimate the cost which will be borne by FOL.
- Midge Hyde had an injury which prevented her from moving ahead with exhibiting art in the Library. Meanwhile, a picture donated to the Friends sold for \$150.
- David Bowers generously donated \$100 to the Friends specifically to the Matching Funds program.
- There were about 200 people at the October 5th Barnes and Noble Star Wars event. FOL will receive a portion of the revenues.
- The Library column in the *La Mesa Courier* will be taken over by Heather. John would like to contribute too.
- Our ranking in the County slipped to #4. Chris noted that if ranking was done by square footage and usage, La Mesa would always be at the top.

Approval of the Minutes: The August 2013 minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Thatcher reviewed the last two months. He noted that Gamers Express overspent what was in their bank account but he shifted funds to cover it. Heather will review purchasing procedures with the staff.

- He presented the August and September Statements of Financial Position and the Income and Expense Statements. All reports were moved and voted to accept.
- The Bookstore's daily average for August was \$61.24, compared with last year's average of \$54.17. September's daily average was \$51.79, compared with \$54.56 a year ago.
- Robin suggested taking a siesta from purchasing until the staff changes are settled. Bob will send out the current amounts as of today.

President's Report: John Schmitz

- The Friends of the County Library met last week. John shared a spreadsheet of the other Friends' contacts and information. Deborah suggested that it would be more meaningful if divided by square feet, number of hours, and number of volunteers.
- There had also been discussion of what to do with old moldy book donations. The group asked the County to set guidelines for health and safety reasons.
- Dues to the County FOL are due soon and will go up next year.
- It was recommended that e-books be promoted on one of the "wedding cake" carrousel.
- **Authors and Artists** has been set for May 10th. It may move to the Farmers Market area. Chris noted that FOL will need to provide an insurance certificate to the City.

Ideas:

- A marquee was suggested for the outside of the building to promote library activities. If not feasible, Chris suggested that banners similar to those that advertised the Farmers Market 20th anniversary could be made for the Authors and Artists event. (Banners could also promote the summer and winter reading programs.)
- Create a passport for elementary schools, a la the Farmers Market anniversary.
- Deborah will contact other Bookstores regarding certificates. John and Eileen will print them.

Other Discussion:

- We will discuss possible nominees for Lifetime memberships at the next meeting. All volunteers are automatic members from year to year.
- The December meeting could be a general meeting. We need to settle the dates and find out if the police community room would be available.
- John reported that there were still Matching Funds available. Heather suggested that the Express programs be suspended for one quarter and we use that money for a Matching Funds request. Packages would be at the discretion of the head librarian. It was moved, seconded and carried. It was also agreed to add in the \$100 from David Bowers to the Matching Funds.

Bookstore Report: Deborah Ives

- She prepared a new chart listing the Bookstore volunteers. With a few new volunteers, it may be possible to open in the mornings.
- She noted that the Children's Read Aloud takes place on Fridays. This may be a good time to catch the parents.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.