

Friends of the La Mesa Library
General Membership/Board Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2015

Attendance: Board Members Present: Joyce Purcell, John Schmitz, Eileen Schmitz, Bob Thatcher, Heather Pisani-Kristl (Library Ex-officio), and Käaren McElroy (City Ex-officio). Absent: Bob Duff and Deborah Ives. Guests: Brenda Gipson, Anthony "Tony" McIvor, Sharon Smith, and Carol Thatcher.

Call to Order: President John Schmitz called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the July 23rd meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Bob Thatcher

- There was discussion about the current budget situation. John explained the history of the Friends' budget during the recession when all the County Friends groups were asked to offset cuts to the County's materials budget. The good news is that materials and services are back to the pre-recession amount of \$4.5 million so we can start savings again.
- Bob reviewed the August Financial Statement noting the income for the month was \$989.16 and the expenses were \$309.84. Cash in the bank was \$35,078.76. He noted that the daily bookstore sales in August averaged \$32.54. Eileen moved to accept the Statements and Joyce seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

President's Report: John Schmitz

- John reviewed the budget for FY 2015-16.
- He contacted attorney William Fischbeck who advised that there is no need to modify the Friends' Bylaws to set investment guidelines. He said he would work on a board policy soon.
- John explained his reasons for speaking at the August La Mesa City Council meeting concerning the hiring of a consultant to review the Civic Center Master Plan. The staff report made no mention of the agreement with the County for the City to build a new larger library or pay the County for the land under the old library. At the September 8 Council meeting, the City Attorney explained to the Council that in 2018 the City will have to pay fair market value for the original library property. Former FOL president Joe Glidden testified that he understood that a larger library was promised. However, the actual documents show only that the City needed to make a good-faith effort to obtain funding. Councilman Baber suggested that he meet with San Diego County Library Director Jose Aponte, the City Manager and any other interested council members to discuss the situation. City staff was directed by council vote to look for an opportunity for a new library in its study.

Library Staff: Heather Pisani-Kristl

- Staff Tech III Margy Todd is returning.
- La Mesa was #3 in overall circulation in August. Our circulation numbers were up 5.5% compared to last August, and there were more customers visiting as well.

- Programs have been very well-attended. Musician Lisa Sanders brought in 79 people. The screening of *California Gold's Lost Episode* brought in 33.
- A new stretching class will begin on Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.

Bookstore: No report

Membership Report: Joyce Purcell stated that membership is up to 104 people.

IT Report: No report

Open Meeting:

Discussion ensued about library needs. When the old library was torn down, square footage was lost for the theater and art gallery. They have not been replaced. Although the Library is listed as a Cool Zone, there are not enough seats to go around. Patrons complain about the noise level during programs. Libraries today are more than books; they are community centers for tutoring, cultural events, computers, well-being, etc.

Ideally, the library/environs would have:

- an adjacent large multi-purpose community room,
- "Makers Space",
- a separate Children's book/program room,
- a Teen room,
- outside Wi-Fi,
- an outdoor play area so small children could let off steam, and
- a concession stand.

Joyce Purcell said a formula is needed. Data is needed: demographics on families, schools, comment cards. Tony McIvor offered to help get information into the media.

Tony McIvor talked about *La Mesa Conversations*, a new community-based group which will host gatherings to discuss topics of civic concern. The kick-off event was September 23rd on the topic of water issues. The October 22nd event will be a meet-and-greet at Johnny B's at 5:30 p.m. La Mesa Mayor Mark Aropostathis will talk briefly about this year's Oktoberfest. On November 18, the program will discuss the modern role of libraries. The objective is to explore what the community thinks and wants. This session will be jointly hosted by La Mesa Conversations and the Friends of the La Mesa Library, and will be held in the Mason Lodge.

City of La Mesa Report: Käaren McElroy

Käaren reviewed several City events coming soon: Disc Golf event at the golf course, the Fire Department's Open House on October 10th, and Park Appreciation Day on October 18th.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 22nd at 4:30 p.m.