

**Friends of the La Mesa Library**  
**Approved Board Meeting Minutes**  
**September 27, 2018**

**Board Attendance:** John Schmitz, Robin Theilmann, Bob Thatcher, Jon Lange, Justin Walker, Joyce Purcell, Bob Duff, Heather Pisani-Kristl, Misty Thompson

**Board Absences:** None

**Members/Guests in Attendance:** None

**Call to Order**

John Schmitz called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed the board members in attendance.

**Approval of the Minutes**

Jon Lange presented the draft minutes of the August 24, 2018 Board Meeting. Bob Thatcher moved to approve the minutes. Joyce Purcell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report**

Bob Thatcher presented the treasurer's report. The monthly reports were distributed before the meeting. The revenue for the past month was \$1,260. It was somewhat less than historic averages, probably due to member pricing. We are still negative compared to budget because of the large matching funds expenditure at the beginning of the fiscal year. Expenses were fairly nominal this month. Some items include summer reading support and a new pricing gun for the bookstore. Bob updated the board on the status of the organization's certificates of deposit (CDs) with SDCCU. Eighteen months ago we put approximately \$20,000 in CDs of varying terms (6, 12, 18, and 24 months). As these mature, Bob is buying 24-month CDs. The rates are not great, but it is convenient to use SDCCU. Bob filed the federal and state forms to keep our nonprofit status. Joyce Purcell moved to approve the treasurer's report. Bob Duff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Membership Report**

Joyce Purcell presented the membership report. We currently have 240 members. Some recent new members have asked why they have to renew for the next calendar year, but Joyce pointed out that the membership form states that memberships are for the calendar year. John Schmitz suggested sending a nice letter out with the renewal forms explaining the dues increase and describing all of the great activities the organization supports. Joyce will get the renewal materials ready and send to the printer at the beginning of December.

**Library Staff Report**

Heather Pisani-Kristl presented the library staff report. Her big news was that October 11 will be her last day at La Mesa. She is switching positions to become the

children's librarian at Alpine. The County is soliciting interest from current library system staff for her position. Everyone thanked Heather and expressed how sad we will be to see her leave La Mesa.

The library Halloween parade will take place on October 26. They are looking for bookstore volunteers to dress up and hand out candy. The bookstore will need to be closed on Election Day to accommodate the polling place. The County released its security report for the last year, which ranked the various library branches according to the number of security incidents. El Cajon was first, with 167 incidents. Spring Valley was second, with 51 incidents. La Mesa was third, with 50 incidents.

The Board will need to make efficient use of time from now on, because citizenship classes will be starting October 9, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 5:30 p.m. (also 7:30 p.m.). The classes will take place in the bookstore.

### **President's Report**

John Schmitz presented the president's report. The City has not received any response to its letter about the library penalty funds. John has been doing research into our organization's history. He found organizational meeting minutes from 1969, including what appear to be the first general membership meeting on March 13, 1969 and the first board meeting on April 12, 1969. John suggested that perhaps the organization could do a fiftieth anniversary celebration in March in connection with a second Saturday event at the library.

John has also been thinking about possible fundraising ideas. One possibility is selling See's Candy in the bookstore. Robin Theilmann expressed concern about putting more tasks on the volunteers and about the possible mess. Another possibility is partnering with Fourpenny House to do a fundraiser on a Tuesday night. They will give us fifteen percent of sales. Misty Thompson said that The Hills does something similar on Wednesdays. The Lions Club and the Parks & Rec Foundation participate. The last time their take was \$280. John will contact Fourpenny House about available dates.

It was agreed that we would cancel the Board's normal November and December meetings. We will hold one meeting on the night of the library's holiday potluck.

### **Bookstore Report**

Robin Theilmann presented the bookstore report. The bookstore is doing well. The bookstore will close from December 19 through January 2. Robin does not think we need to do a clean up this year. She has a six month system for rotating books, so books do not stay on the shelves or in storage as long as they did in the past.

Although some people have indicated interest in volunteering in their membership forms, Robin has not had a lot of responses to her calls following up. One person is interested, but they are still waiting on a background check.

Jon Lange presented the results of further research into online sales. Based on Amazon's current pricing structure, it does not look like it will be worth it to sell normal donated books online. If we pack and ship books ourselves, Amazon will charge a listing Fee (\$0.99), a referral fee (15% of sale price), and a closing fee (\$1.80). In addition, we will pay our postage and shipping costs. But, while it will not make sense to sell most books online, some more expensive books (e.g.,

textbooks) will probably be easier to sell, and command a higher price, if we sell online. John said that Joe Glidden was always concerned that more expensive books might get lost or stolen. He wondered whether it might be good for the library to have a locked cabinet.

Jon explained that his research showed that our normal bookstore prices are far lower than Amazon used book prices. With our 50% member discount, the difference is even larger. He proposed using Amazon's prices as a guide to increase our own bookstore prices. Our members would still get a good deal, but we would make a lot more money. Robin expressed interest in revamping the pricing structure. Jon said he would talk further with Robin about the specifics.

### **IT Report**

Justin Walker mentioned that the tablet we are planning to use in the bookstore might be too old. It will not have the latest security updates and features. Since we are going to be scanning books to see their online prices, it might be good to get a new scanning setup. This would include a Lenovo tablet (\$106), a Bluetooth scanner (\$60-70), and an app to show online prices (\$10 per month). Justin will email the Board with links to the recommended products.

Justin has been looking at setting up Square payments (for credit cards), but unfortunately Square requires a personal social security number. Several board members expressed concern about giving Square their SSNs. We will consider the issue again in a few months.

### **City of La Mesa Report**

Misty Thompson gave an update on events in La Mesa, including the Intergenerational Games (October 11). Bob Duff reminded Misty he needed information from the City for the video screen.

### **Adjournment**

John adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.