

Friends of the La Mesa Library
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2018

Attendance: Present: Board Members Bob Duff, Deborah Ives, Joyce Purcell, John Schmitz, Eileen Schmitz, Heather Pisani-Kristl (Library ex-officio), Lyn Dedmon (City ex-officio). **Excused Absence:** Bob Thatcher. **Guest:** Justin Walker.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of December 1, 2017, were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report:

- In Bob Thatcher's absence, John reviewed the December Statement which Bob had emailed to Board members prior to this meeting. It was moved, seconded, and accepted.
- It was noted that the Bookstore had been closed for two weeks for its annual cleaning. Kristine Alessio helped John sort out valuable books which were sold to Maxwell's House of Books for over \$300.

Library Staff: Heather Pisani-Kristl

- Operations and Personnel:
 - Joanna Gorman is the new permanent part-time Tech I.
 - April Davidson-Arce is shifting to Santee. Hugo Perez has been promoted to this Tech II position.
 - There is still a vacant Tech I position.
 - The Children's Music Group will be featured performers on June 10, 2018, as part of the Library's 10th anniversary celebration.
- Tenth Anniversary Celebration
 - Popular band Hullabaloo will be here on Saturday, June 9th at 1:00. Cake will be served. Attendees will be able to sign up for the Summer Reading program.
 - It was agreed to keep the event within the library and limit the duration as library staff would be primarily responsible for organization and outside activities would be too complicated.
 - Discussion ensued about asking La Mesa Recreation and LMPD if they would like to have information tables. Lyn suggested that this go through Heather.
 - Deborah pointed out that a notice should be posted ahead of time that this will be a noisy event.
- New book donation policy: Because the cost of adding customer-donated books into the system is more expensive than the San Diego County Library System buying books through its cheaper sources, only local authors and local history books will now be accepted. This may mean that our Bookstore may receive more current best-

sellers. Deborah will ask the volunteers to keep an eye out for these and may price them a bit higher.

President's Report: John Schmitz

- County Friends Quarterly Report (see attached Notes by John)
- Second Saturdays: John attended a jazz group performance at Mission Trails Golf Course and spoke to the leader, Danny Green, who said he would be interested in participating in our events.
- *My City - La Mesa* had a lengthy story about the Historical Society. John spoke to the publisher who indicated they would be willing to include library information in future editions.
- Homeless Task Force: Heather suggested she and John discuss this item at a one-on-one meeting.

Membership Report: Joyce Purcell

- The membership count starts over with the new year. It is now 113 which is very good for January.
- At the summer *General Meeting*, we will discuss raising the membership fees.

Bookstore Report: Deborah Ives

- There are two potential volunteers that come from new memberships.
- Justin is unable to work in the Bookstore on weekdays.
- Justin discussed the Square (about \$30) as an easy way to accept electronic payments, only needing to swipe and chip. The cost to FOL is 2.75%. The money would show up automatically in our bank account in a few days. A real benefit is that this would act as a cashier report and would track purchases. Deborah noted that a dedicated tablet would be needed and time to teach the volunteers how to use it. Justin offered to donate an android. Justin will check on encryption. Once ready for operation, a sign will be posted that we are now accepting debit and credit cards with a minimum of \$5 purchase.

IT Report: Bob Duff

- Justin reported that the laptop has been cleaned off and updated from Windows 7 to Windows 10. He donated the license for Windows 10. It is good for basic internet browsing and for looking up book prices.
- Bob and Justin will add Second Saturdays to the lobby video.
- They are reviewing the Friends' web page and plan to set up pages for *Events, Best Sellers, Booker Prize Winners, Special Collections for Sale, and We Could Use...*

City of La Mesa Report: No Report

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Notes from County Friends Meeting of January, 2018

– Treasurers report:

- \$5,026 balance in account, of which \$800 is on behalf of Casa De Oro, looking for new treasurer

– Foundation

- has \$93,000 and received \$7,000 in interest in 2017
- Foundation received 23 b/w Kindles from County and offered to sell them for \$75/ea as fund raiser
- Looking for anyone willing to be part of advisory committee

– Reports from other groups

- Lakeside - New president, March event at Rodeo Grounds, selling t-shirts as fund raiser
- El Cajon – front of library being redone for security and homeless
- Blvd./Dulzura – membership drive raised from 24 to 60
- Solana Beach – Recent expansion gave them triple bookstore space
- Santee – Staff turnovers, programs active, between bookstore and online raising \$100,000 annually minus rent, membership up to 294 with coupon for book discount, Doug Curley on new library committee and developing promotion video, Meeting pending between City and Supv. Jacob on new library
- Vista – library used to assist victims of fire with information
- Fallbrook – damage from skateboarders, homeless issues
- Imperial Beach – new library result of Cox, donor wall in lobby raised \$38,000, 100 members
- Bonita & Rancho SD both mentioned 3D printers (roll out to all underway)
- Ramona – new president
- Campo – puppet shows are popular

Directors Report

- Drafting strategic plan to be sent out for comment in 3-4 weeks, followed by meetings
- Initiatives
 - High school diplomas thru libraries approved by County and full time staff person hired to coordinate. 320 scholarships available. Participants to be fed through other County departments as well as outside.
 - Kindergarten Gear Up
 - E-Books – new app to allow online signup for library cards and check out books
 - New cashier system to allow electronic payments

- Expanded bandwidth (1Gig/library) in 6-12 months
- New online catalogue in 18-24 months
- New book donation policy for Friends purchases, possibly to be revised (Related to us? Can we set up a LM historic reference section?)