

Friends of the La Mesa Library
Approved Board Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2018

Board Attendance: John Schmitz, Robin Theilmann, Jon Lange, Justin Walker, Joyce Purcell, Bob Duff, Chelsie Harris, Misty Thompson

Board Absence: Bob Thatcher

Members/Guests in Attendance: Anthony McIvor

Call to Order

John Schmitz called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Approval of the Minutes

Jon Lange presented the draft minutes of the September 27, 2018 Board Meeting. Bob Duff moved to approve the minutes. Justin Walker seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

John Schmitz presented the treasurer's report. Monthly income is down again, probably due to our member discount policy at the bookstore. Jon Lange mentioned that we might be able to increase revenues when we revamp the bookstore pricing structure. Joyce moved to approve the treasurer's report. Robin Theilmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Membership Report

Joyce Purcell presented the membership report. We currently have 248 members. Joyce is updating the renewal letter. She will include information about our upcoming events, including the fiftieth anniversary celebration and the fundraiser at Fourpenny House. John asked the Board to let him and Joyce know if there are any additional topics for the letter. Postage costs will increase because we have more members.

Joyce asked whether she should send an email out to the membership to solicit volunteers for a cleanup event. We discussed whether we need to get volunteer background checks for them. There has not been a countywide decision about relieving Friends volunteers from the background check process.

Library Staff Report

Chelsie Harris introduced herself. She is the new branch manager. She comes to La Mesa from Ramona, where she was the Ramona branch manager. She previously worked at other branches and the County headquarters. In her previous positions, she had success obtaining additional funds through grant applications, so she is looking forward to beginning that process here. The Library had a safety walk-through this week, and they suggested some modifications to the Library facilities. One modification might be to move the check out desks. (Window tinting is on hold for this reason.)

John Schmitz mentioned that some libraries are working with Oasis (an adult learning nonprofit) to hold educational events. Chelsie said she worked with Oasis in Ramona. To put on an event, the Library chooses the topic from Oasis's catalog, and Oasis will provide an

instructor. Classes normally cost a library between \$200 and \$300. Ramona holds classes the first Friday of every month. Attendance ranges from 10-70 people, depending on the topic. Joyce said that San Carlos has Oasis programs once a month as well. John suggested that we think about launching Oasis classes in La Mesa in connection with our anniversary next March. Chelsie will provide catalogs, so we get an idea of the available topics.

President's Report

John Schmitz presented the president's report. The Countywide Friends group held its meeting earlier in October. John distributed his notes from the meeting, as well as a handout about Summer Reading (now Summer Learning). John noted that the Countywide Friends group has a foundation that groups can use to segregate funds if they think that is beneficial.

Fourpenny House has reserved the Tuesdays before and after the Second Saturday concert in March (March 5 and 12, 2019) for our Friends benefit. John asked for other ideas for events in our fiftieth anniversary month in March (maybe partnering with the firefighters in their pancake breakfast).

As in years past, the regular Board Meetings in November and December will be cancelled and replaced with a Board Meeting on the date of the Library's volunteer potluck. This year the potluck (and our Board Meeting) will take place on Friday, December 7, 2018.

Bookstore Report

Robin Theilmann presented the bookstore report. She has been gone for three weeks, but everything seems to be going well. We still do not have any new volunteers. One prospective volunteer is still waiting for her background check to be completed. Chelsie suggested that we could start allowing volunteers to work, even before the background check is complete, by deeming them "short term" volunteers. She did that in Ramona so that prospective volunteers would not lose interest. Chelsie also suggested asking for volunteers at the Library's Second Saturday events. Right now, we have eight regular volunteers and two substitutes.

John Schmitz reported that Maxwell's will be returning several books to us that they have not sold. They are higher-value books, so they will probably be appropriate for online sales.

IT Report

Justin Walker reported on his research into alternatives to Square as a credit card processor. He said Paypal could be a good alternative, and they do not seem to require a personal social security number. We could also use Paypal to pay for our subscription to the app we will use to view online book prices. Justin will gather more information. He will also send out links to the hardware he recommends we purchase for the bookstore, which we discussed at the last meeting (Lenovo tablet and Bluetooth book scanner).

City of La Mesa Report

Misty Thompson provided an update on upcoming La Mesa events. The City has not heard back from the County about the Library penalty funds. Diane Jacobs's husband recently died, so that may be part of the reason for the delay.

Adjournment

John adjourned the meeting at 5:16 p.m.