

Friends of the La Mesa Library
Approved Board Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2018

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

Board Absence: Bob Duff

Members/Guests in Attendance: Bonnie Baranoff

Call to Order

John Schmitz called the meeting to order at 4:27 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He introduced Bonnie Baranoff, a member who is interested in becoming more involved with the Friends.

Approval of the Minutes

Jon Lange presented the draft minutes of the October 25, 2018 Board Meeting. John Schmitz asked if the Board accepted the minutes as presented. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Thatcher presented the treasurer's reports for October and November. Monthly sales were just over \$1,000 in October and \$1,500 in November. Daily sales in November were \$51, which was a large increase over last year. Expenditures for the two months included bookstore supplies, dues to the San Diego County Friends group, and program support for the Second Saturdays concerts and Silver Sneakers Yoga. Bob will correct one discrepancy in categorization (adult programs versus craft programs). John Schmitz asked if the Board accepted the reports as corrected. Approved unanimously.

Library Staff Report

Chelsie Harris presented the Library staff report. The County library system is moving forward with a new cashiering system, which will allow patrons to pay their fines with credit cards, among other improvements.

The Library is planning a holiday event on Saturday, December 15, 2018. The Library has also booked two Oasis classes, one on Medical Cannabis (February 21, 2019, at 6pm) and one with Richard Letterer (April 6, 2019, at 1pm.) Chelsie is looking into applying for a grant for additional classes.

Chelsie described the Library's efforts to assist La Mesa's homeless population, including allowing homeless outreach tables two or three times per month. She met with the La Mesa Police Department about their homeless outreach efforts and encouraged them to stop by the Library as part of their work. They do not do so currently.

President's Report

John Schmitz presented the president's report. He again introduced Bonnie Baranoff and suggested that she be appointed to the Board as Publicity Chair. Bonnie has worked in publishing, sales, and marketing for over 20 years. Chelsie Harris and Misty Thompson

have worked with Bonnie before and know her. John formally moved to appoint Bonnie, and Justin Walker seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

We are still planning on having our Fiftieth Anniversary party at the March Second Saturday event. There will be two musical acts that day, with activities in between. We also have two benefit dinners confirmed for March. John and Bonnie will create a planning schedule for the March activities.

Bonnie mentioned that another group, La Mesa Conversations, is interested in potentially doing a joint event with the Friends about the history of the Friends organization and the Library. It would be interesting to see whether there are historical materials in the McKinney House or the La Mesa Scout newspaper archives. Other partners could include the La Mesa Historical Society and the Women's Club.

John reported that a community member, Jerry Lester, is interested in donating to the Friends. He will be in contact with Jerry to discuss the donation. Potential new 2019 activities include a virtual food drive in partnership with the San Diego Food Bank.

John was contacted by an organization that supports "Little Free Libraries." They asked for help placing one in La Mesa and obtaining books. John will reply that unfortunately we cannot help with placement but we might be able to help supply books.

Bookstore Report

Robin Theilmann presented the bookstore report. There is still no word on the background check for the new bookstore volunteer. Chelsie Harris says the background check process has been really bad.

The bookstore is in great shape, so there is no need for a holiday cleanup this year. The bookstore will be closed from December 19, 2018 though January 2, 2019 to give the volunteers a break over the holidays.

IT Report

Justin Walker reported on equipment and software upgrades for the bookstore. He sent out links to the Lenovo tablet (\$145) and Bluetooth book scanner (\$60) he recommends that we purchase. They were approved. He will also set up a PayPal account to allow the bookstore to process credit cards and pay for a bookstore scanning app (\$10/month). He will work with Robin to begin the scanning process, which will allow the bookstore to tailor its prices and flag books for online sales.

Membership Report

Joyce Purcell presented the membership report. Our year-end membership count stands at 256. She is receiving lots of mail renewals.

City of La Mesa Report

Misty Thompson and Chelsie Harris discussed attending a City Council meeting to introduce Chelsie. Chelsie is thinking of planning for a January meeting.

Adjournment

John adjourned the meeting at 5:24 p.m.