

Friends of the La Mesa Library
Approved Board Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2019

Board Attendance: John Schmitz, Bob Thatcher, Robin Theilmann, Jon Lange, Justin Walker, Joyce Purcell, Chelsie Harris, Bonnie Baranoff, Bob Duff

Board Absence: Misty Thompson

Members/Guests in Attendance: Anthony McIver

Call to Order

John Schmitz called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Approval of the Minutes

Jon Lange presented the draft minutes of the January 24 and February 28, 2019 Board Meetings. Robyn Theilmann moved to accept accepted the minutes as presented. Bob Thatcher seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Thatcher presented the Treasurer's report. In February, we received two large checks, a grant from Kinder Morgan and a \$10,000 donation from the estate of Sarah Makovic. Makovic was a library volunteer. Those checks put our income well above normal. In addition, bookstores sales were up to \$56 per day, which is higher than any recent year. As for expenditures, we made regular payments for Oasis classes, the Silver Sneakers program, and our PO box. In March, we received \$200 from the Fourpenny House fundraiser. Daily bookstore sales were \$47, which was quite a big higher than in past years as well. Bob put the Makovic donation into a CD. At Bob's request, Justin Walker explained the procedure for receiving payments through Paypal and from Amazon. Justin also provided our online sales numbers for January (\$30 profit), February (\$40 profit), and March (\$190 profit). Bob Duff moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Joyce seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Library Staff Report

Chelsie Harris presented the Library staff report. Veronica Estrada had her baby and is taking a reassignment at a different branch. She will be replaced as children's librarian by Ramona Price. Another employee, Nikki Ortega, is transferring to the Poway branch. Also, because the Lakeside branch is short-staffed, some La Mesa staff (including Chelsie) will be helping out there until mid-June. The Library had 358 people for its Easter egg hunt and 35 people for a recent yoga class.

Window tinting is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday next week. The shelving in the children's area will also be made movable.

Publicity Report

Bonnie Baranoff presented the Publicity report. She sent out a large report over email. We will have a table at the City's Earth Day event on April 27. Bonnie will staff the table

with John and Eileen Schmitz. We plan on contributing memberships to the raffle. Bonnie asked whether we wanted to participate the City's Flag Day parade. It requires a \$100 donation. The Library will have the County Bookmobile, and five staff members plan on marching. Bonnie suggested creating t-shirts to wear at the parade and for future events. John moved to approve an expenditure of up to \$600 for promotional materials for Flag Day. Bob Duff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

President's Report

John Schmitz presented the President's report. The Library has been a frequent topic at recent City Council meetings. At a recent meeting, the Council had an agenda item to approve payment of the \$745,000 penalty to the County. Kathleen Brand spoke at that meeting and made an impassioned argument for a new library. She volunteered to help the Civic Center subcommittee consider how to integrate a new library into the plan. At the last meeting, both John and Joe Glidden spoke. John told the Council he agreed with Kathleen's comments. Joe upbraided the Council for failing (for over a decade) to fulfill its promise to build a new library. Because it was public comment, however, the Council could not react. John met with Councilwoman Weber before the meeting. She thought the Civic Center subcommittee would probably meet in the next fiscal year. She directed John to Colin Parent. John will meet with him later.

One volunteer met with the Mayor. The Mayor said best course of action is to write to Susan Davis to get the post office closed down, so the Library can expand. Various Board members pointed out the drawbacks to that route.

John, Bonnie, Anthony McIver and other board members discussed potential paths forward. Anthony pointed out the need to build a constituency for a new library. It was decided that we need a baseline proposal for what a new library should include. Chelsie agreed to put together information about La Mesa's library needs. Bonnie suggested that we take advantage of the resources at the EveryLibrary.org PAC to learn effective advocacy.

John presented a report from the County Friends meeting and reminded everyone that next month we will discuss the budget for 2019-2020.

Bookstore Report

Robin Theilmann presented the bookstore report. As Bob said, we are doing great! Two new bookstore volunteers are going through the background check process. It's been around a month. Chelsie will check on the progress. Migell Acosta reports that things are better now, but we have not seen improvement yet.

IT Report

Justin Walker presented the IT Report. Aside from the Amazon and Paypal setup discussed earlier, nothing much to report.

Membership Report

Joyce Purcell presented the Membership report. We are up to 201 members! Joyce and Justin discussed the Mailchimp email list. If a member unsubscribes, Mailchimp knows who it is and will not resubscribe them.

Videographer's Report

Bob Duff presented the Videographer's report. He did not get information from the City, so he will not be able to make the new video yet. Bob and Justin discussed whether it would be useful to put the video on the website. Bob will send Justin the current video.

Adjournment

John adjourned the meeting at 5:56 p.m.