

**Friends of the La Mesa Library**  
**Approved Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 23, 2019**

**Board Attendance:** John Schmitz, Bob Thatcher, Misty Thompson, Jon Lange, Justin Walker, Chelsie Harris

**Board Absence:** Robin Theilmann, Joyce Purcell, Bonnie Baranoff, Bob Duff

**Members/Guests in Attendance:** Eileen Schmitz, Charles Jarman, Aaron Landau

**Call to Order**

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

**Library Staff Report**

Charles Jarman presented proposed parameters for a new La Mesa library (see attachment). La Mesa's current temporary library is severely undersized. The parameters call for a 24,000 square foot library, which Charles estimates would cost \$24 million all-in. (But it could be higher. The psf cost for the new Mission Hills branch was double.) John Schmitz asked whether Friends groups are still required to raise \$100,000-200,000 for FF&E. Charles said that is no longer a requirement for County projects, but he encourages Friends groups to fundraise and contribute to those aspects of the project they would like to fund.

John believes the County parameters will be useful for our discussions with the Council, especially Councilman Parent. The parameters will give the Council a wish list for their RFP. Parent is hesitant to identify a specific plan; he would like developers to come up with options.

Charles has identified a new La Mesa library as a needed capital project for several years. But the County only builds libraries in unincorporated areas. In incorporated areas, the County expects the city to contribute. Encinitas and Poway built and maintained their libraries with their own money. But it varies; the County and the City must negotiate. The City may be able to make its contribution in land (e.g., Imperial Beach).

Aaron Landau said that the Friends should have a consistent message to the City and Council. We need the Council, so we cannot criticize them too much. They do not feel responsible for the current temporary library, so we should stop talking about the past. A survey may be helpful to clarify the needs and priorities of the community. A bond measure is probably the only way to get a new library built.

Misty Thompson explained that the City is working on a MacArthur Park master plan, which would include the park, pool, and a new community center. It will likely be funded primarily by a bond. It may be possible to include a new library in that plan.

Jon Lange suggested meeting with City staff about possible locations and planning for a new library. Justin Walker proposed two plans of attack: one with City staff and one with community engagement.

Charles raised EveryLibrary.org and encouraged us to make use of their expertise. Bonnie will look further into working with that organization.

Chelsie gave the Library staff report. Ramona Price will be starting as the new children's librarian. Rob Neal will replace Nikki Ortega. We will then be fully staffed! Summer Learning starts next week. Window tinting was done, but parts of the tinting do not cover the whole window. It will be fixed next week. The children's shelves were also moved, and the community loves the new configuration. The library needed the new space for story time, and it works much better now.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Jon Lange presented the draft minutes of the April 25, 2019 Board Meeting. Bob Thatcher moved to accept the minutes as presented. John Schmitz seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bob Thatcher presented the Treasurer's report. In April, we had \$1,680 total income. Expenses included community outreach and normal library programs. Daily book sales were almost \$54, much higher than the past few years. Justin Walker mentioned that we are instituting a minimum price for online sales of \$9.00, which is the lowest price where we can still make a good profit after fees and shipping. John Schmitz moved to approve the Treasurer's report, Jon Lange seconded, and motion was approved unanimously.

### **President's Report**

John Schmitz presented the President's report. John put together a draft budget, but because we have several absences he proposed to discuss the budget at a future meeting. John raised the question of Oasis funding. Bonnie had included it in her budget, but it should be a library event budget. Chelsie will prepare a revised budget that includes Oasis. Given timing and potential conflicts with the June meeting, we will schedule a special meeting to consider the budget.

The Flag Day Parade will be on June 1 at 10am. Staging is between 8-9am. We will walk with the Library staff and the Bookmobile. The t-shirts are here at the Bookstore.

The sheriff has cleared two new bookstore volunteers. One will work on weekends, and the other will work on Thursdays.

### **City Report**

Misty Thompson presented the City staff report. She thanked us for having a table at the Earth Day event.

### **Adjournment**

John adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.