

Santa Barbara Public Library System
Library Board

Minutes of the Board Meeting of February 28, 2012 held at the Central Library

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Eric Friedman; Christine Roberts; Catherine Radecki-Bush

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Dianne Duva

COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Irene Macias, Library Director

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was brought to order in the Main Faulkner Gallery at 12:00 p.m. on February 28, 2012.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None. Eric requested that in the future, we include Old Business items on the Agenda, specifically the Library Plaza Renovation Project and the Children's Library Project.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: January 10, 2012 minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Patricia Ruth, Chair of the English Department at Santa Barbara High School, introduced herself and stated that she is applying to be on the Library Advisory Board. Ms. Ruth commented on the Eastside Library opening on Mondays, relayed a personal memory of the Santa Barbara Public Library Children's Room, and expressed her happiness about the Children's Library Project discussions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next regular meeting will be March 27, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. in the West Faulkner Gallery.

New Business

The Board discussed the Selection of Chair and Vice Chair. Eric Friedman stated that he would like to serve as Chair. Catherine Radecki-Bush indicated that she is willing to serve as Vice Chair. Christine Roberts moved to approve both selections. Catherine Radecki-Bush seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

The Approval of the Amended Rules of Conduct item was postponed, and will be placed on the Agenda for the meeting of March 27, 2012.

Library Director Irene Macias gave a presentation on the Black Gold Cooperative System. The presentation included an overview of the Black Gold Cooperative System, with discussions on the following topics: Services, Organization, FY 11-12 Revenues, FY 11-12 Expenses, Budget History, Santa Barbara Public Library Contribution History, Budget Comparison, and Future Funding Issues.

Irene announced that the City Council approved opening the Eastside Library on Mondays. She stated that we are in the process of hiring hourly staff. She stated that the community has responded positively to this decision, and the Councilmembers had many positive words to say about the Library at the meeting when the determination was made. Irene informed the Board that the City Council requested the Library provide the cost for restoring all the lost hours at budget presentation time, and that they are currently gathering the numbers.

In relation to programming, Irene announced that the library had arranged for the OverDrive BookMobile to visit the Goleta Marketplace on February 2nd and February 3rd. Library Services Manager Scott Love stated that they had about 550 visitors to the event, the majority of whom came with their readers and requested assistance in downloading e-books. The Board discussed the process for downloading e-books and an increase in new library cards and membership due to the popularity of e-books.

Eric inquired on the number of Library card users who are residents of areas outside of the Counties of the Black Gold System, and whether it may be beneficial to assess a fee for these individuals. Irene stated that we can look at this; this was not possible in the past, as a requirement for receiving Transaction-Based Reimbursement (TBR) or Public Library Fund (PLF) payments was to allow anyone in California to obtain a Library card, but now that the funds are not there, this may be an option. Irene clarified that there are several types of funding that were provided by the State, including California Library Services Act) funding that provided basic operational support for the cooperative systems, the TBR, which was the reimbursement for loaning, and the PLF, which provided operational support for the Library. Now each of these types of funding is being eliminated. Eric recommended preparing the data regarding out of area users and possible assessment of fees for Council to review.

Irene announced that the UCSB/SBPL Reads program featuring Moby Duck is in full swing, tonight is the Goleta discussion, and the other discussions that have occurred have been very exciting and well attended. Irene stated that the Library wrote another grant for Green at Your Library. The grant is called Book Into Action, and was encouraging communities to read a book and then do something that benefits their community based upon the book. The grant was awarded for the approximate amount of \$3,000.00.

Irene announced that we have a celebration for Green at Your Library at the Library Eastside this Saturday, March 3rd. Scott Love stated that many community groups will be present at the event, including BiCi Centro, the Santa Barbara Permaculture Network, COAST, Habitat for Humanity Re-sell Store, the Surfrider Foundation, the Franklin Community Center, the Santa Barbara Art Museum, and City and County departments/programs. Scott also stated that the patio will be unveiled at the event, which was recently re-landscaped with generous donation of plants and time/labor by local businesses, and some monies from the City for irrigation equipment and plants. The Mayor and City Council have also been invited to this event and it will be an opportunity to celebrate the Library being open six days a week.

Irene stated that in regards to fundraising, we have all the paperwork for creating a foundation nearly finalized, and that within the next day or two there will be an advertisement out for a part-time Campaign Manager, and we look forward to hiring an individual for the position. She stated that we are in the process of asking community members to take on campaign leadership roles.

Personnel Appointments/Staff Vacancies

Irene Macias announced that Library Services Manager Roger Hiles submitted his resignation and is no longer with the Library. She stated that we are seriously looking at implementing some re-organization that leverages the staff we have here, and perhaps not have a second Library Services Manager, but perform other changes that will help us realize some of the goals we have and get started on some of the projects we have to do. The Board discussed the impact the cost of living in Santa Barbara has on potential Library Service Manager and other employment applicants.

Library Activities for January and February

Irene discussed the timetable for the budget. We have submitted the proposed budget to the Finance department and have received feedback. Tomorrow morning staff will meet with the City Administrator and Finance department. Tuesday, April 17th, is the date that the City files its recommendations and does an overview of the City budget. The Library department will do its presentation on Wednesday, May 16th at 2:00 p.m.

Irene stated that the City has a youth intern program that was developed years ago that allows junior and high school students to sit as interns on City boards and commissions as non-voting members, provides an opportunity for youth to learn about governance and City policies, and provides an excellent way for the boards and commissions to get a youth perspective on issues, especially those that concern youth in our committee. She stated that there is a youth who is interested in being appointed to the Library board, and requested feedback on this appointment from the Board. Board Member Christine Roberts voiced that she would like to encourage such initiative. Eric stated that the next few months of meetings may be valuable for the intern as they will go over information relating to the budget process. Christine felt it would be advantageous to find out how the youth and his or her peers use the Library and discuss ways to reach out and make it more accessible. Eric requested an ongoing item added to the Agenda that provides an opportunity for the youth intern to provide a report to the Board.

Announcements

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 27th, 2012, at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rima Villarreal.