



LIBRARY COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting

January 10, 2004

6:30 pm

Menlo Park Library

800 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Wellner de Veer called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

ROLL CALL: Wellner de Veer, Chair (P); Friedman (P); McDonough (P); Nanfria (A); Tedrow (P); Traum, (P); Zara (P)

Staff Present: Holmer, Director of Library Services

Others Present: Pat Voll

A. PUBLIC COMMENT - none

B. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Minutes – The minutes for the December 10, 2004 meeting were corrected. At the end of Section 2D add, “Zara said she would speak with Councilmember Fergusson and Tedrow indicated he would reach Councilmember Cohen” and the last sentence in Section 2C should read “Potential sources for the funds were discussed.” Minutes approved as corrected.
2. MP Library Foundation Update
 - a. Introduction of Pat Voll – New Library Foundation Board member introduced herself and spoke of her work with the Books Aloud program and her desire to give back to the community through her work on the Library Foundation.
 - b. Start-up Costs – the estimated cost for foundation start-up has been amended and is now \$20,000. The foundation members will be discussing the potential sources for raising this money at their meeting on January 18th. Several foundation members met with Holmer in late December to get preliminary data about the library budget and funding resources. The foundation will need a space/office for their computer and files and for meetings with potential donors. Office space in the library is extremely limited but potential

space was identified. Other places for a foundation office have also been investigated and found wanting.

- c. Feedback from meeting with new council members – Zara is trying to arrange a conversation with Councilmember Fergusson who she knows and Tedrow indicated that he would continue his attempts to contact Councilmember Cohen.
3. Discuss the role of the Menlo Park Library in fostering a reading public- Commissioners discussed the role that reading literature and fiction materials has and the recent study which indicated that readers are reading even less fiction than they did ten years ago. Ways to promote the literary resources of the library were discussed. Most displays in the library promote particular topics and feature non-fiction rather than fiction items. Specific ways to promote fiction were discussed including displays where individuals would give a brief statement about why they found a particular title appealing. A display could feature on-going recommendations by library commission members, city council members, various members of city staff and others. Holmer will do a literature search to see what techniques other libraries may have used to promote fiction reading. Further discussion of recommended fiction readings will be on the February agenda.
4. Elect new commission chair and vice chair
Nominations were made for McDonough as Library Commission Chair for 2005 and Charlene Friedman for Library Commission Vice-Chair for 2005. McDonough indicated that if he accepted the post he would need to resign as Menlo Park representative to the PLS Advisory Board.
MSP to elect McDonough as commission chair and Friedman as commission vice-chair for 2005.
Commission members expressed their gratitude for all the work that Anne Wellner de Veer did in her year as commission chair.
5. Review updated Menlo Park Library statistics – Holmer reviewed the library statistical report and described new categories within the report.

C. Information Items – none

- D. Reports and Announcements – PLS Advisory Board – McDonough** reported that the Advisory Boards for Peninsula Library System and Silicon Valley Library System are considering merging so they can better coordinate their activities. They now present the annual Library Issues Breakfast together.

E. Adjournment – meeting adjourned at 8:35.

Next regular meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday February 14, 2005.