



LIBRARY COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting

May 9, 2005

6:30 p.m.

Menlo Park Library

800 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA 94025

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair McDonough called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

McDonough, Chair (P); Friedman (P); Nanfria (P); Tedrow (P); Traum, (P);
Wellner de Veer (P); Zara (P)

STAFF PRESENT:

Susan Holmer, Director of Library Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Betty Meissner, Board member, Menlo Park Library Foundation

A. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mrs. Meissner indicated that she was interested in hearing the discussion regarding Project READ.

B. INFORMATION ITEMS:

- a. Discussion of Library related issues including internal and external space at the main library.
 - i. The library patio: Currently the library patio, which is accessible from within the library building, is closed to the public. The patio was initially closed to curb thefts of DVDs and other library materials. Since the closure of the patio a slight decrease in DVD losses has been noted. However, it is unclear if the decrease in DVD losses is due to the closure of the patio or to other factors. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of reopening the patio – a popular spot in good weather – on a trial basis now that the Library staff has an accurate inventory of the DVD holdings.
 - o It was decided to open the patio once the Menlo Park maintenance staff can trim the bushes and weeds. The patio hours will be from the library opening time to dusk. After the patio has been open for six months, library staff will report on the impact patron patio access has had on the collection.

b. Director's report on Project READ.

(http://www.plsinfo.org/whats_happening/read_menlo.htm).

- i. The funding sources for Project READ were reviewed and discussed. Over the years, the state contribution to Project READ has decreased. Most recently, state funding has decreased by \$20,000 due to a change in how students are counted.
- ii. While currently director less, Project READ has been successful in working with students. 80% of the students enrolled in this program achieve their goals at the end of the year.
- iii. Most libraries have general literacy and family literacy programs; there are also programs available from other non-profits. However, the barriers to entry in any of these programs are significant.

c. Commissioner's Reports.

i. Friends:

1. The April book sale was successful.
2. Tom Goode was successful in getting Kepler's Books to have a day of fundraising for the Belle Haven Library during Kepler's anniversary celebration.

ii. Library Foundation:

1. All governmental paper work has been submitted.
2. A beautiful logo has been designed on a Pro Bono basis and a mission statement has been developed
3. A draft of the proclamation from the city of Menlo Park for the law firm that did all of the legal work for the foundation on a Pro Bono basis is to be created.
4. One of the initial board members has resigned due to time conflicts.
5. Currently developing fund raising strategies. The Foundation will have board members at the Library table at the Connoisseur's Marketplace this July.

iii. PLS Advisory Board.

1. Betty Meissner will be appointed as the Menlo Park System Advisory Board (SAB) member on May 10.

iv. Meet Your Commissioners:

1. Ms. Wellner de Veer and Mr. Traum will host the May forum at the main library on Saturday, May 14.
2. Ms. Nanfria and Ms. Zara will host the June forum at the Menlo Park Farmer's Market on Sunday, June 19.

v. "What We Are Reading." Feature:

1. More submissions are needed. All current submissions are out in the library stacks.

vi. Brown Act Training:

1. Ms. Friedman, Ms. Zara and Ms. Holmer attended training in the City Council Chambers that was sponsored by the City staff. A summary of the training was given

C. BUSINESS ITEMS:

- a. Minutes – Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously adopted, the minutes for the April 11, 2005 meeting were approved.

D. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Next regular meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday June 6, 2005 at the Menlo Park Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Zara, secretary to the Library Commission