



LIBRARY COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting
January 8, 2007 6:30 pm
Menlo Park Library
800 Alma Street
Menlo Park, Ca. 94025

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Friedman called the meeting to order at approximately 6:45 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Friedman, Chair (P), Goyle (A), McDonough (P), Tedrow (P), Traum (P),
Wellner de Veer (P), Zara (P)

STAFF PRESENT:

Susan Holmer, Director of Library Services
Mara Minzer, Belle Haven Family Services Project Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT:

Hayward Robinson, City Council Member, City of Menlo Park
Aldora Lee, Menlo Park Library Foundation board member
Betty Meissner, PLS Advisory member and Menlo Park Library Foundation board member
Members of the Project Read Advisory Committee and the Menlo Park Library Foundation

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Aldora Lee, Menlo Park Library Foundation board member, spoke about the Foundations need for additional board members. People with enthusiasm for the work of the library with expertise in fundraising or working on non-profit boards are what the board needs to do the work of the foundation. Betty Meissner will be collecting the names of interested community members – Menlo Park Library Foundation board members need not be residents of the city of Menlo Park.

In addition to recruiting new board members, the foundation is also looking for a base of volunteers.

Kristi Breich, Project Read Advisory Board, noted that there would be two fundraising events for Project Read in 2007. The tentative date of the first event is September 7, 2007.

B. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Belle Haven Community School – Mara Mintzer
 - Ms. Mintzer gave an overview of the Belle Haven Community School. The concept of a community school is similar to the urban settlement house from the turn of the

20th century and is growing all over the United States.

- The implementation of a community school at Belle Haven Elementary, a K-8 school in the Ravenswood City School District, began at the beginning of the fall term. There are many partners, including
 - i. New Teachers Center at UCSC is mentoring staff at all levels (<http://www.newteachercenter.org/>).
 - ii. SAM an inclusion effort for students with learning differences.
 - iii. Ravenswood English supported by the Hass Center for Public Service at Stanford. This program works on auditory English and is working with K-2 students.
 - iv. There is a Family Center that includes a parent's room at school. This helps to bring in younger siblings who may not currently be in pre-school. This will help incoming students not be too far behind state expectations when they enter kindergarten.
 - v. The Boys and Girls Club provides an after school program. They use the Bell Program as a model (<http://www.bellboston.org/about.htm>).
 - vi. There are other supports for the community as well. These include, counseling, probation, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Ravenswood Family Health Clinic mobile clinic (comes twice a month).
- The governance of the Community School is split among three groups:
 - i. The City of Menlo Park via Ms. Mintzner.
 - ii. Silicon Valley Community Foundation
 - iii. Partner's Collaborative – a local advisory committee
- The role of the library in this community school project is currently that of a school library and quiet study space. There may be a less traditional library usage profile for this branch.
- It was noted that Project Read is bringing new users onto the Belle Haven school campus who may not have children attending the school.
- It would be possible to do outreach to help better determine the neighborhood's library needs by having a morning parent coffee at the library just after children are dropped off for the school day. Another option discussed briefly was either a Saturday morning or evening coffee meeting open to all.
- The issue of campus lighting was brought up with respect to evening meetings. Some street lights are city lights while others belong to RCSD. Currently the city lights are on during the evening, but the school lights are not.

2. Commission Priorities for City Council Priority Setting Process
 - There is a letter due to the City Clerk on January 23, 2007 from all commissions requesting funding priorities. Requesting funds for a demographic study was discussed as the Commission would like to be able to have a tool to estimate the needs of future populations.
 - Commissioners Fridman, McDonough and Traum will write this letter on behalf of the commission.
3. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2007:
 - Upon motions made, seconded and unanimously approved, Mr. Traum will be the 2007 Chair of the Library Commission and Ms. Zara will continue on as Vice-Chair.
4. Commissioner Reports:
 - Foundation:
 - i. Mrs. Wellner de Veer reported from the Foundation minutes work on the first Foundation sponsored project in the library as begun.
 - ii. Start up of the Foundation is now complete and as planned Bill Critzer has stepped down as Foundation Board president.
 - iii. Discussion ensued on how the Commission can better partner with the Foundation.
 - Friends:
 - i. No report this month.
 - PLS Advisory Board:
 - i. No report this month.

C. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Commission minutes:
 1. After corrections the minutes for the December 2006 Commission meeting were unanimously approved.
2. Staff communications:
 1. Mrs. Holmer reported that with funding from a state grant, the Library will begin offering live homework help. Visit <http://www.menloparklibrary.org/>

D. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Next regular meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday, February 12, 2006 at the Menlo Park Library main branch.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Zara, Secretary to the Library Commission