

MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

February 13, 2008
4:00 p.m.

Pima County Public Library
Joel D. Valdez Main Library
101 N. Stone Ave
Tucson, AZ 85701

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marjorie Gerdes, Obdúlia González, Tom Ward, Annabelle Nuñez, Pat Peterson

ABSENT: Miley Clark, Carla Stoffle, Frank Antenori

GUEST:

STAFF: Pat Corella, Deputy Director, Nancy Ledebouer, Library Director, Karen Thayer, Administrator, Jere Voigt, Administrator, Melody Ballard Deputy Director, Jen Maney, Virtual Library Manager, Gina Macaluso, Youth Services Coordinator, Elizabeth Soltero, Intern

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting started at 4:10 pm

2. MINUTES FOR January 16, 2008

Marjorie Gerdes moved minutes be approved as written, Tom Ward seconded.

Minutes were approved.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Nancy Ledebouer went around the room and made introductions to include PCPL Intern, Elizabeth Soltero, who is working with Gina Macaluso in Youth Services.

4. UPDATES FROM LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS, FRIENDS GROUPS, AND FOUNDATION

Marjorie Gerdes commented that Oro Valley Friends held the Friends Fest in January. Marjorie also said that their book sales are very good. Marjorie announced that after seven years of service she has submitted her resignation to the Friends.

Tom attended the Green Valley Friends Annual Meeting. There was a good turnout with about 100 people. He said there were some good questions asked of Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator. Mr. Huckelberry explained the budget problems. Tom said Mr. Huckelberry is very good at handling questions. There was lots of praise for the library. PR was wonderful. Pat asked if people were satisfied with the library services they receive. Tom noted that Green Valley residents are supportive of the Sahuarita Library because they realize it will benefit the

Green Valley Library which is overused now. Community agrees that Sahuarita needs its own library. Tom felt Green Valley Friends had good foresight to invite Mr. Huckelberry.

Annabelle asked about Quincie Douglas Branch's broken windows and when they would be repaired. Pat Corella stated that City and County are working with the architect to define who is at fault. Annabelle feels lack of repair sends a bad message to the community.

Nancy noted that the Foundation held a meeting this month and have hired a Development Director. The Friends of Pima County Public Library are holding their spring book sale. They have implemented more book carts. The book cart at Main brought in \$600.00 in 2 weeks. They are very enthusiastic about book cart sales.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Literacy Summit

Gina Macaluso presented an overview of Creating a Community of Readers starting at Birth. It will take place on March 5 at the Jewish Community Center. Focus is literacy for ages 0-5. Registration began yesterday and is ¼ full. Mem Fox, author and literacy advocate is the featured speaker. There will be a panel luncheon discussion "How do we create a culture of literacy starting with a community of readers?" with Kathy Minton, IBM, Richard Elias, Board Of Supervisors, Professor Kathy Short, U of A. There will also be breakout sessions in the afternoon on various topics related to early childhood literacy. The intended audience is business, education, early childcare professionals, parents, and community organizations interested in contributing to a literate society. Limited to 200 and lunch will be served. Children's author, Mem Fox will speak again in the evening to the general public.

Nancy commented that Gina has youth services staff working with United Way's First Focus on Kids. Library staff have been working with representatives from early childhood centers, school districts, family care organizations in the planning of the summit. Jill Morgan, United Way is on the planning committee and will share flyers and information with early childhood educators and parents.

Gina said some that have responded including the Blake Foundation and the Southern Arizona Childcare Professional Association. Word has gotten out on event. Gina has attended a number of meetings passing out information on the summit.

Additional partners include the Tucson Area Literacy Coalition who are providing information on literacy services and the Friends who are funding refreshments. KidsCenter will be selling Mem Fox's books. KUAT, U of A, United Way, Make Way for Books, Reading Seed, Supervisor Richard Elias's office have also assisted in planning.

Evaluation data and feedback will be shared with the Greater Literacy Leadership Council, which is working on a regional literacy plan. This is one step in the continuum of community literacy efforts.

Gina also mentioned a new partnership with Make Way for Books and Reach Out and Read. A literacy awareness campaign called "READ TO ME TUCSON" was

inaugurated with a book drive to re-distribute books to children. The goal is to raise awareness of the many excellent programs in the community helping to address early childhood literacy issues.

Big Blue Houses will be putting crates in local businesses for people to donate books. The public can also donate books at any public library. Request books be gently used, not ripped or soiled so children get nice books.

B. Nuestras Raíces

A Literary Arts Festival. Elaine Valenzuela stated that this year Nuestras is expanding into a month long event. Nuestras has 10 venues that will have programs that will raise and celebrate Latino art, literature and culture. The kick off event, a Mercado, will be held on February 29th at the Main Library Jacome Plaza. Expecting 20-30 vendors (food, arts/crafts, non profits, music) something for all ages. This year it will start on Friday to be able to attract the lunch crowd in the downtown area. In the evening a film festival of short films from Latino filmmakers will screen at the Screening Room at 10 E Congress.

Elaine described the various activities including a fashion show of quinceañera dresses modeled by local teens, book readings, an outdoor Mercado, a puppet show, a one-woman theater presentation, and genealogy and history programs. The events calendar is on our website. Programs are planned for all ages with more emphasis on teens that in previous years.

Funding for Nuestras comes from the Library, the Friends and from State Grants in Aid. Reforma is a partner in planning the programs. Library will promote Nuestras on the Star and Channel 12.

6. LIBRARY REPORTS:

Director's Report

Nancy thanked Administrator Karen Thayer for assisting the Committee that worked on the phones. Branch Manager Karyn Prechtel has done an excellent job identifying the needs for future phone system along with her committee members. Pat and Nancy attended the bond meeting where the health projects were presented. Nancy noted that the next Bond Commission meeting on March 7 is when library projects will be heard. Pat Peterson and Tom Ward indicated they would attend and speak on behalf of library proposals.

Public Services Report

Melody commented that branches are doing a great job with services to communities. She highlighted the Virtual Library, a library without walls, where you can go in your pajamas at anytime of the day or night. Customers can download electronic books. Jen Maney, Virtual Library Manager explained some new features including signing up to receive reminders of library programs in Outlook. Customers can email a friend any event.

Pat commented on how nice it is to see so many libraries going out into their communities with programs and developing proactive partnerships.

Nancy called attention to a program organized by the Martha Cooper staff that was presented RISNET. Staff learned about how to provide assistance to refugees.

Support Services Report

Pat said Abbett-Marana will reach completion by the end of March with a potential opening to the public in May.

Flowing Wells walls are up, the roof is in, waiting for the stucco and metal inserts. Substantial completion should be by the end of June. Contractor is ahead of schedule.

Murphy Wilmot has held their 3rd meeting with the Architect.

Community Relations Report

This weekend 2/16 is the Kirk Bear Canyon art commemoration. Tom commented the invitations had been sent with short notice. He requested any future invites be sent out sooner. Steff said they try for a 3 week notice. There will be a harpist and food. Also attending will be Supervisor Ray Carroll.

Still working on branding and finalizing Innovation & Quality (I&Q) projects. Steff stated that Gina Macaluso was featured Tuesday on KOLD, promoting the Big Blue House. She also showed members the new poster holders. Members said these are very nice and elegant looking.

Deputy County Administrator

Hank Atha complimented the library staff on continued increases in usage. He noted that the County's investment in new libraries, additional hours and increased collections is paying off for the tax payer. In addition, he noted that the Wilmot expansion is underway, and a new Bookmobile has been ordered. Old Marana library has expanded and we are working on an IGA for a temporary express library for Sahuarita. There is tremendous activity taking place in libraries. Pima County is under a budget freeze until we have a better idea on how the State will resolve its budget shortfall. The Governor's budget will force a transfer of expenses to local branches of government. The board of Supervisors aims to maintain or reduce the tax rate. This may mean a reduction in the tax rate for the Library District.

The Bond issue for capital improvements will mostly likely not go to the ballot in 2008. More likely it will go in 2009 or 2010. There are 3 branch remodels and 4 new branches proposed in the short list that is going to the Bond Commission.

7. CALL TO AUDIENCE

None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Phone system plans

Nancy will share Urban Library Council study.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura L. Galvez
Executive Administrative Assistant