

MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

March 14, 2007

4:00 p.m.

Pima County Public Library
Quincie Douglas Branch Library
1585 E. 36th St.
Tucson, AZ 85701

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Wendell Niemann, Vice President Pat Peterson, Jack Kuhn, Carla Stoffle, Marjorie Gerdes, Obdulia Gonzalez, Barbara O'Brien, Sofia Abrams,

ABSENT: Dan Eckstrom
Joel Valdez

GUESTS: Phyllis Dirksen, Foundation
Hank Atha, Deputy County Administrator
Melody Ballard, Deputy Director, Pima County Public Library
Bonny Bruce, Administrator, Pima County Public Library
Karen Thayer, Administrator, Pima County Public Library
Hon. Ramon Valadez, Pima County Board of Supervisors
Hon. Jennifer Eckstrom, Mayor, South Tucson
René Gastellum,

CALL TO ORDER

President Wendell Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:10.

MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 14, 2006

CORRECTIONS:

- A. **Call to Order.** It should read "*President Wendell Niemann.....*" not Wendell Johnson.
- B. **Internet Policy Committee.** Line three reads "Committee addressed a set of complex and conflicting priorities but that is was completed in a respectable manner". Wendell recommended the line be revised to read "*Committee addressed a set of complex and conflicting priorities but it was completed in an acceptable form to a consensus of the members*"

Pat Peterson made a motion to accept the minutes with the noted revisions.

Carla Stoffle seconded the motion.

It was moved to accept the February 14, 2007 Minutes with revisions.

INTRODUCTIONS

Wendell Niemann introduced Quincie Douglas Branch Manager Elva Smithwhite. Ms. Smithwhite gave a brief update on activities at the branch. The Library is partnering with the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) on a family reading program with thirty-six African American students and their families. The goal is to have each family spend time reading together without outside interruptions such as a television or video games. Next year each family will invite another family to participate and the program will expand. Other programs

include Reading with Eyes Closed, C.S.I. which stands for Career Success Imagery Memoir and the successful Reader's Theater. Many of the programs are started by community members who want to get involved and help at the library.

REPORTS FROM LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS, FRIENDS GROUPS, AND FOUNDATION

TPPL FRIENDS

Phyllis Dirkson gave a report from the Pima County Public Library Friends. She reported on the Annual Book Sale which was held on February 2nd through the 22nd. She stated that it had been successful and there had been an increase in sales. The Friends are piloting a project to put a book cart with sale books at the River Library. Once they work out the details book carts can be placed in other branches.

ORO VALLEY FRIENDS

Marjorie Gerdes reported that Sun City Vistoso Library held their Book Authors Luncheon last week and one of the authors Nancy Turner, complimented the Public Library system. Also, the Oro Valley Friends Annual Book sale begins today and runs through Saturday, March 17, 2007.

Library Board

Wendell Niemann and Pat Peterson reported on the opening of the new library at the Juvenile Detention Center. Wendell stated that he wanted to quote words spoken by Chairman Elias at the opening. Chairman Elias was quoted as saying that the Juvenile Detention Library "*may not be the largest circulation and it may not be the largest library but is the most important in our system*". Wendell stated that it was a very profound statement and he wanted to express thanks to Chairman Elias for conveying that.

Pat Peterson stated that she was particularly enthused with the computer room and the fact that there is someone working with those individuals even though their stay is minimal. After they leave the Center there is still a follow-up on each individual. Wendell stated that is was important to get them rethinking about their education.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Wendell Niemann stated before the issue was discussed he would like to poll each member for their views on the subject. Wendell stated that he felt it was a bit unusual to name a library for a sitting member of the Library Advisory Board. He noted that he would prefer not to name a Library for a sitting board member. Wendell acknowledged the effort that was put into gathering all the support and documents needed for the Board to review.

Jack Kuhn thought that technically if a Board member misses more than 4 consecutive meetings then their membership is withdrawn. He stated that he was in agreement with Wendell's about not naming libraries after members of the Board.

Carla Stoffle stated she has no personal issue with naming the Columbus Library after the Hon. Dan Eckstrom but she has a problem doing so without any criteria. She would abstain from voting as she did with the prior naming of a library.

Jack stated that a policy had been implemented in March 2003 by that Library

Board. Nancy reported that the issue was researched and staff has not found a policy on naming of libraries. There were emails discussing the issue and references to past criteria that has been used.

In the past the City of Tucson Mayor and Council named buildings located within the City limits. Pima County Board of Supervisors named building located within the County limits. Since the Library is now under the County it would be the Board of Supervisors who name libraries. Criteria used in the past included:

Geographic location

After Elected Officials for their service to the community

After former Staff for their service to the community

After someone who has made a significant donation to the Library

After a community member in recognition of their service to the community.

Nancy reported that the County has no formal policy for naming a building. She stated that it would be hard for the Library Board to establish criteria when their role is to make a recommendation and not officially name a building. In the past the Library Board has supported requests that the community requested.

Hank Atha noted that the request to rename the Columbus Library after Dan Eckstrom was not based upon his membership on the Library Board. Rather it was intended to recognize his years of service to the community as a former Pima County Supervisor. In the past the Library Board has recommended naming several libraries after former elected officials in honor of their service to the community.

Wendell asked the Board if they would like to proceed with renaming the Columbus Branch Library.

Jack asked if the matter was urgent. If not he recommended tabling the issue for a future meeting.

Jack motioned to table Agenda Item 5A. Naming of a Library to a future meeting

Carla seconded the motion.

Motion was passed.

B. National Library Week Celebration – Food for Fines

Nancy reported to the Board that she had recently attended a conference with the Pima County Interfaith Council and met someone from the Food Bank who spoke to the lack of donations made during this time of the year. Since National Libraries Week is approaching, Nancy would like to collaborate with the Food Bank and hold an event “Food for Fines”. The event would allow customers to donate a can of food and have fines waived. Other libraries across the country have held events of this kind. The objective is to bring customers back to the Library who have stayed away due to fines and to serve as a public awareness for continued donations to the Food Bank.

Jack Kuhn asked what the Annual budget is for overdue fines and fees. Nancy stated that it is approximately \$500,000. She also stated that a week without fines would not hurt the budget. The goal is to have customers who have books at home return those books by giving promoting the Food for Fines during National Library Week. There was discussion

about how much to waive for each item of food donated. The Board recommended waiving \$1 for each item.

Jack moved to approve the Food for Fines program during National Library Week. Obdulia seconded.

The motion passed unanimously

6. Library Reports

Hank Atha reported on the progress of the bond issue. He indicated that the Library was working hard to find support for the proposed new libraries. He indicated that the library proposals will be heard by the bond sub-committee on April 10th.

Nancy Ledebouer added to her written Director's Report that Hank has helped to facilitate numerous meetings between the Library and other departments that have helped in developing the library bond proposals. She indicated that Lynne Skelton, councilmember from the Town of Sahuarita took a tour of Martha Cooper Library and Quincie Douglas and was very impressed by the extent that the library was working with the community to provide relevant youth programming.

Melody Ballard offered to answer any questions about the Public Services Report. She indicated that branches have been very busy with programming and other services as indicated in the report.

7. Call to Audience

8. Future Agenda Items

9. Adjournment

Jack motioned to adjourn

Obdulia seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Rodriguez
Executive Assistant