

**MINUTES
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

February 18, 2009
5:00 P.M.
Central Library
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cox, Kuperberg, Lewis, and Moore

MEMBERS ABSENT: Budwig, Miles

STAFF PRESENT: Beverage, Blassingame

COUNCIL LIAISONS PRESENT: None

PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS:

None

MINUTES: January 21, 2009

CHAIR COX ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED: SO MOVED BY MR. LEWIS AND SO SECONDED BY MR. KUPERBERG. AS NONE WERE OPPOSED, THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2009 WERE ACCEPTED AS SUBMITTED.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

Ms. Blassingame presented the October 2008 and January 2009 meeting minutes to Chair Cox for her signature.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

F-1. Elect New Library Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson

Chair Cox began by stating that a new Chair and Vice-Chair were to be elected to serve as Officers of the Library Board of Trustees. Mr. Kuperberg nominated Mr. Ben Miles for the position of Chair. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. Chair Cox asked if there were any opposed. There being none, Mr. Ben Miles was elected to the position of Chair. However, being that Chair Miles was absent from the meeting, Ms. Cox continued to chair the meeting for the nomination and election of the second position, that of Vice-Chair. Mr. Kuperberg nominated Mr. Don Lewis for the position of Vice-Chair. Mr. Moore seconded the nomination. Ms. Cox asked if there were any opposed. There being none, Mr. Don Lewis was elected to the position

of Vice-Chair. Ms. Cox then turned the meeting over to Mr. Lewis as he was in attendance and Vice-Chair Lewis continued the meeting.

F-2. Open Seat of Library Board of Trustees

Ms. Beverage reported on receiving three applications from Huntington Beach residents interested in serving on the Library Board of Trustees. She met with two of the candidates in order to get to know them a little and to explain the nature of the position. She also reported that she will be contacting the Council liaisons to the Library Board of Trustees to schedule a time to review the applications in order to appoint a new Library Board member. Vice-Chair Lewis and Ms. Cox both reported that they met with the Council liaisons prior to being appointed to the Library Board of Trustees. Ms. Beverage added that one of the candidates had requested the meeting, so she offered all the candidates an opportunity to meet with her. Vice-Chair Lewis asked if there were any further questions, and there being none, he moved to the next item.

F-3. Banning branch project

Ms. Beverage reported that she has reviewed the Banning presentation given to the City Council by the Library Board of Trustees in March 2008. She explained that many transitions have taken place since the presentation including a new City Administrator, a new Library Director and a challenging economy. She understands the need to review all of the branches within the system, and will be touring those branches during the next week.

Ms. Beverage explained that while the Public Library Fund allotment was received, it was of a reduced amount due to the State's current budget, and the City is waiting to see the total effect the economy will have on the State. She concluded that the Banning project will be placed on hold for now.

Ms. Beverage also provided a follow-up to the Oak View water situation regarding the water pipes and the school district she had reported on during the January Board meeting. She noted that Public Works has worked closely with Nanci Williams in monitoring the progress and keeping the Director informed. Ms. Beverage added that the staff was provided with bottled water and that the Community Center near the library was cooperative during the repair process.

Ms. Beverage reported on talk of the Main Street branch being included in the Economic Development Department's Downtown Specific Plan as the North End anchor. She added again that this Plan will depend on the economy. Ms. Beverage explained that there are also several residents, in misunderstanding the intentions of the City, forming a "Save the Main Street Branch" group and distributing a petition. Ms. Beverage assured the Board members that the branch is not going anywhere. She did explain that she would like to avoid declaring the library building historical because this would limit renovation of the existing structure and the current building is poorly utilized. She explained that transforming the building to allow more reading areas, a larger computer lab, a children's area and possibly meeting rooms would be limited if the building were added to the historical register. Ms. Beverage also explained that all the branches are experiencing an increase in usage by the residents due to the economy.

Mr. Moore asked about the demands on the staff as more and more patrons visit the library for job searches, completing applications online and updating resumes. Ms. Beverage replied that the computers are being used more heavily, and a few patrons have made formal requests to increase the amount of time allowed for computer use. She is reviewing the existing program

with staff and they are working to allow additional increments of time to patrons on an “as needed” basis.

Mr. Moore also asked about the possibility of rebuilding the Main Street library in a few years, and mentioned a library he’d read about in Watsonville where the City Hall facilities were housed in the first two floors and the Public Library was housed in the top two floors, and in Daly City the first floor of a building was the City Gym and the second floor was the Public Library. Ms. Beverage added that a Detroit Public Library include retail shops on the first level of a building, and built the library into the second and third floors. She concluded that there are many viable alternatives, but in order to move forward in building or renovating any library, the project would require seed money and/or a benefactor. Vice-Chair Lewis asked if there were any further questions, and there being none, he moved to the next item.

F-4. San Francisco Library - eCard

Ms. Beverage distributed and discussed the new San Francisco Library eCard, which anyone in the State of California can apply for, allowing them to access the databases available on the San Francisco Library website. She explained that promoting this feature to Huntington Beach patrons would expand database accessibility without increasing expenses.

Ms. Beverage also explained that the Huntington Beach library was testing the use of the online homework tutoring and assistance program available on the San Francisco website using an eCard, to determine whether or not it would be a positive move for the Huntington Beach library. She added that another feature of the San Francisco site is the audiobook database, providing spoken ebooks to anyone with an eCard, and that the magazine database is also much larger than most other libraries, but contains some mature materials.

Mr. Moore commented that with regard to the tutoring feature, the Huntington Beach library could also promote the eCard and tutoring to students in the entire state of California. Ms. Beverage agreed that this is direction the Huntington Beach library is heading, and will provide an update of the staff’s findings at the next Board meeting. Vice-Chair Lewis asked if there were any further questions, and there being none, he moved to the next item.

F-5. City of Huntington Beach Strategic Plan

Ms. Beverage distributed the results of the recent City of Huntington Beach Strategic Plan and explained how this Plan was developed during a day-long retreat which included the City Council, the City Administrator, the Elected Officials and the Department Heads. She explained that the group first reviewed the City’s Mission Statement and the City’s Vision. Then the group brainstormed on four categories provided by the Facilitator: Strengths and Weaknesses (Internal and External), Opportunities and Threats (S.W.O.T.). From the resulting list the group made a smaller list of 5 3-year goals to achieve, and then broke into focus groups to develop a 6-month plan to achieve each of those goals.

Ms. Beverage also reported that there will be regular reports by Department Heads at the City Council meetings on the progress toward the various goals and objectives presented within the Plan. She added that in six months the Department Heads will meet again with the Council, the City Administrator and the Elected Officials to review and re-evaluate the progress of the existing goals and adjust the goals accordingly.

Ms. Beverage went on to explain that based on this workshop, she will be conducting a Library strategic plan, as the needs of the Library are varied and more specific than those of the entire City. Ms. Beverage will meet with the City Administrator and the Deputy City Administrator to present the idea of developing a Library Strategic Plan with the goal of providing services to the community selected by the community.

The first Library Strategic Plan, which Ms. Beverage will facilitate, will be done in-house with management staff in March in preparation for the next Budget year, and to walk the staff through the procedure. The second, more in-depth Library Strategic Plan will involve a professional facilitator and input from the community as the library serves the community, resulting in the development of a three-year plan. She will present one or two models for planning to the Library Board at the March meeting. Ms. Beverage added that this will be a regular item on the agenda, as she reports on the progress and status. Vice-Chair Lewis asked if there were any further questions, and there being none, he moved to the next item.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

G-1. HB Reads One Book.

Mr. Moore reported that all the planning has resulting in a smooth execution of the HB Reads program. He reported that there is a banner on the fence near the Golden West entrance to the library parking lot advertising the events. He mentioned that as a tie-in to the book a dog sled team will be at Bella Terra in March. Mr. Moore noted that the biggest challenge has been communication with the author. He also reminded the Board members of the March 5th presentation featuring the author at the Huntington Beach high school, followed by a lunch and a 7:00 pm reception at the City Gym.

Ms. Blessingame distributed the February/March Children's programs calendar and information about the Children's Library programs and Oak View library programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library Support Organizations:

Ms. Beverage reported on her attendance at the February Friends of the Library board meeting, and receiving the requested \$60,000 donation. She added that the Friends also donated an additional unsolicited \$10,000. Ms. Blessingame distributed a flyer for the upcoming Friends of the Library Author's luncheon scheduled for March 6th, 2009, featuring three authors who have written books on the history of Huntington Beach, tying in with the City's Centennial.

CALTAC:

Mr. Moore reminded the Board members of the next CALTAC Workshop scheduled for March 14th at the Torrance Public Library. Mr. Lewis expressed a desire to attend this workshop, and Ms. Blessingame replied that she will submit the application on February 19th and include Mr. Moore, Ms. Beverage, Ms. Cox and Mr. Lewis. Ms. Beverage added that one of the speakers is Acting State Librarian, Stacey Aldrich.

Ms. Beverage asked about the features of the Alhambra library Mr. Moore recently visited while attending the CALTAC Board meeting. Mr. Moore commented that the library has underground parking, which Ms. Beverage noted is usually the most expensive part of new construction. He also noted that the library was warm and spacious, and wall panels featured local graduates and was very inviting; additional features included big open windows and attractive views.

Mr. Moore mentioned that there were no cell phone warnings posted, but no one appeared to be using cell phones within the library.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMENTS:

Mr. Moore also asked about Ms. Beverage's future plans to send new Board Members to a training class. She agreed that new members should attend a training of this nature. Other Board members expressed interest in attending as a refresher course.

Mr. Kuperberg asked if the City Administrator might attend the beginning of a future Library Board of Trustees meeting. Ms. Beverage replied that she is meeting with the City Administrator on a regular basis and will ask him at her next meeting.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice-Chair Lewis entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kuperberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Cox seconded the motion. There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Don Lewis, Vice-Chair