

**FRIENDS OF THE MODESTO LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

June 4, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Modesto Library.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Board Members Stella Beratlis, Joan Patterson, Jonaca Driscoll, and Anne Britton as well as the manager for the Modesto library, Charles Teval, Children's Librarian, Susan Cassidy and FOL member Ellen Dambrosio.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 5, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jonaca Driscoll reported the following assets as of June 2, 2008:

Checking	\$1,134.61
Savings	\$3,282.74
Peti Taylor Checking	\$ 200.00
Peti Taylor CD [maturity date of]	\$2,017.96
Expenditures to date:	\$2,399.21

Recent expenditures include Secretary of State fees of \$30.00 to update the Articles of Incorporation to reflect the changes in the by laws. [Full treasurer's report is appended.]

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Charles Teval informed the Board of the new hours of service for the Modesto Library. Because of the downturn in the economy and resulting decline in revenue from the 1/8 cent sales tax devoted to the library system, Sunday hours at the Modesto Library will be eliminated as of 30 June 2008. Other branch libraries will also be closed one more day a week than the current schedule.

The materials budget for books, magazines, etc. is also being greatly reduced. Charles also noted that the reduced service hours do not provide enough reduction in staff to meet the new budget realities. Part time staff will also be reduced throughout the system. No further reductions are foreseen in the coming year, but that is dependent on the economic picture.

The current year budget is covering the long overdue refreshment of the library's auditorium. It will be painted and new carpet installed this June. The carpet had become a safety issue with loose strands and holes becoming a tripping hazard.

FUNDING REQUESTS: Charles presented a request for funding of several items for the 2008/2009 year. They included support for special event Children's programming [\$2800]; purchase of materials for a new format "Wiggle Worms" storytimes for toddlers and babies [\$250]; and purchase of art supplies to refresh and replace storytime props and displays.

ACTION TAKEN: The Board unanimously approved funding the programming request for the full \$2800. The \$250 for materials for Wiggle Worms will be guaranteed by the Friends with the intent to solicit donations for it from members. Funding for the art supplies will be solicited from the membership and other sources. If funding is not secured elsewhere, the Board will review the funding request at a later date.

RYAN'S TREE: Charles had Susan Cassidy of the Children's Department offer information about a fundraising project to improve the Children's Room. The Stanislaus Library Foundation is acting as the conduit for funds to erect an oak tree cover for the pillar that stands in the center of the room. It will be a memorial to Ryan Dickerson, a teen volunteer who died in 2007. The hope is to secure funding by August with installation completed by June 2009. Additional information can be seen at www.ryanstree.com, which also includes a link on how to donate.

ACTION TAKEN: After discussion, it was moved, seconded and approved to donate \$250 to the effort. Susan will have Peter Herman, the project coordinator, contact Stella. An email notice will be sent to members with information about it.

REQUEST for VOLUNTEERS: As noted above, the reduced budget will affect staffing at the Modesto Library. Charles outlined some of those areas and the volunteer opportunities they present. Discussion included ideas on how to publicize these to the membership. Other duties and areas where volunteers can help out were also discussed. Joan suggested a good place to recruit volunteers would be retired employee events for large groups such as the county, school district, or city.

ACTION TAKEN: Stella will include information about this and some of the opportunities in the next newsletter. Individuals were suggested for specific jobs and they will be contacted to see if they are interested.

Charles will get details to Stella by 20 June on how and who to contact for interested volunteers. He will also accept suggestions for volunteer opportunities in addition to those he submitted at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

BOOK SALE: Anne Britton reported on the success of the Community Book Sale. The books were 50% off retail price and very popular with many return shoppers from previous year sales. Combined profit and donations totaled \$1000.34. In addition, over \$1000 in books for donation to library and literacy programs were collected. [Full report appended.]

The books to be donated for the Teen Summer Reading Club and to the Family Literacy Program will include Friends bookplates.

ACTION TAKEN: Joan volunteered to supervise the installation of the bookplates.

SCRAPBOOK: Marietta Bradford, a retired library employee, has volunteered to do a scrapbook for the Friends. She priced materials and estimated that \$65 would be enough to begin the project.

ACTION TAKEN: Board approved allocation of \$65.

SOCIAL EVENT: Consensus was to move this to a committee to organize.

ACTION TAKEN: Stella will include a request for a coordinator in the newsletter.

PROPOSED PR MATERIAL: Stella explained that she is pursuing the acquisition, possibly at no cost, of a “branded” table skirt to use at Friends events. This and other publicity avenues will be included as a future agenda item.

PAYPAL: Stella proposed opening an account as an additional venue for donations.

ACTION TAKEN: Stella will pursue this and report back to the Board.

OTHER ITEMS

REPORT on the MEETING of 24 MAY 2008

County Librarian Vanessa Czopek invited officers from the various Library Friends, the Stanislaus Library Foundation, and the Library Advisory Board to an informational meeting 24 May 2008. The reduction in hours of operation of one day a week at each library was explained. [See Librarian’s Report above.]

Anyone interested in more detail from that meeting is welcome to contact Stella, Jonaca or Anne, all of whom were at the meeting.

ONLINE MARKETING

Stella reported on the status of the quest for a home for our webpage. It was created by her as a class project, but the University does not maintain the site after the semester is over. A new [free] home is needed and ideas are welcome. Cost to secure the domain name is expected to be \$75 annually, after a home is found.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Ellen Dambrosio has accepted the position of Membership Committee Chair. She reported that there are 40 current memberships, many of them family memberships, for an estimated total of 70 people. In addition there are 24 members whose memberships have recently lapsed. Ellen will send email reminder notices to those past due who have listed their email addresses with the Friends.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS – Postponed to a future meeting due to lateness of the hour.

Next meeting

In addition to the regularly scheduled quarterly September meeting, the Board will meet in **early August** at a date to be established to address topics including:

- PR

- Social Committee

- Website update

- Membership and the question of its calendar year

- Review and publication of the updated Bylaws

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m. The next Board of Directors quarterly meeting will be on **September 3, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Library Conference Room.**

Dated: 7 August 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Britton, Secretary