

Library Advisory Board
Minutes of April 12, 2007 meeting

- I. Call to order – President David Lopez called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.
Present: Marilynne Allen, Sheridan Beuving, Margaret Bowen, Vanessa Czopek, Nadine Dunker, Suzanne Foster, Sue Henderson, Laura Jensen, Susan Lilly, David Lopez, and Sandy McDowell.

- II. Approval of Minutes of January meeting – Marilynne Allen made the motion to approve; Sheridan Beuving seconded the motion; unanimous approval.

- III. Information Technology Update – IT Manager Suzanne Foster reported on upcoming developments in Information Technology:
 - A. We are working on offering online payment of fines through the Library Web Site.
 - B. Self check-out is coming. We will start with the Modesto Library, then expand the service to other locations.
 - C. Wireless Internet for the public will be piloted first in Salida and Patterson, then offered at other branches as well.
 - D. We will begin Internet filtering on all computers in the 07-08 FY. This is necessary in order to be eligible for about \$20,000 in federal grant funds. In the past, grant money was about equal to the cost of filtering, but with expansions to our system, the savings will be much greater. Children’s Internet computers are already heavily filtered.
 - E. An automated reservation system for public computers is being piloted in Turlock. It has proven to be a more efficient method, freeing up staff for other activities. In July, PC Reservation will be added in Modesto, followed by the other branches.

- IV. Old business
 - A. Library Foundation Spelling Bee – Susan Lilly reported that the Library Foundation’s Adult Spelling Bee would be held April 19 at the Modesto Centre Plaza. Library Advisory Board members are invited to come volunteer or just enjoy watching the event. The Library Foundation expects to raise approximately \$12,000 at this year’s event.

 - B. Library Foundation funding – Susan Lilly reported that the Library Foundation approved funding to continue the Book Page subscription (350 copies), which provides library customers with timely new book reviews on a monthly basis. Funding was also approved for undergraduate scholarships for library staff planning to pursue careers in librarianship, an Employee of the Year award, as well as funding for teen programs and summer reading club.

 - C. Cultural Programming – Susan Lilly reported that the Library, in partnership with Modesto’s International Festival, is offering monthly programs highlighting various world cultures. Scotland, Ireland and Italy have been featured and the audience has ranged in size from 35 to 90, with mixed demographics (age, ethnicity, families, individuals).

D. Foundation Center – Susan Lilly reported that the Modesto Library is now designated as a Foundation Center Cooperating Collection. The idea was originally suggested by Board Member Sandy McDowell. As a Cooperating Collection site, the Modesto Library offers access to an expanded collection of print materials and the latest electronic resources for finding grants. Training in grant seeking/writing will also be offered to the community.

V. Public comment period – Nadine Dunker asked if there has ever been a Vocabulary Bee, offering this idea as a possible alternative/aspect to a Spelling Bee.

VI. New Business

A. Expiration of Terms

1) Marilynne Allen will retire from the board June 30, 2007 and nominated Sue Henderson to fill the District 5 seat.

2) Margaret Bowen (District 2) will continue on the board for another term.

B. County Librarian's Report – Vanessa Czopek reported that:

1) A Request for Proposals was issued to provide coffee carts at libraries in Modesto and Salida, however, there were no replies. Staff is researching possible reasons for the lack of proposals.

2) The Library lost its business manager in February. Interviews have taken place and the top two candidates will be invited back next week. We expect to make a decision soon and we hope to have a new business manager on board by the end of May.

3) Bomb Threat and Assertiveness Training is being conducted for all staff.

4) The Library Facilities Master Plan is out of date. A facilities planner met with Vanessa, Patty Hill Thomas, Capital Projects and Richard Jantz about library facilities. The recommendation is for the library to engage in a new planning process with broad community input. This new strategic plan will include planning for services as well as the facilities the library will need to efficiently deliver those services. Having a plan in place is critical, as there will likely be a Library Construction Bond Act on the ballot in 2008. Assuming bond money is available, chances of receiving bond money are much better if we already have a comprehensive plan. The Library Advisory Board will be an essential part of developing the plan.

5) There are discussions taking place in Patterson and Waterford about building new government/community centers, which could include the library.

6) We will possibly be expanding hours in the new fiscal year at the Nick W. Blom Salida Regional Library to include Mondays.

VII. Next meeting – The Library Advisory Board will meet on July 12, 2007.

VIII. Adjournment – Sheridan Beuving made a motion to adjourn. Laura Jensen seconded the motion. Unanimous approval. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Susan Lilly