

Riverside Public Library

MINUTES

Board of Library Trustees

January 26, 2009

4:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT WENDEL TUCKER, PRESIDING

Present:

Wendel Tucker
Nancy Melendez
Gary Christmas
Susan Coffey
Greg Bower
Wilburn Lopez
Janet Lewis

Absent:

Judith Runyan
John Schreck

Staff:

Leonard Hernandez, Assistant Library Director/Interim Library Director
George Guzman, Administrative Services Manager
Karen Cramer, Reference Manager
Chris Holzer, Sr. Office Specialist

Guests:

Doris Illes, Friends of the Library
Virginia Field, Riverside Public Library Foundation
Dawn Hassett
Molly Carpenter

Wendel called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. He also welcomed Janet Lewis to the Board of Library Trustees to serve in the city-wide position. She then gave a brief description of her background and why she wanted to serve on the Board.

Item #1 **Public Comment** – Virginia Field, Dawn Hassett and Molly Carpenter spoke regarding their thoughts on the City Manager's report concerning the Downtown Library. Molly also gave her opinion on the parking issue.

Consent Calendar:

Items#2-4 Wendel asked for motion to approve Consent Calendar. **Gary Christmas** made the motion to approve Consent Calendar, **Nancy Melendez** seconded the motion. **Motion was approved.**

Discussion Calendar:

- Item #5 **Report of Board of Library Trustees vacancies/appointments** – Wendel reported that as Janet Lewis has now been appointed to the Board, there are no longer any vacancies.
- Item #6 **Appointment of Nominating Committee** – Wendel reported it was time for the Board to elect to officers. In City Charter section 804 it states that at the first meeting after the last day in February of each year, each of the boards and commissions shall organize by electing one of its members to serve as presiding officer at the pleasure of such board or commission. What this means in library language is that at the March meeting, which is the annual reorganization meeting, there needs to be a nominating committee. Wendel asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. Will, Gary and Susie volunteered to be on this committee with John chairing.
- Item #7 **Introduction of new Library Assistant Director** – Wendel asked George to introduce Leonard Hernandez, our new Library Assistant Director who will also be assuming the role of Interim Library Director. Leonard came to us from the Fontana Hills Library in San Bernardino County where he was a Regional Manager. Leonard said he was very excited about the opportunity to come to Riverside and meet the staff. He told the Board he was looking forward to partnering with them and building excellent library services for the community.
- Item #8 **City Manager Report to City Council concerning Downtown Library/Museum/Auditorium** – Wendel reported that the City Manager made a presentation to the City Council and it was a bit of a surprise. Wendel said he personally had not had any conversations with the City Manager's Office about the idea of tearing down this building and starting over. As the next meeting of the Board of Library Trustees is the day before the next City Council meeting, Wendel said it was important that the Board begin a dialog regarding this report. The summary of the report was that the City Manager is proposing three projects, one of which was to tear down the Main Library and rebuild a new one with 100,000 square feet and a total cost of \$40 million plus. During the discussion, most of the Board members were surprised by the option of tearing the building down and rebuilding which had not been previously discussed. Wendel commented that whether or not anyone agrees with the City Manager's suggestion to demolish the Library and build a new year, what the Board needed was for library staff to put some serious thought into and get back to the Board before February 24th on whether or not 120,000 square feet of programs can be put into 100,000 square feet of space. Another question Wendel brought up was "What is the relocation plan or interim operational plan during the two years of construction?" The Board decided to hold a Special Meeting on February 9 to discuss what decision they would recommend to the City Council on February.
- Item #9 **Possible February Meeting at Orange Terrace** – Tentatively scheduled for April.
- Item #10 **Theme for the Marcy Branch Library** – Tabled until Councilman Bailey can attend a meeting in March.
- Item #11 **Update on Arlanza Cybrary** – Currently in the design phase which will take about 7 months. Construction is scheduled to begin later this year. Tentative completion is schedule for April 2010.
- Item #12 **Discussion of Fines and Fees** – To be discussed at the February 23 meeting.

Item #13 **Friends of the Library Update** – Doris reported that the Friends Luncheon was very well attended. She also reported that the Dickens Festival was coming up and the Friends was sponsoring a dinner faire. Doris also reported that Friends received a cultural programming grant that was applied for.

Item #14 **Library Foundation Update** – Virginia thanked the Board for receiving 100% participation from them for the Orange Terrace donor wall.

Item #15 **Future Agenda Items** – None

Item #16 **Announcements** – None

Adjournment was at 5:48 p.m.

Submitted by Chris Holzer

Wendel Tucker, President

Nancy Melendez, Vice-President