A regular meeting of the A. K. Smiley Public Library Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 in the Assembly Room.

Present: Marty Davis, Rosa Gomez, Bill Hardy, Bill Hatfield and Kate Pretorius

Also present: Dennis Bell, general public; Nathan Gonzales, Archivist/Curator; Jenesie Hardyman, Management Analyst; Darlene Held, Contemporary Club President; Pamela Martinez, Youth Services Librarian; Don McCue, Library Director; Rebecca McCurdy, FOL President; Steve Stockton, RHMA

Bill Hatfield called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

Bill Hatfield opened up the meeting for public comment. Darlene Held stated that the Contemporary Club was able to hand out over 360 backpacks at Family Day and was appreciative of being a part of it again this year. There being no further comment, Bill Hatfield closed the public comment session.

Marty Davis moved to approve the minutes for the September 14 meeting and the October expenditures. Rosa Gomez seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Rosa Gomez moved to approve the September 2021 Discards. Motion seconded by Bill Hardy and passed unanimously.

Rebecca McCurdy reported that the FOL had over 3200 volunteer hours for the 2020/2021 fiscal year; there is a book sale taking place on October 22 – 24 in the Assembly Room, the first in the room since the pandemic began; there was a great turnout for family day that also drove people to the bookstore; the coupons used for the current promotions have been very profitable; new promotions will be implemented with tracking for each sale; a little free library will be installed at the community center and the September bag sale was successful.

A request to allow Pamela Martinez, Youth Services Librarian to report on Family Day that just took place on Saturday, October 9 was made. She reported on the number of books handed out to families and children as well as the number of library cards registered during the event. AVID students from the RUSD volunteered during the event and enjoyed themselves immensely. Diane Adams, the local featured author, held a meet and greet with attendees and provided donated signed books to them.

Steve Stockton displayed a PowerPoint presentation with updated images and renderings of the construction; provided additional fundraising opportunities including pavers in the event pavilion; RHMA is working with University of Redlands business students on a project to market and operate the event pavilion. The Board of Trustees was invited to walk the site to view the latest construction.

As part of the Director’s Report Don McCue reported on the following: the library is hosting a Dia De Los Muertos (DDLM) event in the Contemporary Club on Monday, November 1; displays by Adult Services and the Heritage Room were installed for Hispanic Heritage Month; MOR-a-palooza is taking place in November and donations are currently being accepted; Literacy Anthologies were available for the board to peruse; in regards to infrastructure, the Red Fed Garden is almost repaired, once complete the fence will be painted as well, the flooring in the Contemporary Club is complete and the city has completed the installation of the ADA sidewalk across Eureka; he provided a review of the statistics for same time 2021, 2020 and 2019 for September with brainstorming on how to increase attendance, some ideas included having additional programming, market available databases to RUSD students, increase advertising especially digitally and collaborate with University of Redlands students to sign-up for library cards; Books to Go has
slowed down / plateaued in recent months. There was a request to advertise our DDLM event and build a flyer with library services that could be handed out or available on our website.

Bill Hatfield opened up the meeting to Old Business of the draft the subcommittee had completed for the Memorandum of Understanding between the RHMA and the library. The board has requested a special closed meeting to discuss in greater detail. A virtual meeting was set for Monday, October 18 at noon.

After a brief discussion and telephone confirmation from the library accountant on September 20 that the board could allocate these funds toward any purpose per their discretion and approval, Rosa Gomez moved to approve the investment of remaining the 2020 Emergency Fund of $73,794.12 to the TIAA-CREF / Schwab Endowment as a quasi-endowment. Kate Pretorius seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned to the closed session to discuss the Director’s Contract at 6:25 pm.

Reportable action taken during the closed session included a motion by Rosa Gomez to authorize signing of the city attorney approved and reviewed contract between the Library Director and Library Board of Trustees. Bill Hardy seconded the motion and carried unanimously. The closed session adjourned at 6:34 pm.

William Hardy, Secretary