



MINUTES

A regular meeting of the A. K. Smiley Public Library Board of Trustees was held at the Contemporary Club 173 S. Eureka Street on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 5:00pm.

Present: Bill Hatfield, President; Rosa Gomez, Vice President; Marty Davis, Trustee; Bill Hardy, Trustee and Kate Pretorius, Trustee

Also Present: Paul Barich, City Liaison; Dennis Bell, general public; Nathan Gonzales, Archivist / Curator; Jennifer McAbee, Technical Services Coordinator; Don McCue, Library Director; Rebecca McCurdy, FOL President; Jennifer Downey, Principal Librarian, Adult Services; Darlene Held, Contemporary Club President

Bill Hatfield called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

Public Comment

Darlene Held, Contemporary Club President commented that she appreciated the library's assistance in getting the technology up and running for Mary Howard and Mike Phoenix. Ms. Held also inquired about getting a phone installed in the Contemporary Club kitchen, as she felt it was a safety issue not to have one. Don McCue suggested cell phones are more readily available and most people have them already on their person. If installing a landline is to be pursued, the initial and monthly costs would have to be passed along to the Contemporary Club. Paul Barich informed the Library Board he would continue to be the library liaison for the next four years.

Minutes & Expenditures

There being no further comment, Bill Hatfield continued the meeting. Kate Pretorius moved to approve the February 14 meeting minutes, February 24 special meeting minutes and February expenditures. The motion was seconded by Rosa Gomez. After a brief discussion the Board of Trustees, by roll call vote, approved the minutes and expenditures, with Marty Davis recusing himself from the minutes approval as he did not attend the meetings.

Discards

Marty Davis moved to approve the February 2023 Discards, motion was seconded by Kate Pretorius, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved, by roll call vote.

Reports

Jennifer Downey, Principal Librarian, Adult Services and Jennifer McAbee, Technical Services Coordinator gave a staff training update. Ms. Downey reported that according to the ALA (American Library Association) censorship is at an all-time high. Locally, attempts to censor certain library materials has been witnessed at Redlands School District and Redlands City Council meetings. The library's procedure for material challenges was outlined.

General Friends of the Library Update, presented by Rebecca McCurdy, President:

- Spring semi-annual book sale: March 17-19 in the Assembly Room.
- Friends enjoyed their first attendance at the Saturday Market. They have posters and a banner for their spot to advertise the bookstore. They handed out coupons.
- The Friends are developing software to automate volunteer lists and assignments.
- Looking for a speaker for their annual meeting in June.
- Soliciting for new board members: 2 positions have termed out.
- Friends using social media to solicit book donations.

General Redlands Historical Museum Association Update, Presented by Steve Stockton, President

- As Steve Stockton was not present at meeting, no report was provided.

Library Director's Report

General Library Update, Presented by Don McCue, Library Director:

- Remarked on staffing challenges encountered in most of February and into March because of illness, especially in the YRR. YRR needs Adult Services' staff to cover during scheduled community outreach offsite.
- Additional assistance is needed from the Friends in taking book donations directly downstairs.
- Reported on staffing vacancies: one position in Special Collections has remained vacant since November 2022, negotiations with HR continue; there are two part-time clerk vacancies in both Adult Services and Youth Services with interviews taking place from HR's eligibility list. Candidates are currently being reviewed for hire.
- Planning is underway for the Summer Reading Program. It starts June 22 with scheduled entertainment on Thursdays instead of Tuesdays as in previous years. Redlands School District is committed to distributing free meals again during the entertainment programs.
- Bill Hatfield and Don McCue will present the annual report to city council on March 21.
- The Director reported on the various upcoming events, including Library Days.
- Infrastructure: Contemporary Club parapet has been repaired and repainted; KIM lights have arrived and installation work began this morning, concrete is still needed around lighting; no date yet for the boiler replacement.

Old Business

Discussion and possible action regarding Library's Strategic Plan.

- Don McCue and Jenesie Hardyman have been working with Martin Gomez and team to prepare for his visit on March 23 & 24. He would like to interview some staff, trustees, and stakeholders. An anonymous staff survey was sent out via email, to be completed by March 20. Jenesie has done a lot of work compiling all of the requested information.

Discussion and possible action regarding the Lower-Level Revive and California State Infrastructure Grant.

- No action was taken. This item to be included on the April 11, 2023 agenda.

Discussion and possible action regarding Trustee Handbook.

- No action was taken. This item to be included on the April 11, 2023 agenda.

New Business

Discussion and possible action regarding Trustee Annual Workshop dates.

- Trustee Annual Workshop will take place May 19th at 8:30am in the Contemporary Club.
- Jenesie Hardyman and Kate Pretorius to determine alternative dates for WLMA Annual Workshop.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Bill Hatfield adjourned the meeting at 6:02pm.

The next regular meeting of the A.K. Smiley Public Library Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

William Hardy, Secretary