

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REDWOOD CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
April 14, 2009**

Trustees Present: R. Madrigal, R. Barragan, A. Schernig, Z. Sweeney, S. Levin

Staff present: Library Director D. Genesy, Division Manager M. Kramer, Literacy Services Supervisor K. Endaya, and Administrative Services S. Morish.

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Madrigal called the meeting to order at 7:04pm in the Small Meeting Room of the Downtown Library.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

SEIU Representative Spore-Alhadeef reported that bargaining groups are reaching an agreement that will freeze salaries in the upcoming fiscal year. She encourages management to use funds only on those things essential to the core services of the Library.

MINUTES MOTION

On the motion by Trustee Madrigal, seconded by Trustee Schernig, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of March 10, 2009 with the following changes: Under the Library Director's Monthly Report, the last bullet should read KinderCard Saturday; over 200 kindergartners proudly got their library cards.

WARRANTS MOTION

On the motion by Trustee Madrigal, seconded by Trustee Schernig, the Board unanimously approved the payment of warrants # 7026 to #7093 and the payment of usual and necessary invoices through March 31, 2009.

EXPENDITURE REPORT

Director Genesy reviewed the February expenditure report with the board. We are .5% overspent. We have been using funds on much needed City IT support to ensure that all of the computers and machines are current and are working properly. This should mean less money spent on repairs and maintenance in the future.

LITERACY DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT

Director Genesy reviewed the March monthly report with the Board. A few highlights include: City Council reappointed Rudy Madrigal and appointed Jeanne Gross to the Library Board. Gate counts show a substantial increase in traffic in all of the libraries. In the strained economy an increasing number of customers have been taking advantage of our computer services and literacy programs. Unfortunately, the economic situation has also led to an increase in anxious/on edge patrons, which has been an added stress on staff.

LITERACY SERVICES STRATEGIC PLAN

Literacy Services Supervisor, Kathy Endaya presented Project READ's strategic plan for 2009-2012 which was included in this month's board packet. Project READ has continued to be a highly effective and rewarding program. For example, many of those who previously were tutored have come back to volunteer as tutors themselves. There was a discussion on how to recruit more volunteers and build capacity in the program. A goal will be added to the plan to track waiting list numbers.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY RESULTS

Director Genesy shared the results of Redwood City's City Satisfaction Survey. It seems that the community as a whole is very satisfied with the City and feels that it is a safe environment to live in. Use of the public library has increased and was one of the highest rated service departments in the city. This truly validates our direction and what we are trying to accomplish here at the library.

BUDGET UPDATE

Director Genesy shared the city's Budget Status and Financial Projections. There are projected deficits for the next 3 years and therefore the city will be strategically reducing spending so that the budget will be balanced by the end of the 2012/2013 fiscal year. It is important that the library's core services (literacy and learning, the collection, keeping our buildings open and keeping our technology available) be met. Management and staff have been discussing ways to do business differently in order to cut costs, and minimize any negative impacts on these core services.

SUNDAY CLOSURE BEFORE MONDAY HOLIDAYS

Director Genesy asked input from the Board about closing the library the Sunday before a Monday holiday. Reports have shown that usage on those days is half that of a normal Sunday and he estimates that it will cut costs by approximately \$18K a year. The Board would like to have a fuller discussion on the subject and encourage the surfacing of more creative ideas on how to reduce library expenditures.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK/ AGENDA BUILDING/ UPCOMING EVENTS/ MATTERS OF BOARD INTEREST

- May 9 Wetlands Day at the Shores Library

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

There being no further business or announcement, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m. to May 12, 2009 at 7:00pm in the Small Meeting Room of the Downtown Library.

Respectfully Submitted,



Alex Schernig, Secretary

DG: SG 4/23/09