

BOARD OF LIBRARY DIRECTORS- LARKSPUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Minutes of Regular Meeting- November 10, 2003

Roll Call: Present: Trustees Helen Brenlin, Eileen Kreps, Marianne Rafter, William Silverman, Philip Terry

Staff: Library Director Frances Gordon

Library Board President Helen Brenlin called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of October 13, 2003

M/s, Kreps-Terry and approved 5-0 to approve the October 13, 2003 minutes as submitted.

Approval of Warrants for October/November 2003

It was the consensus of the Board to approve the warrants at the next regular meeting.

Unfinished Business Items

Library Chairs

Library Director Gordon reported nothing has changed with the status of the chairs. The vendor is still looking for fabric.

Agenda

A round-table discussion with the Library Board and the Library Foundation on the future location of the Larkspur Library

Library Board President Brenlin discussed the Board recommendation that the Library Foundation donate funds to the City to support part-time staffing for the Library's reduced hours during the employee furlough program.

M/s, Terry-Silverman, and approved 5-0 to recommend that the Foundation donate \$1,200 to the City to support the Library's reduced hours of operation during the furlough program.

Library Director Gordon stated staff would be able to continue to receive the daily Inter-library loan delivery of materials and uphold their MARINet Consortium

responsibility. The Library's reduced hours of operation will be from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Library Board President Brenlin stated the Board has decided it should become more proactive in supporting the idea of raising money for a new Library. The Board would like to begin a fundraising campaign and would like the Foundation to become a part of that effort.

Boardmember Rafter discussed several potential sites for a new Library: 1) the City owned property next to the Arch Street Stairs, 2) the lot next to the Costello House, 3) the Lark Theatre, 4) sites within the CLASP.

Boardmember Terry stated the Board did not want to see the Library get "lost in the shuffle" and would like the City Council to incorporate the Library in any upcoming facilities Bond Measure. He discussed the newly formed Larkspur Community Foundation and stated he had heard that the Library would be a part of their scope. Boardmember Rafter cited the purpose of the new Foundation: "To provide a means for interested persons to make tax deductible donations to preserve City services and the community environment in Larkspur." Boardmember Terry stated they have not made a presentation to the Library Board or Foundation so their purpose is somewhat unclear. He stated the Board would like to find out what the Foundation is willing to do to support a new Library. He clarified that the Foundation was a "saving" institute and not a "leading" institute. Boardmember Terry was asking that the Library Foundation support: 1) funding for a new Library within the Bond Measure, 2) the Library facility should include a community center component. Boardmember Silverman stated it was important that this be viewed as a Library/Community Center facility.

Library Foundation President Larry Lanctot stated the Foundation is a fundraising as well as a savings vehicle. The Foundation donated money to the City when it was remodeled years ago. He stated the Foundation and the Board must first decide what they want and come up with a plan. He discussed the Bond Measure for the Twin Cities Police Department facility and the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Larkspur and the Town of Corte Madera. He stated an architect was hired after the Twin Cities Police Council decided on a site. A consultant was also hired to do a needs assessment. The Bond Measure will probably go to the voters sometime early next year. He stated the Board must come up with some concrete ideas with dollar amounts attached because they will not be able to sell an "either/or" type of plan to the community. At this point it would make sense for the Foundation to support the idea and assist in a fundraising campaign. In addition, the Board will need to do some politicking with the City Council. He stated all this would need to be done in a short period of time.

Library Director Gordon asked whether the discussions with the architect and consultants regarding the new Police facility had a site attached to it. Library

Foundation President Lanctot stated the initial consultants analysis about what kind of station was needed did not have a site attached. He stated the City was experiencing financial difficulties but staff was told by a financial consultant that a Police Station would be high on the public's list. In addition, the Larkspur 2050 Committee recommended that any new Library be publicly funded. There is also an assumption among City staff that the money should be raised privately and the City would not use public financing to build a new Library. He stated this was an issue that must be addressed by the Board.

Library Director Gordon stated it took about ten years and many large donations to build the new Belvedere/Tiburon Library. Patrons were very upset about the poor service and reduce hours. Library Foundation President Lanctot stated many Larkspur patrons like the quaint aspect of the current Library and would not be happy if it moved. Boardmember Rafter discussed the various problems with the Library: lack of space and security, inadequate wiring, it is not ADA compliant, etc.

Library Foundation President Lanctot discussed the newly formed Larkspur Community Foundation and stated he was concerned about it detracting from any existing organizations. He stated its intent was to raise money for specific purposes.

Library Foundation member Tom Serlith stated new construction costs were usually cheaper than renovating an existing building. Getting someone to donate the land would be an obstacle. He agreed with Boardmember Terry and stated they should go forward with the campaign for a new Library, but they need to decide whether to stay at the existing site or move to a new site. Library Director Gordon stated the needs assessment indicated the Library should be located in the downtown area. She felt the majority of current patrons would like the Library to remain at its current location.

Boardmember Silverman stated the Board could apply for Marin Community Foundation funds once they have a concrete plan and other significant donations.

Library Foundation President Lanctot stated it would be a huge effort to raise the kind of money needed for this type of facility. The campaign must have something firmly in mind and the thoughts must be well articulated. They need to have answers to questions regarding problems, alternatives, etc. The Bond Measure will be for a definite amount of money needed for the facility. Library Foundation member Serlith stated a multiple issue Bond Measure would be very difficult to pass. They would be better off starting the process of awareness for a new Library with a target of money to be raised by a future Bond Measure.

Library Foundation President Lanctot suggested the Board hold a joint meeting with the City Council to discuss this issue. In addition, the Board should

individually contact the members of the City Council to discuss their thoughts and ideas.

Boardmember Terry would like the Board to advise the Council that they are in favor of seeking a solution that includes a new Library with a Community Center. Library Foundation President Lanctot stated if they chose to take that position they should also articulate precisely why that is the preferred proposal. They will need to be able to convince people that this idea is superior to the other alternatives. They must show that it is economically superior, politically possible and there is a need for it. He stated this is a political process and they need to work with the Council to try and find a solution that is beneficial to the community.

M/s, Terry-Rafter, and denied 1-4 (Terry voted yes, President Brenlin and Boardmembers Kreps, Rafter voted no) to proceed with discussing the concept of a new Library with individual City Councilmembers in order to seek input from them.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold a joint meeting with the City Council.

Library Foundation President Lanctot asked for a vote regarding the Library Board's request for a donation of \$1,200.

M/s, Terry-Serlith, and approved 6-0 to approve the donation of \$1,200 to the City for the purpose of paying for the costs incurred during the furlough program.
Ayes: President Lanctot, Brenlin, Kreps, Patton, Serlith, Terry

Library Director Gordon stated this was a one-time request and she will not seek a similar donation again in the future.

Library Board Member's Oral Reports and Comments

There were none.

Adjournment

Library Board President Brenlin adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary