

BOARD OF LIBRARY DIRECTORS- LARKSPUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Minutes of Regular Meeting- October 11, 2004

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

Staff: Present: Library Director Frances Gordon

Library Board President Helen Brenlin called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2004

M/s, Rafter-Silverman, 3-0 (Trustees Kreps and Terry abstained) to approve the minutes of September 13, 2004 as submitted.

Approval of Warrants for September/October 2004

It was the consensus of the Board to approve the warrants.

Public Comment

There were no comments.

Unfinished Business Items

Report on the Planning Commission Meeting of September 28th 2004 regarding Costello Property/Star Academy

Boardmember Rafter stated Star Academy made a presentation to the Heritage Board regarding their proposal for a school at the Costello property. Several of the Heritage Board members felt the property should be available for use by the community. President Brenlin stated she attended the Planning Commission meeting and Star Academy presented the same proposal. She stated the presentation was very impressive. Boardmember Silverman stated many people spoke about their admiration of the school and its goals. Others questioned whether this was the appropriate location for a school. President Brenlin stated many of the immediate neighbors were concerned about the noise, traffic, parking, and size of the proposal. She stated the school has a benefactor who is willing to donate \$10 million. Boardmember Silverman stated they were very well organized. Boardmember Terry suggested the Board seek out the same architectural group that drew up the plans for Star Academy. Boardmember Rafter stated the Planning Director confirmed that the property had sold. Boardmember Terry stated it did not seem like a good fit for the property.

Boardmember Rafter stated she had been reading the Council minutes to refresh her memory about recent events and concerns. She suggested the other Boardmembers do the same. Boardmember Terry discussed the recent proposal to locate the Public Works Department in the north part of Piper Park.

New Business

Board President Brenlin stated she was approached by a patron, Mr. Hawley Smith, about his vision for a new City Hall and Library located at the Nazari property on Magnolia Avenue. He stated the current City Hall property could be sold if additional money was needed. Boardmember Terry stated Mr. Nazari was, at one time, willing to locate a library on his property and an architect had presented a plan to the City for a library a while ago. He suggested the Board invite the architect to an upcoming meeting. Library Director Gordon suggested Board President Brenlin invite Mr. Hawley to a Board meeting. Library Director Gordon would like Councilmember Chu to be present. Boardmember Terry asked if anyone had pursued the Roxanne's Restaurant site. Library Director Gordon stated the City Manager was looking into this site. Boardmember Terry stated he would like to speak to Ms. Cindy Niven about the possibility of a new library on the Niven property. He would like to invite all the individuals who have ideas about a new library to a meeting. Boardmember Silverman suggested they use the following terminology during the campaign: "Community Center/Library". Boardmember Rafter suggested they start inviting individuals who might be interested in the campaign to upcoming meetings. She asked the Library Director if she could provide the names of the parents who participate in the weekly "Storytime" Program.

Agenda

Library Director's Report

Library Director Gordon distributed the circulation statistics and graphics for September. The majority of circulation belongs to the children's materials and the adult printed materials, with AV taking up the smaller portion. She stated she was fully focused on the Speaker Series and she was currently trying to organize the volunteer staff for the evening of October 20th. There were several events running through the month of December. Boardmember Terry suggested she contact a local Boy Scout group to help with the set up and break down of the event. The October 20th Speaker Event has approximately 80 sign-ups. The Board briefly discussed the Speaker Series flyer and the advertising. Library Director Gordon explained the Speaker Series is a fund-raising event to upgrade the lighting and install a new circulation desk in the Children's Library.

Report on the September 27, 2004 meeting on "Stable Funding" at the San Rafael Library- Helen & Marianne

Boardmember Rafter gave a brief report and stated the next meeting would be held on October 27th at the Fairfax Library. She stated the meeting included a round-table discussion about Library budgets. The majority of libraries spend approximately 60% to 70% of their budgets on salaries, and most of them are experiencing financial difficulties. The final meeting would be held on November 30th at the Corte Madera Library.

Identify key issues for presentation to League of Women Voters at the Tamalpais on November 18th

Boardmember Silverman stated he would like the Board to attend this meeting to make a presentation regarding the preservation of the Larkspur Library. The intent is to solicit support and perhaps donations for the campaign. He stated he has arranged to have the meeting videotaped. Boardmember Rafter stated she would make her power point presentation. Boardmember Silverman suggested they make a similar presentation to the Chamber of Commerce and other interested groups.

Discuss key marketing strategies to promote campaign for a new library

Boardmember Rafter discussed the need to come up with a more concrete plan and stated she would draft a paper with the Board's Vision Statement. She discussed emphasizing some of the service goals- a reference desk, Internet access, proper work area for staff, a community meeting room.

Open- Round Table Discussion

There were no comments.

Library Board Member's Oral Reports and Comments

There were no reports.

Adjournment

Library Board President Brenlin adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Toni DeFrancis
Recording Secretary