

August 9, 2011

**Call to Order:** The regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees of the Santa Maria Public Library was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 in the Dorothea Nelson Conference Room of the Santa Maria Public Library.

Present: Mr. Peterson, Mrs. Gallas, Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. MacNeil, and Mr. Corbett  
Absent: Mr. Alvarado

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** Minutes of the April 12, 2011 meeting were approved as read with one change. Mrs. Gallas visited the main library in Los Angeles.

Mr. Peterson talked about the DVD video Mr. Corbett made on the annual Safari.

**Demand Registers:** Demand registers were reviewed and approved by the Board members.

**Old Business / New Business:** None

**City Librarian's Report:**

***a. Black Gold Databases Elimination:*** Black Gold will have to discontinue all of their databases except two (novelist and overdrive) to make ends meet. Libraries will make their own separate agreements with vendors if they have their own budget for it.

***b. Library Maintaining "Mango Language Learning System":*** Santa Maria will continue one database by forethought of the circulation and reference librarians. They set aside money in both of their budgets to cover Mango learning software for FY 2011-12 to fill the void from Rosetta Stone. The software was purchased at consortium price and renewed at consortium price.

***c. Black Gold Holds Fee Implementation:*** Due to the funding situation Black Gold will also be instituting furloughs for their staff. He also reiterated that the Black Gold holds fee implementation increased to \$1.00.

***d. County Budget Hearing:*** Federal funding is being cut 17.5 percent, and possibly increasing. State funding is being cut 100% for libraries and literacy. There was a State budget committee recommendation to reconsider putting 50% of the PLF funding (\$46,000) back into the budget, but only as long as tax extensions pass in the fall. PLF funding for the library last year was \$92,000 of which 78% went to the main library and 22% to branches. The County indicated to prepare for 4%, 7.5%, and 15% decreases. The City level is 6%. This adds up to over \$300,000 in the library. This is 10% of the Library's total budget.

***e. City Budget Amendments:*** There are three ways to meet the library's budget deficit: 1) materials budget, services and supplies, 2) hours of operation, and 3) staffing. The City and library went through the first two phases. The main library has had to identify two positions, Office Assistant I and a Library Assistant. Those positions were the last two added to the library. According to rules and agreement

with the union those are the first positions to be eliminated. He talked about the recommended schedules for the main library and reviewed concessions from other Cities.

Prior to last week Mr. Corbett was told to consider closing the Cuyama Branch Library. The County has agreed to fund Cuyama, so there will be no cut. The Orcutt Branch Library was initially cut from 40 hours/week to 20 hours/week. The County approved funding for 32 hours/week. It is unknown if Guadalupe Branch Library will remain open. The City Manager has not communicated with anyone regarding the funding for the building rental. If the RDA stays zeroed out and the City does not pay for the rental, the Guadalupe Branch will close. The annual cost is approximately \$8,000/year. Staff has been notified that there will be cuts. The Friends of the Guadalupe Library will not be funding the assistant clerk position and the County will not be funding the balance.

*f. Sasha Silva:* Reference Librarian Sasha Silva will be away for one year on medical leave. Mr. Corbett will be taking over her responsibilities and will be at the desk quite a bit.

With the absence of the librarian there is at least one year of salary savings. There will be a recruitment for the position relatively soon.

#### **Reports of Board Members:**

- Mrs. Cooper – talked about a letter she wrote asking about whether anything could be done about the budget situation. She was concerned about one of the positions being cut. She read a letter to be sent to each councilmember appealing for the rescinding of a pink slip that they may have decided to issue for this position.
- Mrs. Gallas – visited the Monterey library and read an article she found on the internet. The article was regarding people who read narrative fiction scoring higher on tests of both empathy, the ability to understand and identify with another person's feelings, and social human, the ability to make quick judgments of people and situations frequently. Nonfiction was associated with poor empathy and social human. She also talked about an article on the Book Fair in New York.
- Mr. Peterson – presented an article to be distributed in next meeting's agenda packet on "Reading Future Trends, Libraries Reach Out to Older Adults."

The next meeting will be July 12, 2011.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Corbett, Acting City Librarian

xc: Library Board Members, City Manager, City Clerk