

Fiske Free Library Trustee Meeting- Monday, September 18, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:25 P.M.

Roll Call

Present: Bill Scala, Robert Arcand. Arthur Vidro, Sean Magee; also present Director Michael Grace and Secretary Marta Smith. A member of the public, Cynthia Cleveland, was also present.

Secretary's Report

Read and accepted with amendments to include Cynthia Cleveland as present at the 8/21/17 meeting.

Director's Report

August 2017

In August patrons checked out an average of 289 items per day for a total of 7,812 items for the month. Patrons used 690 computer sessions and 244 wireless internet sessions for a total of 720 hours of computer time during the month, an average of 27 hours per day. 109 items were loaned to other libraries through interlibrary loan and 365 new items were added to the collection. Patrons downloaded 297 audio books and 111 e-books from our downloadable books service. 49 new patrons signed up for library cards during the month.

Circulation of materials

2017	Books	Audio-books	Music CDs	Magazines	Misc	Total Items
February	4304	465	71	36	1921	6797
March	4705	522	96	36	2064	7423
April	4366	569	76	21	1893	6925
May	4806	575	94	51	2052	7578
June	5021	488	64	33	1816	7422
July	5228	535	45	23	1784	7615
August	5224	539	73	42	1934	7812

Items added to collection

2017	Books	Audio-books	Music CDs	Magazines	Misc	Total Items
February	202	4	0	0	81	287
March	250	4	6	0	184	444
April	392	19	0	1	86	498
May	169	8	0	0	58	235
June	104	11	4	0	26	145
July	297	5	0	0	47	349
August	311	3	0	0	51	365

Our Summer Reading Program, *Build a Better World*, ended on August 21st in truly astronomical fashion as a partial solar eclipse delighted the very large crowd gathered at the library. Over 200 people gazed skyward from the library lawn utilizing NASA eclipse glasses, homemade pinhole cameras, colanders, and optical projectors to safely view the 65 percent eclipse. Children from NIMMA and Camp Energy were also entertained by master storyteller Odds Bodkin who told the story of “When the Moon Danced with the Sun”. Demand for eclipse glasses was very strong as the Fiske Free Library was one of the few places in the area to have received free glasses from NASA.

The library received 1000 pairs of glasses that were distributed to the community and also shared with other libraries including Grantham, Charlestown, and Stoddard. Preparation for the eclipse included a workshop on building pinhole cameras as well as displays of books and posters on astronomy. Other children’s activities in August included a sponge ball making workshop, 3D printer activities, collaboration with the Claremont Community Lunch program, NIMMA’s Superhero Day, and visits from Parks and Rec’s summer campers.



Also, on the 7th, the library hosted T. J. Wheeler who entertained the audience with Jazz, Swing, and Jug Band Music. Mr. Wheeler played a variety of instruments including a steel guitar, a 7-string guitar, and a homemade Diddly Bow one string guitar. Coming up on September 12th the library will again welcome the ever-popular travel writer Dan Szczesny who will be presenting “On the Road with Kids: India and Turkey with a Baby.” On the 19th Bullfrog Rogers will also return with more delta blues.

Data conversion for our new automation system has been completed. Once training has been completed and the system is debugged we will be going live with the new system.

Cynthia Cleveland asked about the average monthly new library card sign-ups and Mike Grace said 49 was about the average.

Old Business

Strategic Plan

Bill Scala asked Mike Grace where he was on the strategic plan. Mike Grace said that he was mostly done and he had brought a rough draft to the meeting. The Strategic Plan will be ready for October 1, 2017.

At the August meeting there was a discussion about no longer giving free cards to out of town teachers and other educators, and the discussion was tabled until the September meeting. It was decided to leave it as is.

Bill Scala asked about fine money use and Mike Grace said that by law the fine money was used to buy books or for building maintenance.

Treasurer's Report

Between the August meeting and the September meeting 2 checks were deposited to the trust account. Marta Smith indicated that she is in the process of ordering books to be paid out of the trust account.

New Business

The Book and Bake Sale

The Book and Bake sale will be held on Saturday, October 14th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Besides the book and bake sale there will be craft demonstrations and programs, pumpkin painting, entertainment and lunch will be served.

Mike Grace asked about giving a gift to Rene Lacasse for all of his hard work on the library grounds. Many ideas were discussed including a painting by John Cram and Mike Grace said that he would try talking to Rene to see if he could come up with an idea for what he might like. Mike Grace said that the new computer system (Atrium) was installed and on Friday, September 22, 2017 the library would be closed so that the staff could participate in an intense day-long training session.

Mike Grace said that 2 terms are up for renewal. Robert Arcand said that he did not feel like he was contributing as a trustee because he has limited time to offer outside of the monthly meetings, but everyone assured him that he has been contributing more than he knows, just in his actions during the budget hearings he has more than done his job as a trustee. He has agreed to re-apply for the seat.

Bob Arcand brought up an article about the privatization of a library in San Francisco. It doesn't save a substantial amount of money and doesn't accomplish anything and the citizens didn't want it or vote for it, but still it went through. Bill Scala pointed out that a company that privatized libraries would first cut employee wages and benefits and then take a "Blockbuster" approach to acquisitions, etc. the amount of profit wouldn't make it worthwhile. However, in San Francisco the public fought it and the city government pushed it through anyway, at very little profit.

Bob Arcand moved to adjourn, seconded by Arthur Vidro. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.