

Corrected &
accepted
3/7/16

MEETING OF THE MONTEREY LIBRARY TRUSTEES
Held at the Monterey Library
February 8, 2016

PRESENT: Kenn Basler, John Higgins, Mickey Jervas,
Beth Reiter and Lisa Smyle
Via Skype: MaryPaul Yates
Library Director Mark Makuc

Meeting was called to order - 7:12pm.

John Higgins was welcomed back to the Trustees; we look forward to his past experience helping us meet the future.

MINUTES: The minutes of January 11, 2016 were accepted by motion made by Beth and seconded by Lisa.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The electric fireplace logs that the Trustees approved last month are now in place and functioning. They create a visually warming atmosphere that has garnered praise from a number of patrons.

With approval of a \$500 Cultural Council Grant, Mark has started lining up performers for our summer Saturday morning events. Magician, Jim Snack will be first up on July 2nd and is scheduled to be followed on the 9th by Tom Selig. Both are popular performers.

Selling.

There continues to be an up-tick in circulation this winter when compared to last winter.

Kenn set-up a meeting between the new accountant, Paul, Mark and himself. We all know good communication is necessary to any smooth functioning system, but is conspicuously lacking in our current government. Paul decides something was not being handled the way he wants and will simply change protocol without first explaining the situation to those involved. Also discussed; Paul's failure to respond to e-mails.

Since there is no paperwork setting up the several library memorial accounts, Paul refuses to release any funds, other than interest, from these accounts. The library has long used these accounts to cover various appropriate expenses. Kenn wrote legal council who doesn't see a problem explaining how this situation should be handled. Mark received an unexplained \$80 check from the New York Times. There must be a reason for this check and it needs

to be charged back to the proper account. Paul did not have an answer for this refund. Coincidentally, it appears that we have not received current copies of New York Times Book Review. Has our subscription been cancelled? Kenn is trying to set up workshops between the accountant, the treasurer and any department heads that are experiencing difficulties with the manner in which payments are being handled.

On January 28th the Library Construction Project kick-off meeting was held with members of the design team [Tim and Rebecca from EDM, Mark from Foresight, Dan from P3, Ben, Kenn and Mickey of the Building Committee and Mark], as well as Dennis Lynch of the Conservation Committee and Lisa Smyle. Before the meeting Mark toured the library grounds with EDM and Foresight. Mark Volk identified a good location for a rebuilt septic system, should that be required or desired. While he continued to explore the grounds, the EDM team did the same inside, including trips to the attic, the basement and the infamous bathroom. At the meeting the Building Program was reviewed with questions asked and answered all around the table. It was a productive meeting. Since that time Rebecca has spent two days making measurements in and around the library. As for the contract, Mickey has had discussions with Tim and Dan and it appears to be coming together very nicely. One of the still open issues is the price. Kenn made a motion that we hold the line at \$42,000, Mickey seconded the motion and all approved. Tim and Mark Volk had asked Mark for a head count of patrons visiting the library each session that it is open, which he has already provided. For the record, Saturday is our busiest day. The average Saturday sees just over 50 patrons in the five and one-half hours which we are open. Other days experience slightly less traffic. Mark felt comfortable with an average of 10 patrons per open hour.

Mark gave us a few facts - just for the record - the original cost to the Town for library construction in 1930 was about \$7,500. The Knox wing and office additions were built with grant and gift money, at no cost to the Town.

Another "Good thing we have our own website" moment happened this evening. Robin O'Herin had been scheduled to hold a song writing gathering but felt the ongoing snow storm was not conducive to people coming out for a pleasant relaxing evening. She called Mark who immediately posted

the cancellation on the website [now available on Instagram] and no one had to venture forth on a stormy night.

The Art Show opening on the 5th was another success. Marjorie Heller Miner, a long time second homeowner now nearing her 100th birthday, is showing her charming sculptures. About 30 people attended the opening, including Wendy Germain who interviewed Marjorie, much to her delight and all those in attendance.

Mark is thinking that opening for an additional morning, probably Thursday, during the summer months might be a good idea. Downside is it will impact the budget which has already been submitted to the Finance Committee.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Lisa received a letter from the MBLC advising us that Monterey has been certified to participate in the State Aid program. The first payment in the amount of \$983.37, representing about one-half of the total award, will be received in the next few weeks.

Lisa brought up the coming election cycle. Her term, and Mickey's, expires this year. Both want to run and need to write the caucuses to let them know. John Higgins also faces election as he must run for the remaining one year of the term he has been appointed to. He will also apprise the caucuses of his desire to run.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: MaryPaul, who had been listening via Skype, called to tell us that the Cultural Council has awarded the Knox Gallery \$500 this year. Funds usually go to artist talks.

MaryPaul also addressed the aggressive fundraising that will need to take place to help raise funds toward expansion of the library. We need some ideas. Also, we need to establish a good database before we even start.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm by motion made by Beth and seconded by John.

NEXT MEETINGS: Monday, March 7, 2016 - 7pm

Agenda - Meet with Friends - Past year's fund raising
Current year's goals.

Discuss Building Committee Progress

Submitted by: Mickey Jervas, Secretary