

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH  
MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION**

July 16, 2007

5:30 p.m.

Manhattan Beach Library

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**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Adams, Gembica, Hook, Popovich and Rhees

Absent: None

Others Present: Recreation Services Manager Mark Leyman, Manhattan Beach Library Manager Don Gould, Regional Administrator Steven Klein, Children’s Librarian Melissa Messner and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the June 11, 2007 Library Commission were approved as written.

**CEREMONIAL**

**NEW BUSINESS**

07/0716.1 – Library Services Presentation by Don Gould

In order to allow the Commission Members time to attend the Facility Strategic Plan Steering Committee at 6:30 p.m., Mr. Gould has agreed to postpone his presentation to the next scheduled Library Commission Meeting.

07/0716.2 – Discussion of Children’s Library Services by Melissa Messner

Mr. Gould introduced Children’s Librarian Melissa Messner who has been with the Manhattan Beach Library for seven years since graduating from UCLA with a Library Degree and a Masters in English Literature.

Ms. Messner reported that she benefited from the first \$50,000 allocation of funds; she was able to replace her one table and one broken chair with furnishings for the children’s department where she serves over 1,200 children and adults per month for story time, as well as craft events and two book clubs. She also received programming money for events such as the Disney Concert Musicology program, i.e. Korean Festival dancers, mimes and Flamenco dancers. She would suggest that these programs would not be possible without the County allocation of funds. Commissioner Gembica recommended that Ms. Messner investigate the Music Center on Tour, suggesting their prices might be lower than the Disney Concerts.

Ms. Messner reported that she has gone to the County Central Purchasing to increase her purchasing power for materials which increases her ability to buy more books in large allotments. If the Commission approves the \$50,000 allocation of funds, Ms. Messner’s purchasing power would be increased 100% (an additional \$7,000), providing her the opportunity to purchase book series on endangered animals, missions countries and non-fiction.

Ms. Messner indicated that she is aware that the Commission has had some concerns regarding traceability of the \$50,000 allocation of funds. She emphasized that when the County money is spent on materials, those books are clearly marked as being owned by the City of Manhattan Beach; these books are loaned out to other libraries but they always return to Manhattan Beach. She reported that this budget enhancement is being fiscally and responsibly treated.

Ms. Messner suggested fixtures are needed for the very popular AV department and a toddler-based computer would be beneficial to help toddlers learn while they play.

Ms. Messner indicated that she is completely in favor of saving the County funds for a new library but suggested that the \$50,000 allocation has made a huge difference to the library.

#### 07/0716.3 – Request of Items to be Purchased for FY 2007-08

During a discussion among the Commissioners, the following points were made:

1. Commissioner Adams inquired about the inability of the County to supply a list of items purchased with the \$50,000 allocation. She suggested that at some time in the process there has to be a list generated.
2. Commissioner Hook suggested that the library staff members are the experts and they know what the children need and are interested in. The Commission shouldn't tell them what to order. We will know what is in the library by going into the card catalog to see what books are available.
3. Commissioner Gembica indicated that she understands there are staff and time constraints involved in generating the list, but would like to know what is going on with anything she is involved with.
4. Commissioner Popovich suggested that the City is accountable for the \$50,000 allocation and there should be an order form to indicate where the money was spent. She suggested that the Commission should report to the County what they hear from the community and make responsible recommendations for needed items.
5. Commissioner Rhees suggested that if it is the Library Commission's role to examine the idea of a new library building, they will need a roadmap of where the city is headed and why they want to get there. She sees this process with the County as a collaborative, cooperative effort.
6. Commissioner Gembica suggested that the antagonistic history between the County and the Commission is no longer true; rather they are open minded and accepting and striving to be partners.
7. Mr. Leyman suggested that better communication between the two organizations would be helpful.

A motion was made to approve the allocation of \$50,000 for Library Services for FY 2007-08. (MSC: Gembica/Rhees – Unanimous)

**OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.