

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

August 13, 2007

5:30 p.m.

Manhattan Beach Library

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**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Adams, Gembica, Popovich and Rhees

Absent: Commissioner Hook

Others Present: Recreation Services Manager Mark Leyman, Manhattan Beach Library Manager Don Gould, Regional Administrator Steven Klein, Reference Librarian Cindy Roth and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the July 16, 2007 Library Commission were approved as written.

**CEREMONIAL**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

07/0813.1 – Library Services Presentation by Library Manager Don Gould

Mr. Gould introduced Cindy Roth, Manhattan Beach Reference Librarian. She has worked for the Manhattan Beach Library since 1995. Ms. Roth suggested that the library's collection reflects the community and indicated that Manhattan Beach residents like "everything" and are voracious readers; foreign language and travel books have high usage. Ms. Roth coordinates book clubs and community outreach talks and works many hours at the reference desk, helping to make the library convenient to use.

Mr. Gould presented a report on the Manhattan Beach Library in the 21st Century. He suggested that even though people are busy and increasingly using the internet for information, they are still hungry for human interaction. He suggested that libraries can stay relevant by:

- Emphasizing our core strengths – books and reading for free, as well as audio books, DVD and CD collections, foreign languages, etc.
- Providing alternatives to Google
- Providing a "third place" – home, work, LIBRARY!
- Arranging our collections in a pleasing and easy-to-use manner
- Matching our collection to community's needs
- Making it convenient to use the library
- Providing early readers programs for toddlers, preschool and beyond
- Providing teen space and activities
- Providing space for families and groups, "the quiet stir of thought"

- Liaison with schools
- Providing adult programming (seniors and younger)
- Adapting our services to new realities as they arise.

Mr. Gould reported that the Manhattan Beach Library is the 3rd busiest library in the West Region (17 libraries) after Culver City and Carson. The Manhattan Beach Library has access to 84 library collections and services; conducts an ongoing collection evaluation program; has 6 full-time staff and a circulation over 250,000 items per year.

Mr. Gould reported that the Manhattan Beach Library collection includes:

- Book collection-93,000 items and growing
- Over 2,000 DVDs, 2,000 music CDs, hundreds of audio books
- 200+ magazine & newspaper subscriptions
- 27 online databases available from home
- Audio-book downloads
- Friends of the Library DVD rentals

Manhattan Beach Library services include:

- Adult book clubs, chess club
- Monthly coffee and classics film group
- Newly expanded popular teen area
- Variety of special programs for all ages
- Heavy use of community meeting room for library programs and outside groups
- Free WiFi available NOW!
- Six public internet computers and two children's computers
- Annual Tea & Talk
- Book talks by reference librarian to community groups
- Monthly displays highlighting various aspects of the collection
- Lists of new arrivals, best sellers
- MB Arts Festival Booth

Youth Services include:

- Children's Book Week
- Bookmark contest
- Tutor.com – Online homework help
- Liaison with MBUSD schools and librarians
- Six weekly toddler/preschool story hours
- Crafts and holiday programs for children
- Three children's and teen book clubs
- Special programs (dance groups, teen concert, summer reading program activities)
- Teen volunteer program

Mr. Gould reported the following statistics for the 2005/2006 year:

- Circulation of 250,000+ items
- Information & reference questions – approximately 118,000
- Adult & juvenile programs – 375
- Total program audience – 16,000+
- Items added – approximately 8,600
- Library holdings – approximately 140,000
- Internet usage – approximately 59,000 hours

Mr. Gould reported the following items coming soon to the Manhattan Beach Library:

- New public internet and staff computers
- Integrated Library System
- Updated print/copy facilities
- New Library????

Mr. Gould suggested he is anxiously awaiting the outcome of Facility Strategic Planning Meetings regarding the Manhattan Beach Library. He indicated that the two major items to be decided regarding a new library are 1) cost and 2) location. He suggested that he would like to see more room and quiet space, activity areas, two rooms for the Friends of the Library for sales and storage, community room, technical training area and a better way to display new materials. Regional Administrator Steven Klein and Mr. Gould encouraged everyone to attend as many Facility Strategic Planning Meetings as possible.

#### **OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS**

None

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.