
MINUTES
MEETING OF THE NORTH COUNTY LIBRARY AUTHORITY

June 29, 2011 - 5:00 P.M.

Neutra House

181 Hillview Ave, Los Altos, California 94022

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 P.M. by President Mordo

ROLL CALL

Members present:

Jean Mordo (President)
Ron Packard (Vice President)
Jim Lai (Secretary)
Val Carpenter
Lenelle Smith

Members absent

None

Staff /Representatives present:

Russell Morreale/Liaison/Treasurer
Jolie Houston/Legal Counsel
Derek Wolfgram/Deputy County Librarian
Jane Cronkhite/Local Head Librarian

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

1) Minutes From The Meeting of Jun 1, 2011

The minutes for June 1, 2011 were approved with a motion from Vice President Packard and a second by Secretary Lai. The motion passed unanimously

DISCUSSION

2) County Non-Resident Fee Update

President Mordo introduced the matter discussing the recent introduction of the \$80 non-resident fee, how it has been received by both communities, and a discussion of a general concern about its impact on both K-12 students, local college students and volunteers. Vice President Packard also commented on his deep concern about applying the fee to volunteers in particular and, from an operational perspective, the County labor agreement terms which restrict the use of such services.

Liaison Morreale and local Librarian Jane Cronkhite provided an update on recent discussions with the Friends of the Library (Friends) and Los Altos Library Endowment (LALE), organizations which have pledged contributions to mitigate the impact of non-resident volunteer

fees. Morreale and Cronkhite reported that both the Friends and LALE pledged \$1500 each an amount that would accommodate approximately 37 cards – a number more than adequate to cover the current non-resident volunteer count. They proceeded to communicate the process of funds distribution agreed to with both organizations. In brief the County, LALE and Friends agreed to provide funding on an itemized listing reimbursement basis. This process would entail that both LALA and the Friends apply their organizationally defined criteria in awarding contribution awardees, provide the Head Librarian with a listing of those selected along with a single lump-sum payment in an amount of \$80 for each awardee. Key factors to consider include (1) the fact that the selection process and application review is to be administered by the funding organizations independently (LALA & Friends) (2) that the \$80 card fee is non-refundable regardless of the volunteers work duration and (3) LALE and Friends will pledge equal amounts of contributions. Cronkhite also presented draft announcement letters to be distributed as a basis for communicating the volunteer awards application program and their defined selection criteria – presented herein as **attachment 1**.

3) Discussion of Library Services

President Mordo and Vice President Packard introduced the item providing a two-city update of the discussions to date. President Mordo emphasized that the objective of exploring library services was to correct the services model and not necessarily to withdraw from the system. Mordo mentioned that he was interested in making the labor negotiation process more fair and equitable and to gather information in the process of conducting a study. Vice President Packard emphasized his concern over the long term impact of labor costs and a negotiation process that seemingly is not addressing strategic cost concerns – namely the liability costs that accompany the post-retirement health benefits that the County offers its employees.

Vice President Packard indicated that some questions remain to be answered regarding the funding options available to the NCLA in conducting a services study. As such he asked that a meeting be scheduled for an executive session to discuss the legal opinions being compiled in this effort

Members of the public addressed this item making points about the importance of volunteerism, the high level of service currently provided by the County Library services, and a request to include a review of governance in the scope of the study. Those speaking raised the desire to have future public meetings on the development of the RFP and the scope of the study.

On the matter of scope, President Mordo and Vice President Packard provided the following preliminary study objectives:

- An evaluation of the cost/sharing and revenue distribution formula
- Defining the extent to which Los Altos Hills and Los Altos experience a tax revenue shortfall as a result of the current model
- The pros/cons/ possibilities/costs of member cities running their own library services
- A cost/benefit analysis of different service model structures
- Performing both a financial and operational analysis of alternative service models
- An in depth legal analysis of JPA restrictions/opportunities
- Defining the financial implications of separation in terms of existing reserves and revenue sharing calculations

4) Follow Up Discussion & Approval of Professional Services For

This item was not discussed given time restrictions

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTIONS ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A closed executive meeting date was set for Monday July 11th @ 5PM with a venue to be determined involving a legal analysis conducting a NCLA alternative services study.

ADJOURNMENT

President Mordo adjourned the meeting at approximately 6.10PM and all members concurred

Respectfully submitted,

Russell J. Morreale
Liaison to NCLA

Exhibit 1
LALE Volunteer Awards Letter

June 29, 2011

Dear

In recognition of your valuable service to the library, the Friends of the Library of Los Altos and the Los Altos Library Endowment (LALE) are offering a Volunteer Rewards Library Card for eligible non-resident volunteers. This card will be available to applicants for the 2011 – 2012 year only.

All applications will be handled with complete confidentiality.

To be eligible for a library card purchased by the Friends or LALE, you must:

- Live outside of the Santa Clara County Library District **and**
- Have completed more than 30 volunteer hours at the Los Altos or Woodland Branch Library in the past year

If you are interested, please fill out the form below and mail it in by August 2, 2011.

With appreciation of your many contributions,
The Friends of the Library of Los Altos &
The Los Altos Library Endowment

Volunteer Rewards Library Card Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please mail and return this application by August 2, 2011 to:

Los Altos Library Endowment

P.O. Box 367

Los Altos, CA 94023-0367

Attn: Bob Simon

Exhibit 2
FRIENDS Volunteer Awards Letter

June 29, 2011

Dear

In recognition of your valuable service to the library, the Friends of the Library of Los Altos and the Los Altos Library Endowment (LALE) are offering a Volunteer Rewards Library Card for eligible non-resident volunteers. This card will be available to applicants for the 2011 – 2012 year only.

All applications will be handled with complete confidentiality.

To be eligible for a library card purchased by the Friends or LALE, you must:

- Live outside of the Santa Clara County Library District **and**
- Be a Los Altos Friends member who is a Super Friend (worked 100 hours a year or more), works at the Library Café weekly, volunteered at 3 out of the last 4 sales, or volunteers at the ongoing sale weekly

If you are interested, please fill out the form below and mail it in by August 2, 2011.

With appreciation of your many contributions,
Friends of the Los Altos Library &
The Los Altos Library Endowment

Volunteer Rewards Library Card Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please mail and return this application by August 2, 2011 to:

Friends of the Library of Los Altos
13 S. San Antonio Rd.
Los Altos, CA 94022
Attn: Darwin Poulos