



LIBRARY COMMISSION MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Tuesday, January 4, 2005
Los Altos Main Library
13 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos, 94022

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Thurber called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

Present: Commissioners McNulty Winkler, Dr. Takle Quinn, Poulos and Johnson
Absent: Vice-Chair Iskow and, Gerich
Also Present: Community Librarian Cheryl Houts, County Librarian Melinda Cervantes,
City Staff Liaison Peggy Ford.

MINUTES

COMMISSIONER WINKLER MOVED that the minutes of November 2, 2004 be approved with corrections. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY CHAIR THURBER AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE.

Amendment to Community Librarian Report – spelling change, ~~Tackle~~ Takle Quinn,
Lale Report – Spelling change and amendment to report, Dr. Takle–Takle Quinn and
Commissioner Gerich will continue to gather information as it becomes available. Amendment to
Business – Woodland Library Report – ~~Library Staff has~~ Cheryl Houts, spelling change, Discussion
and Items of Interest – ~~Tackle~~ Takle

REPORTS

Cheryl Houts, Community Librarian

During the month of December Los Altos Library hosted a lecture on Digital Photography. 65 adults attended. Many children enjoyed and attended a sneak preview of the Nutcracker Ballet as well as the “Master-Maid.” Holiday schedules at both Palo Alto and Mountain View Libraries have increased the number of people at Los Altos Library due to the others’ closures. Library staff has done an excellent job in keeping up with the increased activity. On January 25th, the main Library will host a program celebrating Mozart’s birthday.

Children 5 and up will be able to partake in a new after-school event entitled “Is it Science? Is it Magic?” This is in addition to the regular toddler and preschool programming scheduled in January.

The next Friends of the Library book sale is scheduled for January 28, 29 and 30th at Hillview Community Center. The Friends group will be purchasing a shelving unit to house their ongoing sale items in a more attractive way. The interior book return will be remodeled, and the Friend of the Library will be paying for the work to be done. The Los Altos Library is welcoming Eric Killough as provisional Teen/Adult Librarian. The Citywide read program coming up will include All the Little Live Things by Wallace Stegner. This is in partnership with the Los Altos History Museum.

Melinda Cervantes, County Librarian

Melinda attended a Friends and Commissions forum on December 4th, which was very successful. A Joint Powers meeting is scheduled for January 27th. On December 16th the JPA met to discuss the measure for the upcoming ballot. A possible mail ballot will be sent out to residents sometime between April 4 and May 3rd. The Silicon Valley Reads program kicks off in February. The Virginia Whipple estate was settled in December and accepted by JPA. The terms of the settlement are an anticipated 2.8 million total which will be divided as follows: 1.6 million to LALE and the remainder to the Santa Clara County Library system.

LALE

The numerous activities of the Los Altos Library Endowment are moving along well. Dr. Takle Quinn and other commissioners suggested that it might be appropriate to arrange for some kind of plaque or donor board as a way of recognizing the generosity of Virginia Whipple.

BUSINESS

1. City vs. County Library System

Vice-Chair Iskow will report next Month, (February)

Commissioner Takle Quinn stated that she had communicated with several of the library directors of libraries that had chosen to drop out of their local county or cooperative library system. Some of them reported that their community felt that it was not receiving its equitable share. In addition, they recognized that their communities were in the fortunate position of having a healthy business economy and a broad enough tax base to support their City library as an independent unit. Two or three librarians reported that they had reversed their position and rejoined their county units.

2. Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Task Force

There was no meeting scheduled for December. October information will be collected to see if committee should move forward. Vendors will come February 10th to the Los Altos Main Library to demonstrate.

3. Woodland Library Building

A letter was sent to the Los Altos City Manager concerning the condition of the Woodland Library. Chair Thurber is waiting for a response.

4. Parcel Tax Election

This has been covered in the County Librarian report.

5. Library Commission Funds

Chair Thurber announced that there is a balance of \$1050.00 remaining of Library Commission funds. This amount needs to be spent before June 30th. Dr. Takle Quinn suggested that funds be used for CALTAC membership which is \$10.00-\$15.00 per person.

DISCUSSION AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Commissioner Winkler spoke about the Martin Luther King Library, which allows a person to browse books by subject matter. She suggested creating a sample section in the Los Altos Main Library to experience the benefits. Some issues concerning browsing by subject matter are space constraints as well as call section.

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FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Peggy Ford, Recreation Supervisor
Liaison to the Library Commission