



PACIFIC GROVE LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES



Tuesday, January 8, 2008
Pacific Grove Community Center

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Lynn Mason called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** Laura Courtney Headley, Lynn Mason, Susan Steele, Nancy Hauk, Sarah Paff, and Mary Housel.
3. **Acceptance of the minutes of December 11, 2007.** November minutes were approved and accepted. (Hauk/Steele)
4. **Board Member Announcements:** There were no board member announcements.
5. **Oral Communications:** There were no oral communications.
6. **Reports:**
 - a) **Friends of the Library Update:** President of the Friends of the Library, Joe Brookshier, reported that there had been no meeting since December 2nd. Their next scheduled meeting, the annual FOL meeting, is scheduled for January 12 at 2:00 p.m. at the Natural History Museum. The public is invited to attend. They are hoping to encourage more people to attend. The FOL will try to increase the amount of money they donate annually to the Library for materials, in light of increased donations they have received in recent months. The FOL seems to be the appropriate organization to head up the investigation of a potential ballot measure for library support. Because of IRS rules, a Public Action Committee will have to head up the campaign.
 - b) **Senior Librarian:** Senior Librarian Housel's report touched on the following points:
 - i) Librarian Jean Chapin will be leaving PGPL as of February 1st to begin her new job at the Carmel Library.
 - ii) The new city clerk is Anne O'Rourke. She will be posting our minutes, etc.
 - iii) The new computers donated by the FOL are in use and up and running.
 - iv) There will be a meeting for the Library Trustees at San Mateo Public Library. The State Librarian will be there to discuss advocacy, etc. Saturday March 1st, 9:00-12:15.
 - v) Several books have been published on the subject of library advocacy and support: Library Referenda Campaigns (Richard Hall), Vote Yes for Libraries (Anne Turner), and Getting Political (Anne Turner). All are available at the library.
 - vi) She has been studying libraries with budgets of \$500,000 or less to see how they function. An example is the Signal Hill Library, which has a budget of \$350,000., as it is funded at a level similar to or less than what we may end up with after cuts.
 - vii) Morale at PGPL is at an all time low. Some employees are actively seeking work elsewhere, while others are determined to stay, but nervous (to say the least) about their job security.
 - viii) Hours will have to be cut and services lost. Housel will be meeting with City Management and will formulate a plan for reduced hours/services.
7. **Old Business:**
 - a) **Update and discussion of the City Proposals regarding the PG Library Budget Cuts.** Three current options suggest themselves: entering into a contract with Monterey Public Library, allowing PGPL to become a branch of the Monterey County Library system, or handing over management of the Pacific Grove Library to a private entity,

such as LSSI. Alternatively, we could move to raise funds for a “bridge” that would keep the library up and running for the next year or so, and work toward a ballot initiative that would give voters the chance to keep our public library as it is by funding it with property taxes. This would require many months of careful planning, beginning with a survey of Pacific Grove citizens to assess their amenability to such a tax.

b) Thank you and farewell to Lynn Mason, Library Board Chair, for her work on the Library Board. We are very grateful for her service—she will be missed!

8. New Business:

a) Upcoming Library Board Vacancy: Housel will contact the city regarding updating their website with regards to our Board vacancy.

b) Discussion of State Library consultant Richard Hall’s meeting to discuss ballot measures.

c) Discussion of Town Hall meetings on 1/5 at 2:00 p.m. and 1/10 at 7:00 p.m.

d) New items for February 12 Agenda:

i) Discussion of results of meeting on Sunday January 27th with state librarian Susan Hildreth.

ii) Discussion of results of meeting on Saturday, February 2nd with Santa Cruz Library Director Anne Turner.

iii) Where to go from here? (Joint meeting with Friends of the Library and interested P.G. citizens.)

iv) Drafting of letter advising City Council with regards to how to proceed with the library.

9. Adjournment: at 8:20 p.m. (Steele/Paff)

Respectfully Submitted,



Laura Courtney Headley
Secretary

**Next Regular Board Meeting:
Tuesday, January 12th, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
Lebeck Room
Pacific Grove Community Center
515 Junipero Avenue**