

Director's Report

March 25, 2016 – April 15, 2016

I regret to inform the Board of Trustees, the staff and the Long Beach community that I am resigning from my position as Library Director effective May 20, 2016. My decision was not made lightly and rests mostly on the fact that I live some distance away and this position requires and deserves a person committed to being a community leader as well as library director. Those dual roles require more time or energy than I can give, with my commute each day. My time here has been special and I will never forget all the wonderful people I have met and how warmly I was treated. There is much to attend to before I leave and I am committed to making sure the ground work is solid on projects that are underway and other positive changes that were made during my time here. I wish to thank the Trustees for the understanding and support they showed me through this difficult decision.

Skelos Grant

At last month's meeting, the Board voted to consider other projects for the \$25,000 grant as the generator project would well exceed the grant amount. Below are suggestions for the Board to consider. Please note that these are estimates and once a project is chosen we will present three formal bids:

1. **Phone system:** Our current phone system is over ten years old and out of manufacture. Therefore, when equipment falls into disrepair it is difficult and costly to find replacement parts. I obtained a verbal quote for a new phone system from Nactel, our current supplier which includes a new upgraded system and three additional extensions, much needed since five reference librarians currently share two phones. The cost would be approximately \$16,000.
2. **Sound system for the Auditorium:** Michael Simon had a preliminary conversation with Peter Kuperschmid about the general specifications of a new sound system. Mr. Kuperschmid, gave an approximate estimate of around \$10,000, but will get back to us in more detail once his upcoming Music Festival is over.
3. **Electronic sign:** I am reintroducing this project primarily because during the planning process meetings, community members repeatedly mentioned that we need to do a better job marketing what the Library has to offer. Electronic signage was suggested.

4. **Makerspace to house the 3D printer and other new technology** – We spoke briefly about this at the last meeting, however, after further consideration it is recommended that the 3D printer be on a portable cart at first, to gauge interest and to provide an opportunity for flexible programming.

Summer Lunch Program

For the past two summers, the Board approved a free lunch program with meals supplied by Island Harvest. The purpose of the program is to fill the void created during the summer when the breakfast and lunch programs are not provided by the schools and to encourage children to use the Library. Last year, the program ran on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from July 6-August 28, 2015. It was quite successful with 392 lunches provided to children and 86 lunches to teens. Fifteen new library cards were issued during the program.

This summer, it is recommended that the Library offer the lunch program two days a week, Tuesdays and Fridays. If there appears to be a greater need to fill we can expand to three days. Jennifer Firth, who has been a key person in the program from the beginning will attend the two hour training. Youth services staff and Adult services staff will administer the program. How would the Board like to proceed?

Budget Presentations

There are thirteen budget meetings held throughout the Long Beach Community between April 12 and May 19. The Library is invited to present a five minute overview of the 2016-17 proposed budget and library highlights following Superintendent Weiss' school budget presentation. Michael Simon, Barbara Mosca and I are scheduled at ten of the thirteen meetings. Diane Parr presented at the West End Civic Association meeting on April 13. Thank you to Barbara and Diane for sharing the dates with us, it is so appreciated.

Huntington Arts Council Grant

The first program funded in partnership with the Huntington Arts Council will take place on Sunday, June 5 at 2:30 p.m. Steve Kroon of the Steve Kroon Latin Jazz Sextet has been a professional musician for 45 years and has performed with Roberta Flack, Bette Midler, Aretha Franklin, Tony Bennett, and many more. The Library's pays 30% of the \$900 fee (\$270) and the Huntington Arts Council Grant covers the res