

FRIENDS OF THE MONTECITO LIBRARY
MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, September 18, 2025 10:30 AM
Montecito Library

In Attendance: Jeffrey Donahue, Kendra Epley, Melissa Franklin, Kelly Hatchett, Louise Kelly, Jason Siemens

Guest: Brandon Beaudette (Santa Barbara City Library Director)

Absent: Zoe Copus, Patricia Saley

1. **Welcome and Call to Order** - Kendra Epley presided over the meeting in the absence of President, Pat Saley. She welcomed those in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.
2. **Approval of Minutes** - Due to the President's absence, the Minutes of the July 10, 2025 meeting will be distributed and reviewed at the October 9 board meeting.
3. **Library Report** - Newly appointed Santa Barbara City Library Director, Brandon Beaudette, gave the Library Report. Items included:
 - The Montecito branch budget for FY 2025/26 - a small surplus
 - Minor cost savings related to employee pay and benefit choices included in the Montecito branch budget
 - Reallocation of charges for digital versus physical books due to discontinuance of special digital book funding tied to the COVID pandemic
 - More equitable assessment of administrative fee charged by the Main Branch to the Montecito Branch
 - Montecito Association use of building still "up in the air"
 - Santa Barbara Regional Advisory Committee strategic initiative to achieve continuity among all county branches regarding communication, terminology, programming, etc.
 - Plan to conform financing and governance of county branches; define minimum service levels
 - At the county level, the library system is underfunded; state and federal funding no longer expected to be forthcoming; may result in per capita decreases
 - Year over year operating stats for Montecito Branch (all positive):
 - Book checkouts up 8%
 - Digital checkouts up 7%
 - Collection up 6%
 - Foot traffic up 20%
 - Program Attendance up 73%

- Staffing changes at Santa Barbara City Branch and affiliated branches may include a MLS degreed librarian for Montecito.
 - List of most checked out books for FY 2024/25
 - Santa Barbara City Strategic Plan in the works. There is a library component.
 - New library cards for each branch - designed by local artists
 - Santa Barbara Public Library Foundation is partnering with local bookstores including Chaucers and Telecote
 - Montecito Friends high degree of library funding is unique and appreciated
4. **Treasurer's and Finance Report** - Kendra Epley will distribute by email.
 5. **Election of Slate of Officers for FY 2025/26** - The board unanimously elected the following:
 - President - Patricia Saley
 - Vice President (President Elect) - Kendra Epley
 - Treasurer - Jeff Donahue
 - Secretary - Louise Kelly
 6. **Resolution to Form Development Committee** - The board unanimously approved a resolution to form a Development Committee to be chaired by Melissa Franklin
 7. **Resolution to Form Marketing & PR Committee** - The board unanimously approved a resolution to form a Marketing & PR Committee to be chaired by Kelly Hatchett
 8. **Miscellaneous** - There was a brief discussion of a variety of topics including the grandfather clock, library wish list, possible 2025/26 events
 9. **Bylaws Amendments** - Louise Kelly will undertake to draft proposed amendments in consultation with Kendra Epley and Pat Saley.
 10. **Next Meeting Dates**
 - Thursday, October 9, 10:30
 - Thursday November 13, 10:30 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)

Submitted by: Louise Kelly, Secretary