

**FRIENDS OF THE MONTECITO LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS DRAFT MINUTES
November 14, 2024**

Attendees – Zoe Copus, Kendra Epley, Melissa Franklin, Kelly Hatchett, Louise Kelly, Pat Saley and Jason Siemens

- 1. Approval of Minutes** – October 10, 2024 – Approved.
- 2. Library report** – Cindie Usenich - Steven Gilbar talk was good, Love Cafe event fun but not as well attended as we'd hoped (thanks to Kelly for goodies & roses), and Laguna Blanca school tour was good. She noted that the Library will be closed 12/23 through 12/27/24.
- 3. Treasurer's and Finance Report** – Kendra Epley
 - a. US Bank & Beacon Pointe balances. Beacon Pointe balance as of 10/31/2024 - \$1,453,397.93 and as of close 11/13/2024 - \$1,518,038.28
 - b. US Bank balance as of 10/31/2024 - \$41,803.58 and as of 11/13/2024 - \$53457.46
 - c. Total assets as of 10/31/2024 – \$1,508,201.34 and as of 11/13/2024 - \$1,499,625.79
 - d. Received \$15,000 from Montecito Community Fund 11/04
 - e. Review of 990 – Agreed that we'd include the Board earlier in next year's Form 990.
 - f. 2024-2025 Draft Budget – As we're sending the Annual Report to 8,500 addresses, we increased the printing budget to \$12,500. With that changed, the 2024/25 budget was approved.
- 4. Brandon Beaudette, Acting Library Director**
 - a. Biggest change since he (& Cindie) got here in March was bringing back library-sponsored programming, e.g., Knit 'n' Needle, Stay 'n' Play & continuing monthly Book Club. Talked about ways in which Friends can help make programs happen in collaboration with Central, i.e., we pay for whatever materials we can (w/o admin fee added) & they provide staff.
 - b. Friends can work with Library staff to have crafts in Children's Reading Room, etc.

- c. Passage of Measure I one-half cent sales tax helps the budget (+\$15M expected) but too early to know details. City of SB cannot raise sales tax any further.
- d. All agreed that lease/management issues need to be resolved, especially as the Friends would like to help fund upgrades to meeting room. Pat will contact County staff re status of lease.
- e. Agree that FOML should've had a table at Plaza Palooza & will work on that sort of collaboration in future. That was a Library Foundation directed event so talk to them?
- f. Tone & "vibe" in library have definitely improved.
- g. Brandon would be happy to come to our meetings to give a report. We thought once/quarter would be good. Possibly Annual Meeting.

5. Board miscellaneous:

- a. **Recap of 10/28/24 Carp City Council mtg re Carpinteria Municipal Library & Montecito options** - Article in MJ was pleasant surprise but not 100% accurate. Pat's points to the Council were that we still are working on funding, we want to bring back programming that was lost, we're hoping for more input & transparency & want to get back into Black Gold system. Agreed that we'd do a brainstorming at our next meeting re Montecito Library/Friends next steps.
- b. **Annual Report was mailed on Dec. 1st**
- c. **Montecito Community Foundation** grant - \$15,000 grant was awarded; Selection & ordering of new smaller coffee & cafe tables, laptop bars & 4 stools & new book drop is underway & should be complete in January.
- d. **Bylaws amendments needed** - A more formal conflict of interest policy, address whistleblowers and document retention/destruction.
- e. **Author reading or talk in early 2025?** Continued to 2025.
- f. **Thank yous to donors** - Continued.
 - Revise existing tax letter?
 - Talk to Hope Riley & Travis re logistics on how to get them signed by Board members in a timely manner.

6. Next meeting date - Feb 13, 2025 meeting & set up calendar for 2025.