

City of South Pasadena

Date: October 21, 2015
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Council
From: Edward F. Pearson, President, Library Board of Trustees
Re: FY 2014-15 Annual Report of Library Board of Trustees

The Library Board of Trustees (LBT) is pleased to present its report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-2015. This year, the LBT has consisted of Edward Pearson, President, and Trustees Andy Lippman, Connie Lue, Ann Penn, and Rick Thomas. The mission of the LBT is to monitor the activities and progress of the South Pasadena Public Library (Library), to work with Library staff in the development of the annual budget request to the South Pasadena City Council, and to advise the Library and the City of South Pasadena (City) on subjects of Library policy. FY 2014-2015 was another successful year for the Library in meeting the cultural and educational needs of the community.

Among the responsibilities of the LBT are two main objectives: first, to address short-term library needs and issues, and, second, to think with a long-range perspective, both about the Library and its role in the community and about the financial support needed to continue to move the Library into the future. The LBT continued its efforts to carry out these objectives. In addition to its ongoing attention to issues of parking and budget matters, the LBT participated in several specific initiatives in support of these goals. One important project this year was the Library Operations Study (Study), continued from FY 2013-2014. The LBT considered the recommendations of consultant Joan Frye Williams, continuing to evaluate and discuss her suggestions. Though the Study has not yet been completed, the discussions proved very useful to the Library going forward, particularly in regards to implementing technology, adopting a management model, and focusing on the most effective current practices in public libraries today.

Another crucial aspect of the LBT's activity this FY concerned securing ongoing funding through an extension of Measure L. Discussions surrounding Measure L have been ongoing through several years, but this FY the LBT began devoting significant attention to Measure L as efforts to gain support for the Measure formalized within South Pasadena. Representatives from the Measure L Committee attended various LBT meetings to help coordinate efforts.

In budget matters, the LBT managed the Library's finances and secured funding responsibly. The employment of Unique Management Services to collect

outstanding materials and fines has been a success, "plugg[ing] a very big leak" for the Library.

As part of its oversight of Library policy, the LBT established a subcommittee to address uses of the Library Community Room. There were discussions throughout the FY regarding whether white wine can be offered at events. Mayor Pro Tem Diana Mahmud, who also serves as the City Council Liaison to the LBT, has been instrumental in helping the LBT work through the issue, to create a policy that will be consistent with other City-approved policies. Another issue for this subcommittee to discuss was whether individuals or groups renting the Library Community Room should be allowed to fundraise or sell items. Such approval is given on a case-by-case basis and the subcommittee is continuing to evaluate the approval process.

As in previous years, the Library hosted many events and participated in many collaborative ventures with various partners. A few highlights of Library programming include the citywide reading event, living history presentations, author nights, and film screenings. The Library took part in important civic events - the Citizens Seminar and Community Forum - and cultural events - the Eclectic Music Festival and Arts Crawl. The Library's commitment to cultural matters was also evident in its work in support of the artist Leo Politi; with support from members of the community and the artist's family, the Library will obtain several works by this well-known artist and friend of South Pasadena.

The Library is incredibly fortunate to have support from the Friends of the Library and its volunteers. The 2015 Volunteer Recognition Lunch was a successful tribute to these critical champions of the Library. The Library would like to thank the volunteers, the Friends of the Library, and the generous community of South Pasadena for their support.