

THE ONTARIO CITY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OVITT FAMILY COMMUNITY LIBRARY
215 East C Street
July 11, 2023
(Subject to Board approval)

CALL TO ORDER	This meeting was called to order by Board President Crisol Mena at 6:00 p.m.
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE	Led by Board member Devlin Smith.
MEMBERS PRESENT	Board member Board member Elisabeth Armijo, Board member Aaron Bratton and Board member Felicia Chien.
MEMBERS ABSENT	None
ALSO, PRESENT	Library Services Manager, Daisy Flores, Library Services Manager, Kelly Zackmann, Supervising Librarian, Briana Ochoa, Supervising Librarian Heather Witherow, Supervising Librarian Veronica Cortez, Senior Librarian, Jana Waitman, City Attorney Ryan Guiboa.
INTRODUCTIONS	None
PUBLIC COMMENTS	None

MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Board member Armijo, seconded by Board member Chien and unanimously carried to approve the June 13, 2023 minutes.

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

City Council Representative Debra Porada commented on being excited about the Museum's latest exhibit *Built on Water* opening in August 2023 and invited everyone to the Route 66 Cruisin' Reunion on the weekend of September 15-16, 2023 on historic Euclid Avenue and the downtown streets near Ontario Town Square.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Moved by Board member Smith, seconded by Board member Bratton and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Calendar for June 2023.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library Services Manager, Daisy Flores spoke on behalf of Library Director Shawn Thrasher about the following items:

- Library had an entry in the 4th of July Parade and over 40 volunteers, it was a great time for all.
- The Library's Reading program is well on its way with 1900 participants.

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- Lunch at the Library is also going very well, in the month of June 2981 meals were served.
- In celebration in "Farm to Summer" week we hosted a lunch at the Library BBQ edition in Ontario Town Square where we saw 405 meals served in two (2) hours, those patrons were also immersed in Library programs and the event was well received by the Community.
- **Vision to Learn**, a mobile eye clinic that provides free eye exams and glasses to youths had its first of two programs yesterday where they saw and helped about 45 youth community members at no cost. They will be returning on Friday, July 14th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, it is a first come, first served program and flyers are available.
- The partnership with OMSD continues and the Library is hosting a 2nd summer school session, where students and teachers visit the library daily and work on projects.
- Lastly, the Library is working a few items such as a partnership with Career Online High School, the installation of the new laptop kiosk and preparing for a new Ontario Reads program for adults.

STAFF REPORT

Library Services In Ontario

Supervising Librarian Heather Witherow, Supervising Librarian Briana Ochoa, Supervising Librarian Veronica Cortez, presented:

Background:

The Ontario City Library has a rich history, originating as a collection of books donated by early settlers in 1885, which later evolved into a borrowing library. Today, it boasts a substantial collection of books, both in physical and electronic formats, catering to the diverse interests and needs of the Ontario community. Beyond its extensive book collection, the library offers a range of valuable services and programs.

As a modern library, the Ontario City Library serves as a hub of information and exploration, preserving history and fostering personal growth. In addition to providing access to books, the library has expanded its offerings to include computers, internet access, one-to-one reference support, newspapers, audiobooks, DVDs, databases, and various programming and gathering spaces that promote engagement and social interaction.

Some of the programs that can be found at the Library include:

- Partnerships & Collaborations
- Services for Youth
- Little Learners, Big Futures
- KinderGo
- School-aged Children
- Services for Teens
- *Services for Families*
- *Services for Adults*
- *Liftoff to Literacy*

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- Ontario Reads
- Ontario Learns
- Lightspeed Makerspace
- Veteran Resource Center & Workforce Development
- Outreach Services
- Volunteers

A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director.

Board member Smith asked how the Ontario Reads program is promoted throughout the City? Supervising Librarian Cortez responded that City's social media outlet and partnerships are used to promote as well as a specific site for it is on the City's website.

Board member Bratton asked how many regular volunteers does the Library have altogether? Supervising Librarian Witherow answered that it depends on the program, for example in the Youth Services program during the Summer, the project volunteers totaled 20. It also varies from month to month plus there are more during the summer as opposed to the rest of the year. The length of volunteers also varies as one has volunteered for almost 30 years.

Board member Armijo thanked the presenters for their presentations and all the programs that the Library provides as she is a teacher with OMSD and has participated with her students and has found it very beneficial.

STAFF REPORT

Trends in Public Libraries for 2023

Kelly Zackmann, Library Services Manager, presented:

Background:

Libraries are constantly undergoing transformation and embracing change to enhance their service to the communities they serve. The following eight trends highlight the dynamic evolution that libraries have experienced in recent years.

This report outlined eight (8) trends for public libraries in 2023:

1. A **Library of Things** is a collection of unconventional items that can be borrowed from libraries. Examples include kitchen appliances, tools, gardening equipment, electronics, toys, art supplies, musical instruments, and recreational equipment. These collections allow patrons to borrow items they may not be able to afford, bridging socio-economic disparities.
2. More and more libraries are adding **makerspaces**. In her book *Crafted: A Compendium of Crafts: New, Old and Forgotten*, author Sally Coulthard provides a clear definition of the makerspace and its importance. "Makerspaces," she writes. "Are gyms for crafters. They are places

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where you can go, exercise your creative muscles and experiment with different techniques and equipment. They are also places to meet like-minded people.

3. The **construction of new public libraries** has emerged as a significant trend in cities worldwide. These libraries are envisioned as dynamic community spaces that foster engagement, learning, and social interaction.
4. **Trauma-informed services** have become increasingly important in public libraries due to a growing recognition of the impact of trauma on individuals and communities. Trauma-informed services prioritize creating a safe and welcoming environment where individuals feel understood, respected, and supported, regardless of their past experiences.
5. **Artificial intelligence (AI)** is trending in 2023, and librarians are thinking about the uses and dangers of AI. AI has the real potential to revolutionize operations and services.
6. **TikTok and Instagram Reels** have emerged as platforms for public libraries to engage with a wider demographic, particularly younger audiences. Libraries can create short, entertaining videos to showcase their services, recommend books, and promote programs, raising awareness and attracting users. Although the library does not currently have a TikTok account, library staff have created popular videos on Instagram reels and are exploring how to do more in the future.
7. **Sustainability** is a growing focus in public libraries, driven by the recognition of its environmental, economic, social, and educational benefits. Sustainable practices, such as energy-efficient lighting, heating, and cooling systems, can result in significant cost savings for public libraries in the long run.
8. Book challenges, book banning, and censorship in libraries have been in the news, which has made the practice and strengthening of **intellectual freedom** an important trend. Intellectual freedom is the principle that individuals have the right to access and explore diverse ideas, opinions, and information without censorship or restriction.

Board President Mena asked how the Library collects items for the “Library of Things”, Library Services Manager Flores responded that many times a collection may start as a pilot through a different funding source like Friends of Ontario City Library or a donation and if it is successful it is absorbed and continued through regular City funding.

A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director.

STAFF REPORT

Liftoff to Literacy

Jana Waitman, Senior Librarian, presented:

Background:

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This report summarizes the Liftoff to Literacy program for adult learners. Liftoff to Literacy is the Ontario City Library's adult literacy program for participants 18 years and older. In the program, an adult learner is paired with a volunteer tutor for literacy tutoring. Learners determine their reading goals then work with their tutor towards accomplishing those goals in one-to-one tutoring sessions. The program is open to Ontario residents and services are held virtually or in-person at either library location.

ProLiteracy reports 43 million adults in the United States struggle with reading and writing at a 3rd grade level, contributing to unemployment, crime, and low tax revenue. Children whose parents have low literacy skills are more likely to struggle with reading.

Adult reading programs help participants improve their quality of life and can positively impact their children's schoolwork, which positively affects the entire family.

Those wishing to participate in the Liftoff to Literacy program should contact the library at (909) 395-2205, email Literacy@OntarioCA.gov, or complete the interest form at www.OntarioCA.gov/AdultLiteracy.

A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director.

Public Comment:

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Library Board officers

City Attorney Guiboa read out the rules of how elections should proceed. There are three (3) officer positions; President, Vice President and Secretary all of which serve one-year terms. They are elected by a majority vote.

Motion: Moved by Board member Bratton, seconded by Board member Armijo and unanimously carried to approve the nomination of Cristol Mena for Board President.

Motion: Moved by Board member Armijo, seconded by Board member Chien and unanimously carried to approve the June 13, 2023 minutes.

Motion: Moved by Board member Armijo, seconded by Board member Smith and carried to approve the nomination of Aaron Bratton for Board Vice President by a vote of four (4) to zero (0) with Mr. Bratton abstaining.

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Motion: Moved by Board member Armijo, seconded by Board member Bratton and carried to approve the nomination of Felicia Chien for Board Secretary by a vote of four (4) to zero (0) with Ms. Chien abstaining.

New Board officers consists of:
Crisol Mena, President;
Aaron Bratton, Vice President;
Felicia Chien, Secretary

Board member Comments:

Board member Armijo thanked the presenters and all the Library staff for the help and support offered to the students.

Board Vice President Bratton thanked the Library staff for the programs presented and especially appreciated the Veterans Resource Center & Workforce Development. He also wanted to thank the Library staff for letting him be a part of the Library group during the 4th of July parade, it was a great honor.

Board Secretary Chien thanked the presenters and Library staff and looks forward to hearing more throughout the coming year.

Board member Smith thanked staff for the presentation and invited everyone present to the first *Friends of the Library's* Trivia Night at the end of August, there will also be a "bag book sale" in September.

Board President Mena thanked staff for the presentation and is very excited for the Adult services provided at the Library and the Veterans programs. She is grateful for the diverse group that her colleagues bring to the Board.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

2023-24 Budget and Agency Strategic Objectives
KinderGo
Collection Development and Material Selection Overview
Support Services Overview
Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room Yearly Update
Material Review Policy Update

ADJOURNMENT

Board President Mena adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

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Submitted



Nelva Costello, Senior Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

