

THE ONTARIO CITY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
OVITT FAMILY COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
215 East C Street  
May 14, 2024  
(Subject to Board approval)

CALL TO ORDER This meeting was called to order by Board President Elisabeth Armijo at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Led by Board Secretary Felicia Chien

MEMBERS PRESENT Board Vice President Crisol Mena, Board member Aaron Bratton, Board member Devlin Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT None

ALSO, PRESENT Library Director, Shawn Thrasher, Library Services Manager, Daisy Flores and Library Services Manager, Kelly Zackmann

INTRODUCTIONS Allison Bridgewater introduced herself as the new Youth Services Senior Librarian. Alexander Grigg introduced himself as a new Library Clerk at Ontario City Library.

PUBLIC COMMENTS None

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: Mayor Pro Tem Debra Porada was absent

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion: Moved by Board member Smith and seconded by Board Secretary Chien and unanimously carried to approve the minutes for the Library Board meeting on April 9, 2024. Moved by Board member Bratton and seconded by Board member Smith and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Calendar for April 2024.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library Director Thrasher spoke about the following items:

- Dia de los Ninos program on April 27, 2024 had 300 attendees.
- Inland Empire Fatherhood Summit on April 13, 2024 had over 100 attendees.
- Celebrate Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month on May 25, 2024
- Sounds of Japan program on May 15, 2024
- Asian American & Pacific Islander Reading Challenge for the month of May 2024
- California State Library's Summit on AI in Libraries on April 26, 2024.
- Teen Greeter program coming soon at Ovitt Family Community Library.
- Serving with a Purpose Conference on May 22, 2024

No Board comments or questions.

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STAFF REPORT

Summer of Fun

Recreation and Community Services Director, Nick Gonzalez presented:

Background:

The City of Ontario's Recreation & Community Services Department provides opportunities for wholesome, year-round public recreational services for every age group in the City of Ontario. Through a comprehensive array of programs and events, the Department continually strives to meet the City Council's goal to provide enhanced recreational, educational, and cultural activities to the community. The Department operates six community centers, a senior center, provides programming in over thirty parks, three dog parks, and oversees the management of a municipal golf course.

Recreation & Community Services staff are excited to offer a robust program, service, and event offering for the Summer 2024 season. Staff will present an overview of some key highlights for the Ontario community to expect this upcoming season. For more information on Recreation & Community Services offerings, please visit [www.OntarioCA.gov/Recreation](http://www.OntarioCA.gov/Recreation) or contact the Department at (909) 395-2020.

*(A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director)*

Board Vice President Mena expressed her gratitude to the Recreation Department for their extensive work in putting together so many programs for the community to enjoy over the summer.

Board President Armijo thanked the Recreation Department for their hard work in putting together a great summer program list while also being inclusive of our special needs community with the Aquatics Swimability program. Board President Armijo asked if they are currently looking to expand their Health and Wellness realm by adding additional partners or contracts. Recreation and Community Services Director Gonzalez responded that they are actively pursuing several contract class instructors to offer programs that are not currently offered while expanding on the programs that are currently being utilized by community members, including Active Seniors on the Go, the newly opened extreme fitness course at John Galvin Park, the new fitness course at Vineyard Park, and the upcoming new studio space for outdoor programs such as Zumba at Homer F Briggs Park. He also stated they will take into consideration ideas or suggestions for other programs within the City.

Director Thrasher commented that August 8<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date set aside for the Library Board to host the outreach table for the Concerts in the Park at Celebration Park. He also invited the Board members to walk in the Independence Day Parade on July 4, 2024.

Board Secretary Chien asked if there is a website to view all the summer programs offered. Recreation and Community Services Director Gonzalez replied that all the programs can be found online at [OntarioCA.gov/Recreation](http://OntarioCA.gov/Recreation), in Ontario Living Magazine, and through Ontario's Community Life & Culture social media pages.

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STAFF REPORT

Little Learners, Big Futures and Early Learning

Librarian, Cynthia Nuno presented:

Background:

Early learning plays a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of a child's future. Research underscores the significance of the formative years, particularly between the ages of 0 to 5, in establishing foundational skills crucial for lifelong success. These early years serve as a prime window for brain development, where children's minds are primed for absorbing information and fostering critical thinking abilities. While traditional markers of literacy like reading and number recognition remain important, it's essential to recognize the broader spectrum of skills children cultivate during this period. Early literacy skills, for instance, thrive through meaningful interactions with literacy materials and caregivers, setting the stage for future academic and personal achievements. As it stands, the following statistics shed light on the educational landscape in our community.

- In the Ontario-Montclair school district, 59.5% of students in the 2022 – 2023 school year did not meet English and Literacy standards outlined in the annual California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress.
- According to The Nation's Report Card, 42% of 4th-grade students in California were below basic proficiency in reading in 2022.
- According to Early Learning with Families, students who do not read at grade level by 3rd grade are four times more likely not to graduate from high school.

*(A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director)*

Board member Smith inquired about any metrics from the program and how they track students' progress once they graduate and enroll in school. Librarian Nuno responded that they keep data on how many students are enrolled in the program but do not have a longitudinal study at this time and currently rely on feedback from parents and caregivers of program graduates. Library Services Manager Flores added that the Board would be hearing more about literacy efforts with school-age children through the new program that Allison Bridgewater will be a part of, as well as working on a program with the school district to review redacted data to see the impact of the library programs on school-age children. Library Services Manager Flores also stressed that much of the feedback and information received from library patrons and families is anecdotal.

Board Secretary Chien asked if there are any other requirements, other than age, to enroll in the program. Librarian Nuno replied that the only requirement is being between 0 and 5 years old.

Board Vice President Mena inquired about possibly partnering with Inland Regional Center to address students falling through the cracks at the school districts and learning to assist parents or caregivers in identifying potential signs of a disability in their children. Library Services Manager Flores replied that library staff are not trained in that skill set but do refer parents or caregivers to the proper resources or connections at Ontario Montclair School District if they express concerns. She added that the

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partnership with IEHP will have some developmental screenings throughout the summer hosted at the library.

Board member Bratton asked what times of day the programs are. Librarian Nuno replied that Little Learners has Toddlers on Mondays from 10:30 am to 11:15 am, Tuesdays are Once Upon a Cuento, ages 0 to 5 from 10:30 am to 11:15 am, Preschool on Thursdays from 10:30 am to 11:15 am, and then Baby Stay and Play which is more hands-off for babies from 10:30 am to 12 pm. Board member Bratton inquired if the timing for the 4 and 5-year-olds interferes with kindergarten or pre-kindergarten schedules. Librarian Nuno responded that some parents or caregivers are not able to enroll their children in early learning programs like preschool or pre-kindergarten, and that is where the staff at OCL step in to help with the early educational experience. She also added that they continue to have surveys on the most convenient times for the programs based on the parents and caregivers. Board member Bratton inquired if there is an opportunity for weekend programming. Librarian Nuno explained that although there are no current story time programs, there are other weekend programming such as Discovery Days.

Board President Armijo thanked Librarian Nuno for her very thorough presentation.

#### STAFF REPORT

##### Summer at the Library

Supervising Librarian, Briana Ochoa presented:

##### Background:

Summer at the Library is a year-long endeavor that is planned by the entire Ontario City Library team. Guided by Ontario City Library's mission, Summer at the Library empowers, enriches and welcomes our diverse community to utilize the library's inclusive resources and services. Additionally, the program connects to the library's vision and values as the library provides a space where community members can explore, connect and learn with one another as well as become exposed to our literacy offerings, build upon their knowledge and skills, and grow their social networks. This year, the library's goal is to register 2,500 community members across both library branches.

Summer reading is crucial to all ages as it is known to help prevent children's learning loss while out of school and reduce cognitive decline in older adults. By participating in summer reading, community members can enhance their reading and comprehension skills, motivation, confidence and overall enjoyment of reading.

This year's summer reading theme is board games, inspired by the popular library trend of gamification in libraries. Gamification involves incorporating elements of game design into non-game contexts to facilitate learning and engagement. Summer at the Library will run for nine weeks from June 3 – August 5, 2024, for all ages.

*(A copy of this presentation is available upon request from the Library Director)*

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Board member Smith congratulated the library on earning the Lunch at the Library grant from the California State Library and on all the great work it does throughout the summer.

Board Vice President Mena asked if the library lunch and the barbeque lunch are for different age ranges. Supervising Librarian Ochoa replied that they are both for 1—to 18-year-olds, but the barbeque on June 27<sup>th</sup> will be for all ages, thanks to the Friends of Ontario City Library.

Board member Bratton inquired about the farm-to-summer week and whether it would be possible for future similar programs to be held at one of the community gardens. Supervising Librarian Ochoa explained that the library currently works with Huerta Del Valle and attends Seeds of Joy events every quarter. She also mentioned that incorporating that for future programs would be a great idea.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board member Smith informed the Board of the upcoming Friends of Ontario City Library events. Friends hosted a media sale on May 11 and had a great turnout, with lots of sales. They also have a bag sale coming in late August. The Friends bookstore will be participating in the MakerCon event on June 8 in Town Square. She also shared that Friends of Ontario City Library are now on Instagram @FriendsofOCL and will share updates and sales via the platform.

Board Secretary Chien welcomed the new staff members and thanked the staff for their presentations and looks forward to the programs scheduled for summer.

Board Vice President Mena thanked the staff for attending and hosting a table at the Ontario Montclair School District's annual parent leadership conference, which had over 550 attendees. She also welcomed the new staff members and expressed her excitement for the upcoming summer programs and concerts at the park.

Board member Bratton expressed his gratitude to the presenters and welcomed Allison and Alexander. He also attended the May 4 Ontario Heritage Society's Historic Home Tour and commended the Model Colony room for their participation and assistance with the historical facts.

Board President Armijo expressed her gratitude for the presentations, the Inland Empire Fatherhood Summit, the library's participation in the Health and Wellness fair, and the City Council and State Librarian for the Study Session held in April, which was very insightful. She also promoted the Exceptional Abilities Pride Fest at Ovitt Family Community Library on July 23, 2024.

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NEW BUSINESS

None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Electronic Use Policy  
Community Display Policy  
Teen Volunteers

ADJOURNMENT

Board President Armijo adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

SUBMITTED:



Charlotte Marteney, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:



Elisabeth Armijo, Board President