

THE ONTARIO CITY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OVITT FAMILY COMMUNITY LIBRARY
215 East C Street
June 13, 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 Aaron Bratton.

MEMBERS PRESENT Board member Devlin Smith, Board member Elisabeth Armijo, Board member Felicia Chien.

MEMBERS ABSENT City Attorney

ALSO, PRESENT Library Director, Shawn Thrasher, Library Services Manager, Daisy Flores, Library Services Manager, Kelly Zackmann, Supervising Librarian, Briana Ochoa.

INTRODUCTIONS Helen McAlary, Executive Director, community Life & Culture Agency introduced herself to the new Board members and welcomed them to the board.

New Board members introduced themselves: Devlin Smith, Felicia Chien, Aaron Bratton, Elisabeth Armijo.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None

MINUTES

Motion: Moved by Board member Elisabeth Armijo , seconded by Board member Devlin Smith and unanimously carried to approve the May 9, 2023 minutes.

CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

City Council Representative Debra Porada commented on Promise Corp presentation and community college programs available for the community as well as summer programs being presented.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Library Director Shawn Thrasher spoke about the following items:

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- California Library Association held their annual conference last weekend in Sacramento with seven (7) of our Library personnel attending. All were very active with presentations. Their next conference will be October 14-19, 2024 in Pasadena.
- Friday, June 16, 2023 at 10:00 am the library will have a Veteran's Job & Resource Fair at Ovitt Family Community Library with approximately 40 businesses and organizations to help attendees seeking employment or benefits.
- Concerts in Park in Town Square every Wednesday, during Summer, please stop by the library booth through August 2nd when it switches to Celebration Park from August 10, 17, 24 and 31st.
- Library will have an entry in July 4th Parade and if you're interested in walking with our staff in the parade please let staff know.

STAFF REPORT

Ontario Promise Corps (OPC) Overview

RaShonda M. Montoya, Administrative Specialist, presented:

Background:

The Ontario Promise Corps is a partnership program between the City of Ontario's Library & Recreation Departments, AmeriCorps, California Volunteers, and non-profit partners, the Ontario-Montclair Schools Foundation, and the Hope Through Housing Foundation. Under its umbrella, the Ontario Promise Corps operates three distinct programs, including an Early Family Literacy Program, Youth Mentoring Program, and College Access & Information Program.

Four service site locations:

- Ontario Library
- Ontario Recreation & Community Services
- Hope Through Housing Foundation
- Ontario-Montclair Schools Foundation: Promise Scholars

Early Family Literacy (Ages 0-5 yrs.)

Established to address the low literacy rates among students, specifically 3rd grade students, in the Ontario-Montclair School District. OPC seeks to address early family literacy levels through targeting both the child and caregivers.

Youth Mentoring (Ages 10-15 yrs.)

Established to address the social and emotional needs of middle school students who feel discouraged about their future. OPC seeks to address these concerns by providing small group mentoring sessions that will give students an opportunity to gain social-emotional growth, life skills, academic and career readiness. The goal is to broaden their outlook and see that they do not have to be a product of their environment.

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College Access (Ages Middle School & High School)

Established to address the many barriers to success, including college access and social-emotional needs of youth in our community. OPC seeks to address these barriers by guiding students through the challenging pathways leading to college entrance and provide college and career activities that will support the social and emotional growth of our youth.

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

STAFF REPORT

Summer at Ontario City Library

Daisy Flores, Library Services Manager, presented:

Background:

Summer at Ontario City Library is an annual reading program hosted by the library. The program serves a twofold purpose: to foster a love for reading across all age groups and to strengthen the community's recognition of the library as a central hub. By opening the door to positive experiences, this program plays a pivotal role in enhancing literacy and educational opportunities. Moreover, it aids in mitigating learning loss among children during the summer break and contributes to stress reduction while also helping to prevent dementia and Alzheimer's in older adults.

The theme chosen for this year's Summer at Ontario City Library is "Reading, Can Ya Dig It?" and will take place June 5 – July 29, 2023. The theme, inspired by 90s nostalgia, brings a relevant marketing approach to a beloved reading program.

Benefits include:

- Encourages reading
- Library as a community hub
- Provides positive experiences

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

Board President Mena asked the amount of participation in the Summer Reading program and Library Services Manager Flores responded that about 500 participated, with children being about 40% of participants ages 5-10 age range.

STAFF REPORT

Lunch at the Library

Briana Ochoa, Supervising Librarian, presented:

Background:

During the school year, many children and teenagers rely on school meals as their main source of food for the day. When the school year ends, they lose access to the security and nutrition that school meals provide. Lunch at the Library is a statewide, federally funded program (United States Department of

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Agriculture) intended to combat childhood hunger and obesity by providing accessible, free meals to children during the summer.

Libraries are an ideal venue for hosting Lunch at the Library programs due to their role as communal gathering places. Libraries' overarching philosophy is to be a welcoming space for all, provide free access to materials and resources, and support lifelong needs. The Ovitt Family Community Library is one of 171 California libraries providing free meals for youth this summer. Lunch at the Library is an annual summer program that began in Ontario in 2015 except for 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic. In 2022, 2,720 meals were served to youth at the Ovitt Family Community Library.

The successful implementation of this program is made possible through the library's collaboration with the Ontario-Montclair school district. The Food and Nutrition department of the Ontario-Montclair school district undertakes the cooking, delivery, and serving of the meals, while the library staff play an integral role in promoting, coordinating, setting up, and staffing the daily meal service. Free lunch is available to youth between the ages of 1 and 18, from Monday to Friday, between 11:30 AM and 1:30 PM. The program is scheduled to operate from June 5 to July 28, 2023. On June 22, there will be a special meal service for families in celebration of Farm to Summer Week. Families are invited to a barbeque in Ontario Town Square to enjoy lawn games, hear from a local farmer, and get their faces painted. At this special Lunch at the Library service, meals will also be provided to the adults.

Through participation surveys of the 2022 Lunch at the Library program library staff learned that the community needed connections to medical and social services. To meet this need, the library has partnered with several organizations to provide an information table during the lunch service:

- Medi-Cal Dental
- San Bernardino County's Transitional Assistance Department
- City of Ontario's Housing and Homeless Services
- Reach Out
- Vision to Learn
- San Bernardino County's Department of Public Health
- San Antonio Regional Hospital

Ontario City Library's Lunch at the Library program is also supported by the California State Library. Library staff applied for and received \$4,295 in funding from the California State Library to support the program. The funding will provide children with books to build home libraries, provide hygiene kits with a toothbrush, toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, and conditioner, and hire summer performers for our barbeque event and Summer at OCL reading program.

Ontario City Library is one of many locations where youth can obtain free school lunch this summer. Several Ontario community centers and school sites also offer the service.

Board member Felicia Chien asked if children had to be accompanied by an adult to take part and Supervising Library Ochoa responded that "no, they did not".

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Board President Mena wanted to have distribution of food explained further and Supervising Library Ochoa responded with details of the distribution.

Board member Aaron Bratton asked if participants needed to register in advance to which Supervising Library Ochoa answered that “no they did not”.

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

Public Comment:

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Board member Comments:

Board member Armijo commented that she is excited to be here and looks forward to working with the library.

Board member Bratton mirrored comments excited and delighted to work for this Board.

Board member Chien commented that she is excited and hopefully will get to see new and exciting things coming about here.

Board member Smith wanted to publicly commend the Librarians for their great work at the “Pride” event at Town Square a few weeks ago and wanted to inform that “Friends of the Library” is hosting a Trivia Night to benefit the Library and sign ups will start in July if anyone wanted to put a team together.

Board President Mena congratulated all new Board members and welcomed them all.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Election of new officers for the remainder of 2023

Youth Services Overview

Adult Services Overview

Liftoff to Literacy

2023-24 Budget and Agency Strategic Objectives

ADJOURNMENT

Board President Mena adjourned the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

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Submitted



Nelva Costello, Senior Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

