MEETING DATE: Thursday, May 27, 2010

AGENDA ITEM #: 8 (par+3)

ITEM: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners or Library staff may make announcements regarding the Library Commission and Library or Friends group activities of interest to other Library Commission members.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
- None
Jewelle was our kick off speaker at the CALTAC workshop. Could you please include in the next packet. thanks

as

--- On Thu, 3/18/10, Jewelle Gomez <JGomez@horizonsfoundation.org> wrote:

From: Jewelle Gomez <JGomez@horizonsfoundation.org>
Subject: RE: Your Presentation
To: "alan smith" <alanbsmith@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2010, 11:10 AM

Alan,
Sorry I'm a bit late, I got caught in other deadlines. But attaching my remarks from the CalTAC event.

Thanks again for the opportunity to meet the wonderful folks!

jewelle g

Jewelle Gomez
Director of Grants &
Community Initiatives
Horizons Foundation
870 Market St. Suite 728
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.398.2333 ext. 116
jgomez@horizonsfoundation.org
Recently I reunited with a friend I hadn’t seen in 30 years; we’d been best friends in elementary school. The first thing she said when we finally got together face to face was: “Do you remember how we stood in line waiting for the Bookmobile to pull up? Every Thursday at 3:30!”

We lived in a neighborhood in Boston that had no public library facility; in fact I didn’t actually go inside a public library building until I was close to 20 years old when I finally found my way to the Boston’s iconic Copley Square Branch. Until then I thought libraries were all in busses. On other days when we passed the empty spot where it parked on Thursdays it was as if a huge hole had been bombed out of the pavement. So every Thursday we waited in line with the passion of rock and roll groupies. I didn’t know they restocked the shelves so I thought I could read my way through all of the books on that magical bus.

After seeing the recent PBS documentary about our National Parks in which they were called America’s best idea I realized that the Public Library is America’s next best idea. Our Public Libraries are one of the greatest ideas for the public good we’ve ever come up with; and are our greatest democratic institution. Libraries are equality packed in to a small plastic card that’s free; a card that opens the portal to the world. And our key word at the San Francisco Public Library now and in the future is OPEN. All of our success has been because of that ideal...being open; and it’s one we recommit to now.
Open to re-imagining the role of the library in our neighborhoods

- They are community centers where other institutions such as settlement houses have vanished.
- They provide work force support when the economy crashes and people need somewhere to go to learn about jobs and how to prepare for them.
- They amplify education with our lap-sit programs, tutoring and Summer read project that help kids create a relationship with books and the Library; a direct line to succeeding in school.
- The function as an economic equalizer because again...we’re free. No door that opens so widely is this economical.

The Library is open to bringing community members into the development of our libraries.

- Working with the Friends of the Library we’re able to create an ongoing partnership with the neighborhood, raising funds and friends. The Community is involved in all aspects of our design process as we renovate, retrofit and rebuild 24 of our 27 branches.
- Programming-community rooms are an integral part of our facilities so that community groups can present their own readings and events as well as organize meetings in addition to attending the numerous activities the Library produces.
- Partnerships with other community members is an effective policy in the Library which brings activities to us----like the donation of books from a diplomat visiting from Viet Nam or the proud fleet of magic busses...Bookmobiles...that rolled down Market Street in the LGBT Pride Parade.

Open to all the cultures of our city
• The range of programs is more diverse than be contained on a page - Printmakers of Northern Ireland, photos from the life of Harvey Milk; a celebration of the first syndicated African American cartoonist; the Beat poets- grizzled and vibrant; readings of emerging writers with home baked cookies, film screenings and music concerts.

• Making room for teens so they don’t feel closed out of the space that engaged them as younger kids. We’re building our audience for the future and we can’t lose them in the teen years even if some patrons worry they might be too noisy.

• The many languages represented in the collection and the services make citizens know they are appreciated in our Library.

And we’re that basic OPEN!

• Building, renovating and retrofitting 24 of the 27 branches providing state of the art facilities across the city.

• The magic bus, the Bookmobile provides services for the branches that must close as work is done and it shows up at fairs and events around the city as frequently as that huge blow up things kids like to bounce around in.

• Increased hours have been a hallmark of the past few years. We’ve expanded the time the Library is able to serve the communities and responded to their suggestions about what are the best days and times.

A short squib in the San Francisco Chronicle recently listed eleven things our children won’t know what to do with...according to the author. In the list was LIBRARIES! I was shocked and disturbed that a writer would think that could be true. Then I was relieved to conclude that this projection was more the writer’s opportunistic search for a hook rather than a reality. The bonds that voters passed for the Branch Library Improvement Program--
-the largest library building program in history—are evidence of the public’s belief that if they invest in this institution their children will know what to do with it.

When a branch opens the number of books and materials checked out increases an average of 42%. The number of new Library cardholders increases an average of 149%. Those numbers reflect participation not rejection.

These are critical economic times. Some people think any funds we have should go to fiscal recovery and anything that seems more concrete. Well, the library is concrete...along with other ‘green’ building materials. As well as being concrete in the things it does to sustain our cultures and our communities.

Our children already know what to do with the Library. We see them in every branch at the computers and checking out stacks of books. We see them in the auditoriums and community rooms listening to writers read from their books and watching films. We see them waiting outside the Bookmobiles waiting for their turn to get on the magic bus.

February 2010

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Catherine Leutzinger, President
Bob Brittain, Treasurer
Friends of the Walnut Creek Library
96 Valla Court
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

March 25, 2010

Dear Catherine, Bob and the Friends of the Walnut Creek Library,

Thank you so much for the $100,000 donation for the opening day collection at the new Walnut Creek Library. Not only is it extremely generous and timely but the fact that it represents the efforts of hundreds of volunteer hours over several years is truly remarkable and greatly appreciated.

The funds bought new material throughout the collection; some of the areas emphasized include Picture Books, Young Adult Materials, Adult Fiction, Including Mysteries and Science Fiction, Travel books, Biographies and Audiobooks.

This donation was used for the vast majority of Walnut Creek Opening Day materials and will comprise the core of the new materials in the library. I know how grateful the community will be to you to be able to borrow from a substantially larger collection than was available at the old library.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Walnut Creek Friends of the Library for your years of effort in so many ways to make the new Walnut Creek Library a reality. I know that many members of the Friends have dedicated countless hours over the last decade to achieve this wonderful outcome. I can’t thank you enough for your dedication to reading, literacy and your community.

Thank you again for all that you do and I look forward to seeing you all on July 17!

Sincerely,

Anne Cain
County Librarian

c. Sue Rainey, Mayor, City of Walnut Creek
   Gary Pokorny, City Manager, City of Walnut Creek
   Ed Dellbecaro, President, Walnut Creek Library Foundation
   Cindy Brittain, Senior Community Library Manager
   Kristin Anderson, Executive Director, Walnut Creek Library Foundation
SAV£ THE DATES!

NEW LIBRARY OPENING
July 17th!

A PLACE FOR EVERYONE
A Place for You

GRAND OPENING!
Come celebrate with the entire family!
Saturday, July 17

JOIN US FOR THE PREVIEW!
Saturday, June 26 6 - 9 p.m.
A private showing for donors and friends

And Don’t Miss the 3rd Annual
Poetry Live! 2010
Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m.
Lindsay Wildlife Museum

Featuring readings and discussion by
two renowned poets: Cheryl Dumesnil,
G.E. Patterson, Deema Shehabi

it www.NewWCLibrary.org or call (925) 935-5395
Opening July 17th in Civic Park

We broke ground on May 18, 2008 and now, two years later, the new Walnut Creek Library opens its doors to the public on Saturday, July 17, 2010!

The opening ceremony will be at the North Plaza at 10 a.m. Please join us for a day of celebration, music, performances and entertainment. The full schedule will be online at the beginning of June.

Volunteers Needed

Would you like to help out on opening day? We are looking for many volunteers to welcome the community to the new library. Please visit the volunteer page to learn more, and be sure to sign up for the orientation as well.

Downtown Passport

Is your business in Walnut Creek? Promote your business and provide a special offer to visitors who show their library card on July 17. Your business will be listed in the library self-guided brochure that will be distributed to the thousands of people expected for the opening celebration. Download the attached form for more details.

"A Place for Youth"

See the children of Walnut Creek tell the story of what the new library will mean to them. Watch the video.

Get an Insider's Sneak Peek of the New Library

Click on the photo to take an insider's video tour of the new library.

http://newwclibrary.org/
Welcome to the Volunteer Sign Up Page for the Library Opening!

Thank you for volunteering for the new Walnut Creek Library Opening Day festivities on Saturday, July 17.

Click on one of the following volunteer assignments to sign up for a shift.

Questions: Please contact Carla Ludwig at 925-943-2255 or Carla@wclibrary.org

- Put me to work wherever you need me
  Shifts (5): 6:00-10:00, 10:00-12:00, 12:00-2:00, 2:00-4:00, 4:00-6:00

- Volunteer Check-in & Support
  Shifts (4): 8:30-10:30, 10:30-12:30, 12:30-2:30, 2:30-4:30

- Parking & Traffic: Provide assistance and directions. MUST BE 16 OR OLDER
  Shifts (5): 6:00-10:00, 10:00-12:00, 12:00-2:00, 2:00-4:00, 4:00-6:00

- Stroller & Bicycle Parking:
  Shifts (5): 6:00-10:00, 10:00-12:00, 12:00-2:00, 2:00-4:00, 4:00-6:00

- Set-up/Take-down: Help with signs, tables, chairs & booths. MUST BE ABLE TO LIFT HEAVY OBJECTS.
  Shifts (5): 9:30-11:30, 3:30-5:30

- First Aid: Provide first aid, information, bat & found
  Shifts (4): 9:30-11:30, 11:30-1:30, 1:30-3:30, 3:30-5:30

- Greeter: Welcome visitors, hand out programs & answer questions
  Shifts (4): 9:30-11:30, 11:30-1:30, 1:30-3:30, 3:30-5:30

- Docent - General: Present information on artwork, building design and sustainable features of library
  Shifts (4): 9:30-11:30, 11:30-1:30, 1:30-3:30, 3:30-5:30

- Docent - Business Center: Present information on Business and Career Resource Center
  Shifts (4): 9:30-11:30, 11:30-1:30, 1:30-3:30, 3:30-5:30

- Docent - Teen Area: Present information on teen section
  Shifts (4): 8:30-10:30, 10:30-12:30, 12:30-2:30, 2:30-4:30

- Ushers: Meet & assist patrons
  Shifts (3): 10:30-12:30, 12:30-2:30, 2:30-4:30

- Housekeeping: Tidy restrooms & heavily used areas
  Shifts (4): 9:30-11:30, 11:30-1:30, 1:30-3:30, 3:30-5:30

- Recycling: Collect, sort & store recycled materials. Answer questions about recycling program
  Shifts (4): 9:30-11:30, 11:30-1:30, 1:30-3:30, 3:30-5:30

PRIVACY: By way of this reservation, you are releasing your contact information to the City of Walnut Creek and the Walnut Creek Library Foundation for volunteer purposes only. Your personal data will only be used to contact you regarding the Library Grand Opening and related events and will not be shared with third parties. We respect your privacy.
Sneak peek at community center

by Dave Roberts
Staff Writer

About 100 people braved the Arctic wind whipping through the skeletal of the Antioch Community Center Saturday morning to consume refreshments, listen to speeches and preview the long-awaited facility in Prewett Park.

The sneak peek was the first opportunity for the public to view up close the structural foundation of the $4.6 million center that includes a gymnasium, community hall and kitchen accommodating 200-plus people, preschool rooms, meeting rooms, a technology lab, outdoor patio, amphitheater and a library annex known as the Gateway Center for Learning (GCL).

The community center has been a dream in the eyes of city officials for more than 10 years. “I think I was just out of diapers when we had the first groundbreaking (for Prewett Park),” joked gray-bearded Deputy Recreation Director Dave Sanderson at the center’s groundbreaking a year ago.

The facility’s cost has been borne by thousands of southeast Antioch residents who have been paying additional Mello-Roos taxes on their property for much of the past two decades. City officials, led by former Mayor Don Frohna, tried several years ago to get the tax extended in order to pay for both a community center and a full library. But the Mello-Roos Board rejected that idea, preferring to pay off the tax earlier and provide only a community center.

Gary Agopian, chairman of the GCL committee that sponsored Saturday’s preview, made sure to thank Mello-Roos residents for making the center possible. “We have been paying for this facility for some time, and now we are starting to see it become a reality,” said Agopian.

Gary Agopian addresses the hardy souls who turned out on a cold Saturday morning to preview the Antioch Community Center, which is due to open in November.

It is being built,” he said. “I’m very excited about that.

The GCL Committee has been raising funds to provide desks, chairs and computers in the 1,500-square-foot library annex. More than $100,000 has been raised so far, with donations coming in from the community at large.

County Librarian Anna Cain noted that the GCL isn’t quite the $12 million full-scale library once envisioned for Prewett (although there is room next to the community center for it if funding becomes available), but she welcomed the annex as a major addition to library services in a city with a large number of children. Currently Antioch has only one library, a heavily utilized facility on East 19th Street.

“We are really, really excited about this,” said Cain. “If you can’t have everything that you want, what is it that you can do with what you have? That’s exactly what’s happened here. In building the community center here, the City Council asked that we try to provide library services and do the best that we can.”

The GCL will provide a take-out and drop-off service for the 1.4 million books, magazines, CDs, DVDs and other items circulating throughout the county’s 25-library system. Cain noted that most of the rest of the center would also be designed for library activities, particularly the technology lab, classroom spaces, outdoor patio and amphitheater.

“There’s a big focus in public libraries now in making sure that very young children are ready for their reading skills,” she said. “We’ll be focusing on some early literacy programs both here and at the library in downtown. So the Gateway concept is for both of the libraries — bringing together the technology hubs in both of them, focusing on early literacy and then focusing on popular, heavily used collections that will be here. So we are really, really thrilled.”

Agopian noted the popularity of the expanded after-school hours at the Deer Valley High library across the street from the community center. “The turnout has been amazing,” he said. “You would not believe how many kids are coming, getting resources and doing better in school because of their ability to access this library. So having this facility here (at the community center) is a key part of making our community a better place to live. Maybe it will be the genesis of a full-blown library in the future.”

The center is scheduled to hold its grand opening in early November. One of the big questions yet to be answered is where the funding will come from to provide ongoing operation and maintenance for it. City officials have been making major budget cuts, including laying off staff, to deal with a deficit, and more cuts are expected in the budget year starting in July.

Money to keep the center staffed and open all day every day could be tight.

For more information, go online to www.antiochgatewaycenter.org.

To comment, visit www.thepress.net.
substation, outdoor amphitheater and walking trails.

details of the October targeted project completion and located the emerging skelton of a community center. Library annex, technology hub, police

Agapen. Already led for other engagements were Anne Can, Diane Gibson-Crany, Cheriee Gilliam and Brian Nunally. The crowd of 125 heard

committee of (front left to right) Linda Locke, Karen Smith, Becky Nielsen, Lyn Kursel (rear left), Walter Pluha, Terry Rams and Cary

Assembled March 13th after a crowd of 125 plus dispersed from the Prewett Park complex, sneak peak is the Gateway Learning Centers

Photo by Lonne Karle
You may be interested in the response of Senator Feinstein to an email I sent regarding the use of stimulus funds to maintain library staffing. My email was a "form" email, though I altered it, perhaps mentioning the budget situation in Contra Costa County. I don't remember the source of the "form" email.

I think Feinstein's staff work is competent, as illustrated below. Although Feinstein's letter is a form letter, it is partially on point. Her staff work is better than that of other national or state politicians to whom I have written.

Dave

David Kruegel
6 Thorndale Place
Moraga, CA 94556
Home: 925-376-7124
Cell: 925-890-6039
DLKruegel@comcast.net

From: senator@feinstein.senate.gov [mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 2:35 PM
To: dtkruegel@comcast.net
Subject: U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein responding to your message

Dear Mr. Kruegel:

Thank you for writing to express your support for allocating funding for libraries in the Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010. I appreciate hearing from you and apologize for the delay in my response.

Libraries play an important role in California's communities by providing children and adults with a variety of information and the opportunity to improve their literacy skills. As you may know, the House of Representatives passed the Jobs for Main Street Act of 2010 as an amendment to the "Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010" (H.R. 2847) on December 16, 2009. This bill would redirect $75 billion in Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) savings to fund infrastructure public service and job investments. While this bill would not allocate funding for library services, it would provide $26.7 billion to stabilize public service jobs.

On February 24, 2010, the Senate passed H.R 2847, the legislative vehicle carrying Senator Harry Reid's (D-NV) Senate Amendment 3310, the "Hiring
Incentives to Restore Employment Act of 2010." This bill provides $15 billion for payroll tax forgiveness for hiring unemployed workers, and business credit for retention of certain newly hired individuals in 2010. H.R 2847 has been referred to the House of Representatives for a vote. Additionally, Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), and Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) introduced the "American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act" as an amendment to the "Tax Extenders Act of 2009" (H.R. 4213) on March 1, 2010. This bill would extend unemployment insurance benefits and eligibility for unemployment and health care benefits, and other tax provisions through the end of 2010. On March 1, 2010, the Senate Committee on Finance reached unanimous consent on H.R. 4213, which allows the Senate to begin consideration on this bill.

Please be assured that I will keep your comments in mind should the issue of library funding come before the Senate.

Again, thank you for writing. Should you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my Washington, D.C. office at (202) 224-3841. Best regards.

           Sincerely yours,
           Dianne Feinstein
           United States Senator

Further information about my position on issues of concern to California and the Nation are available at my website http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/. You can also receive electronic e-mail updates by subscribing to my e-mail list at http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ENewsletterSignup.Signup.