Open Session - 6:00 PM – Council Chambers

Council Members Present: Tony Durham, Ann Ruhge, Bob Lingl, Cecilia Martner, and Mayor Mike Siminski

Council Members Absent: None.

Trustees Present: Allan Clark (President), Luella Knowles, Diane Lawrence, Holly Sierra, and Wickie Rodenhi.

Trustees Absent: None.

Staff Participants: City Administrator, Laurel Barcelona; City Attorney, Joe Pannone, Lompoc; and Library Director, Molly Gerald.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of Annual Report and Discussion of Library Board of Trustees Activities and Related Issues.

Mayor Siminski turned the meeting over to Board President Allan Clark.

Trustee Clark thanked Council for the opportunity to meet with them and added that there was much to cover in 45 minutes together.

Trustee Rodenhi presented Lompoc Library System accomplishments, noting that although the Lompoc Library is open 1 day less per week, there has been a 7% systemwide increase in the number of library card holders, along with a 4% increase in circulation. She noted efforts to make the libraries community destinations and to improve the Library’s online presence. She described the major redesign of the Lompoc Library and the Chevron project lighting improvements, along with addition of the Dick DeWees Early Learning Center.

Trustee Lawrence highlighted library services, including providing materials in DVD and downloadable formats. She mentioned the value of reference service and the help that library databases provide. Homebound and literacy services were noted and library programming, including youth and adult events, was reviewed. The community read event was detailed as an example of quality programming for the community.
Trustee Knowles reviewed the critical needs of the library in three categories: facility improvements, staffing, and materials. She thanked the City staff and Council for finding a funding source for a new heating system for the Lompoc Library. She mentioned replacement of the 24 year old carpeting and the dumbwaiter used to deliver materials to/from the basement as critical needs with an estimated total cost of $189,500. She detailed funding of the Literacy Program over time, explained that the program is in jeopardy, and advised that stable funding of $35,000 per year is needed to make the program sustainable. She closed by comparing the Lompoc Library materials budget, which at $55,000 is about $1.28 per capita, to the statewide mean of $3.23 per capita.

Trustee Clark reviewed financial trends of the Library System. He began with an explanation of government funding sources and levels, including state, county and city. He noted that state funding is now 20% of what it was 10 years ago. He advised that county funding has remained stable despite reductions to other departments, though a technical adjustment in the per capita for Zone 2 reduced the per capita allocation to the Lompoc Library by $30,000, effective FY 2009-10. He noted the 10% decrease in City funding and reported the net annual revenue loss of $62,000. Trustee Clark outlined the plan for the 2010-2011 FY to use $25,373 in reserves along with a carryover of a $21,103 surplus from 2009-2010 to continue library operations at the level of the previous year. He summarized by stating that in 1965 the Library was open 66.5 hours per week and that today with about twice the population the Library is open only 44 hours per week, adding that if Lompoc wants to attract educated, middle income earners this trend must be reversed.

Trustee Sierra reviewed the area of support for the Library system, beginning with Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation. She explained that fundraising enables the Friends to purchase equipment, furniture, and supplies as well as fund programming at all three libraries, with over $35,000 donated to the Lompoc Library this year. The Foundation’s capital fundraising success was reviewed, including their distribution of funds for materials from interest accrued in each library’s book endowment fund. She mentioned the contribution of over $120,000 from the Turducken Dinner Group and the 11,546 hours donated by 128 volunteers systemwide.

Library Director Molly Gerald briefly reviewed the history of the Charlotte’s Web Children’s Library project and advised Council on the construction cost, estimated at $2,592,000, with $703,000 available now to fund the project. She advised that an additional $546,900 is needed to provide furniture, fixtures, and equipment to the facility. She added that a presentation will be made to Council in September 2010, and that the Trustees would be interested in discussion of the following funding options: 1) a CDBG Section 108 loan, 2) allocation of any extra funds that may become available through the RDA bond, and 3) waiver of City fees associated with construction.

The Library Director then closed the presentation by noting several goals for the months ahead, including working with the Lompoc Unified School District to make library cards available to all students, working with County of Santa Barbara staff to evaluate the administration of County library services, development of a strategic plan for the Lompoc Library, and construction of the Charlotte’s Web Children’s Library.

Following the remarks of the Trustees and the Library Director, Mayor Siminski invited Councilmembers to comment.
Councilmember Lingl thanked the Library Trustees and staff and complimented the written annual report as the best he had seen. He voiced support for Charlotte’s Web, stating that he looks forward to the Library’s presentation. He noted that there has to be a way to move forward, and approved of the idea of waiver of City fees for the project.

Councilmember Martner thanked the Trustees and staff and commented on the Literacy Program’s importance. She inquired about what makes this program unique in Lompoc and asked about possible grant support. Staff responded that this is the only program providing one-on-one tutoring to adults. It was explained that this program is not an English as a Second Language (ESL) program but rather teaches people who speak English to read. Grant funding garnered by the program over time was detailed, including annual funding at about $28,000 from the State Library. Staff noted that other than the State Literacy award, grant funding is not a stable funding source and that it is very stressful to run a salaried program on this basis. Councilmember Martner said that she considers this a basic, essential need in the community and supports seeking funds for this purpose. Addressing the government funding of the Library, she asked that staff provide information about how low funding from city/county impacts Santa Barbara and Santa Maria libraries.

Councilmember Ruhge stated that she and her husband use the Library weekly and that it is always full, with lots of children and computers being used by many. She complimented the redesign of the Lompoc Library, noting that it opened up the space. She suggested that Council try to find the $35,000 needed for the Literacy Program this year, noting that she sees the tutor pairs working in the Library and considers this important. Regarding Charlotte’s Web, she advised that when the presentation is made to Council, she would like to consider the options listed by the Library Director and formalize a way to get the funds to make this happen. She suggested that donations be requested for the Library during the Jazz at the Library concerts in August and closed by thanking the Trustees for their service.

Councilmember Durham complimented Trustees and staff on the presentation and the written report. He asked Trustee Knowles for clarification about the progress on replacement of the heating and ventilation system for the Lompoc Library and was told that CDBG funds have been allocated for the project. He stated that Council should do whatever it needs to do in support of the Literacy Program because it is a position that’s needed - it really needs to be looked into. He asked for clarification of the decline in state funding and this was provided by Trustee Clark. He complimented staff on its high level of volunteer support, noted the support of the Turducken Dinner Group, and closed with words of encouragement to the Trustees and staff.

Mayor Siminski also thanked Trustees and staff. He commented that Charlotte Benton made a generous and noble gift that will continue her legacy, adding that he considers it a sound project that meets a need in the community. The Mayor noted that we’ve been in some tight financial times and explained that money allocated to a project that does not break ground within the year makes it vulnerable to being transferred from the local Redevelopment Agency to the State. He added that when the project is ready to break ground the Council will have the project as the highest priority. He stated that Council cannot commit funds without some kind of schedule for the project achieving the rest of the money to break ground.

Mayor Siminski then asked if there were further comments from the Trustees, and Trustee Clark stated that the Trustees look forward to working with Council on Charlotte’s Web and Literacy.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.
ADJOURNMENT: At 6:50 PM Mayor Siminski adjourned the meeting to the Regular Meeting at 7:00 PM and the Library Board of Trustees adjourned to their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 10, 2010, at 6:00 PM at the Lompoc Public Library, Grossman Gallery, 501 E. North Ave

Diane Lawrence, Secretary
Library Board of Trustees