

Project Funding Request #07-04

October 5, 2007 for 2008/2009 Book Sale Project

Submitted by Ric Deschler, Treasurer & Laurie Allen, Ways and Means Chair

Total Requested: \$2,900

Proposal: Purchase an 8'x10' cargo container and locate it at the Vet's Hall. Move the Book Sales for 2009 to the Veteran's Hall.

1. Currently, the Friends book sales have gotten too large for its present location. The community of Morro Bay is overly generous with its donations of books and magazines and various other items. This leads us to an over crowded display that packs every square inch of the program room and overflows onto the patio at every sale. Because of this, thousands of books are culled before the sale ever happens and are given to other organizations or dumped into recycling. We have neither the space to store the books nor the space to properly display them for sale.
2. In addition to the standard books and magazines, we often receive bulky items. Sometimes we have garage sales or other special sales to sell them. Other times we are asked to sell them at the book sales but there generally is no additional space for that. Between sales, it is necessary to scrounge around asking Friends to store items at their homes and garages. I still am storing a 2'x4' framed print that was donated in January 2007 that has not sold. It has moved around through at least 3 households.
3. The working area of the bookroom is small. This can be improved by relocating the boxes of processed books to a better storage area. This will allow the volunteers to sort books into more categories that will improve the chances of someone finding the books that they want at the book sales.
4. We have been fortunate for the last few years that the weather has cooperated with our book sale dates. That won't last forever. One of these days it will rain and the books will not be able to be displayed outside. We will loose a lot of sales wasting the hard work of the volunteers.
5. Even when we move forward with the enclosure of the patio, that will not solve the problem but only exacerbate it. Book sales will not be able to occur during the construction period. After completion, there is no guarantee that there will be enough space to use the area for book sales and it does not adequately address the storage problem. Also, we don't know how many years it will be before the project is completed. The Veteran's Hall has nearly twice the area to display items for sale. If you have attended any of the book sales in Cambria or San Luis you would see that it is more efficient to have long rows of tables with adequate space between them so that people can move around to look and buy. Safety of moving around the room is also an issue currently.
6. If we move the book sales to the Vet's Hall, we would have space to display far more books. We would also be able to sell other items that have been donated, such as artwork, baked goods, book bags, have a special area for rare books, and anything else that we are not able to sell presently.
7. The storage container would hold the processed books and be easily available for the set-up of the book sales. It would also hold storage of the Friends historical

files that are now crammed into the cabinets of the program room, in the attic of the book room and scattered around at various Friends' homes. It would also store items like the two cases of book bags now in my garage.

8. Income from our book sales has been increasing and the potential for being able to raise more money during these events will only be increased with a larger display area. In 2001 the book sales averaged \$1,000. So far in 2007 the book sales have averaged \$2,900 per sale. Our volunteers work hard putting on these book sales not only during the event but each day between the events. We need to maximize the return for their continuous hard work. A larger area to display books with easier access should increase sales enough to pay for this expenditure during the first year. *Minor logistical problems with changing the location of the sales will be resolved during 2008 by the people involved with the book sales.* Advertising and promotion will be addressed.
9. The proposed container is 8'x10'. The vendors that I have talked with say they will paint it any color the city might require. We will also have door options. It is water tight and rodent proof. The price to buy the container is about the price to rent it for two years. So, it would be in our interest to buy rather than rent.
10. This Project Funding Request, if approved, **would expire and not be used unless we can sign an agreement with the City of Morro Bay** for long-term placement of a storage container behind the Vet's Hall. *No money will be spent unless that agreement is reached.* If we were able to buy the container today, it would cost about \$2,300. Considering the increased costs of fuel and labor, I am hoping that a year from now the cost will not have increased too much but I feel that we need a buffer. So, the amount being requested is \$2,900.