

Book Sale Report 17th Sept. 2010

With all the changes happening at our MB branch, I wanted to provide a "State of the Book Sale" so that we know where we are, and where we are going.

The book sale has long been the primary source of revenue for the Friends, which we use to support library programs, buy materials, and upgrade systems and furnishings.

The book sale has truly gone beyond just a fundraising event; it is an event people come to from outside our area, making our library a destination. The sale, along with our other library programs, brings people into the library building and increases our circulation figures, which gets us more funding from the County.

Our book sales have gone from making \$500 per sale to averaging over \$3000 a sale, with our last sale, in August, earning us a whopping \$4000.00.

This revenue flow will be greatly impacted by the changes in the Program Room which are coming in 2011.

We will still be having quarterly book sales next year. The first sale, in February 2011, will be the final one in the Program Room. The next 3 sales, in May, August and November 2011, will be at the Community Center across the street.

The rental costs for those 3 sales will be just over \$1100.00, with additional costs for renting a truck added to that figure. So, for the foreseeable future, the amount of money for library programs will be negatively impacted at least by that amount, and probably more. We will lose some customers by moving, and we will incur other expenses, such as new signage, etc. as well.

Another issue is how the staff plans to store the library tables and chairs, which belong to us, not the city. At least 20 tables, all lightweight aluminum and 8-foot long, are ours, along with the dollies they sit on. Unfortunately, 3 of these tables have been missing since the early summer. The city does not have them, and neither do we. The chairs and their dollies are ours as well. We need to work with the staff to figure out where they will be kept.

The final issue is the future of the book sorting room. With donations coming in to the library in record numbers, the book room must be preserved. Where else would these incoming donations be kept? How else would the lobby sales area be resupplied on a regular basis? The amount of extra work involved in storing books off-site would be more than I would be able to do. It would also mean a further reduction of funds needed for library programs, which would have to be spent renting a space. This would be a considerable expense, judging by the rents in Morro Bay.

We have had someone step up to take over from Ric in the book room. His name is Graydon Hileman, and he is a regular at library book programs. His mother, Helen

Hileman, was the President of the Friends back in the early 1990's, so he is no stranger to the library.

I'd like to end this report with a few observations.

As the plans for the library expansion proceed in the coming months, the staff of the library and the county must decide how important library programming is to the success of this branch. If no one is willing to give space to programs that bring people into the library, these programs will go elsewhere or be terminated. In my opinion this would be a great shame. The staff and the Friends have spent years building the reputation of this branch, and the programs that support the library and the community.

Other fundraising ideas need to be examined. However, this option becomes harder as the economy remains in such a precarious state. That is another reason to support the book sale, which is the only fundraiser that has provided a steady stream of revenue for the last decade.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Allen
Book Sale Coordinator