

Friends of the Westside Library Minutes of the meeting 08/24/2010

In attendance:

Theodore Odom, Rod Miller, Tho Tran Miller, Terry Ruiz, Dorothy Sacks, Rama Rao Adharapurapu, Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh, Steve Zach, Amit Joshi, Marie Ferguson, Dale Fuller, Stacy L. Adams, Scott Sherman, Geoffrey Tonini

Geoff opened the meeting with a history and timeline of the library idea. In 2003, the Shadow Creek Ranch land was donated to the city and a sign was posted that said it was to be the home of the future library. By 2005, the determination was made that the land was not suitable for use as a library for many reasons. In 2006, there was a bond approved by Pearland that set aside \$2,000,000 for library needs. Many west side residents thought this money would go toward a library on the west side, but the bond was not intended for this, but for improvements and expansion of the old Pearland Library building. In the spring of 2008, a Westside library task force was formed. Meetings were held and these meetings showed that interest in such a facility was very high. Meetings were standing room only at the time. In the fall of 2008, Ike damaged the old Pearland Library and many other buildings in Pearland. In February of 2009, the task force presented its report to the Pearland City Council. In March 2009, the report was presented to the Brazoria County Library Board. The report was very well received. In April 2009, the Manvel Library moved from its location near Westside Pearland to its present facility which is less convenient for Westside Pearland residents. With the support of Scott Sherman and Cathy Threadgill, in early 2010, the substation at the Westside Event Center was approved. The substation opened on June 8, 2010. Since it opened, the substation has been running well over capacity and has needed extra help to keep up with the numbers of books being processed.

Geoff opened the meeting to comments from all members present. We discussed the goals for the group. Members would like to see a viable library (storefront) within 1 to 3 years. The members would like to see a library build within the next 10 years. Many of us felt we would like to see this sooner, but with the funding crunch we are not sure this is a viable goal.

Elections for interim officers were held. Officers will serve until the end of 2010 when new elections will be held.

Theodore Odom was elected as President
Rod Miller was elected as Vice President
Victoria Odom was elected as Treasurer
Dorothy Sacks was elected as Secretary

There will be a library board long range planning meeting at the Pearland Library on 08/25/2010. There will be another library board long range planning meeting at the Westside Event Center on 09/7/2010. We hope to report back to the Friends Group at our next meeting. The agenda for the next meeting will include presentation of rewritten bylaws for the group, a determination of the amount of dues we will ask for, and the formation of committees for various tasks which are yet to be determined.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14th at 7:00 PM at Nolan Ryan Jr. High

Respectfully Submitted
Dorothy Sacks, Secretary