



Monroe Library

Library Board
Agenda
November 13th, 2014 7:00PM

7:00 PM

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. Managing Librarian's Report
4. Sno-isle report (Valerie Stevens)
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Demonstration
8. Adjournment

Library Board Managing Librarian Report November 13, 2014

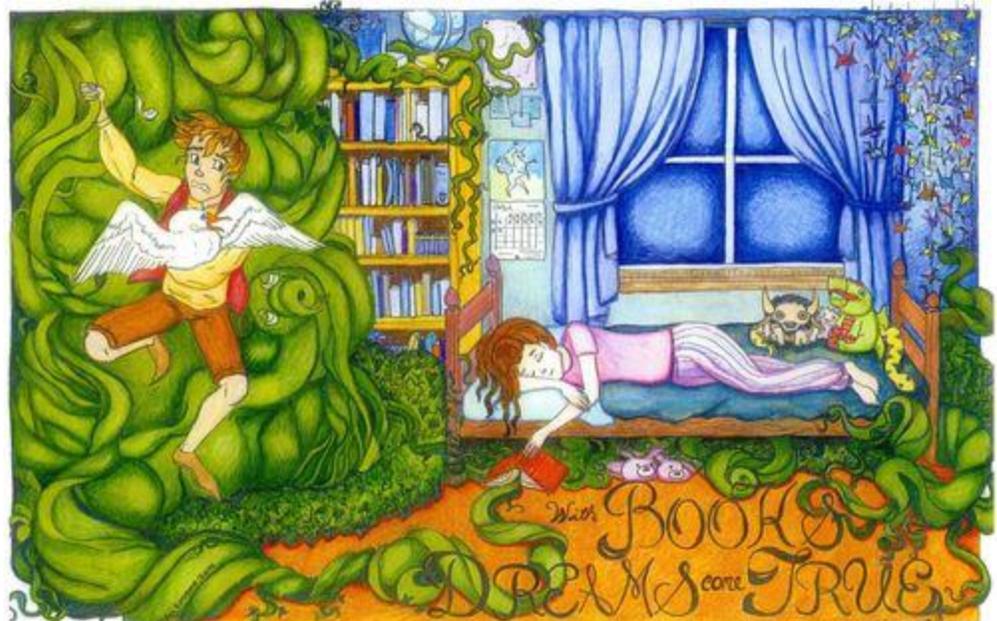
Announcing our 2014 Teen Read Month Art Contest winners

This year's theme was *With Books, Dreams Come True*, and I am happy to say this year we had some of our most imaginative and magical entries yet! We had ninety two entries from all twenty one Sno-Isle libraries, and they had to select just four, but our team of graphic arts specialist were delighted to get a chance to examine them all. Out of the four winners two of them were from Monroe. And with no further ado, the Monroe winners are:

Bronwen LaPorte



Haley Amenn



Community Outreach:

Monroe City Council Presentation
YMCA
Everett Community College
Parent HUB
Department of Social and health Services
Rotary Club of Monroe
Chamber of Commerce

Musical Storytimes

October 17th was our first musical storytime that will meet on the third Friday of every month.

Fandango/Fiesta/Pechanga

In April we are planning a family event for the Hispanic community that will include multiple speakers and story tellers, musicians, food and library information.

Friends Sponsored Library Events and Supplies

Teen gingerbread house event - coming up
Teen - Misc Survival Kit type stuff, a DVD & misc craft items
NaNoWriMo Sit-In event Nov 15
Book It Repertory Theatre Nov 20 event Teen
WSPiR event - (paranormal)
Bilingual Carpet Squares
Activity Bean Bags

Monroe Children's Area – Creating an “Early Learning Space”

Public libraries around the country are “using early literacy research to transform library spaces into dynamic learning centers with a rich environment that focuses on developing literacy in young children” (Bohrer, 2005). There are very few places in Monroe that offer a space for children under 5 and their parents and/or caregivers. Three places: outdoor parks, playgrounds and the Monroe Library, offer *free* access to *all* families. When it's too rainy to play outside, Monroe Library is one of the only free options left. Monroe parents and caregivers surveyed over a two-week period said they often travel to places outside of Monroe for preschool activities. They also responded by saying they would be likely to spend more time at the Monroe Library if there were more interactive, educational activities. By creating a space that allows children to play and practice early literacy skills, we are actively addressing the needs of our families. Families need an “exciting learning environment where they can engage in meaningful early literacy experiences right in their neighborhood” (Bohrer, 2005).

By reconfiguring and adding early learning resources the children's area could be transformed into an interactive learning space that would promote early learning and “Every Child Ready to Read” practices: Reading, Writing, Talking, Playing, and Singing. One of Sno-Isle's strategic focuses is to build literate communities in part through early literacy; in addition to providing storytimes, this interactive learning space could be an integral and innovative part of strengthening Monroe's efforts in early literacy. This space would also provide a place for parents/caregivers to practice the literacy tips they are learning in our Ready Readers storytimes.

With this improvement we have the opportunity to create a welcoming community space where families can learn and play together. The overarching concept is to take back this area of the library and repurpose it so that it engages families. We envision child-size furnishings and age-appropriate manipulatives that entice children and their parents to

explore and learn. By creating a wide open space with interactive “Reading, Writing, Talking, Playing, and Singing” stations we hope to encourage many different models of interaction, parent/child, child/child and parent/parent.

The biggest challenge that we face in completing this project is the physical space in the children’s area. There is a large programming space in the center of the area that goes widely unused. A survey was conducted that looked at when and how the children’s area was being used. In two weeks, 383 families used the children’s area and only 25% entered into the programming space. The programming space occupies close to 40% of the children’s area. Furthermore, the benches are uncomfortable for adults and too big for children. The space is badly lit, confining and uninviting. It is too small and dark inside for parents to read or do activities with their children. The space is too narrow to be used for programming or other events. This structure is right in the middle of the children’s space dividing the area into two spaces; one is primarily occupied by children’s public computers and the other is a sitting area. By removing the structure and replacing it with movable shelving and furniture we could create a space where activity stations and play spaces could be spread out and the area could be more widely used for a variety of functions.

Monroe Library Board Quarterly Board Meeting September 11, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

Attendance: Joan Brown, Andrea Freng, Michael Mates, Travis Pool, Phil Spirito, Valerie Stevens, and Roma Zanders.

Minutes: The minutes from the 8 May 2014 meeting were approved.

Introduction of New Managing Librarian. New Managing Librarian Phil Spirito described his previous careers as chef, IT worker (“janitor to supervisor”), and now librarian, and his eagerness to get involved in the community. Phil described the generosity of the Masons, who have raised money to provide two bicycles to each of Sno-Isles’ 21 branches, to be given to qualified young summer readers who win the draw. The Issues that Matter Public Forum on 7 August at the Monroe Library attracted 69 attendees, who vigorously discussed the topic “Drugs in our Communities.” The Prime Time program is helping families identified as needing help with literacy, and collaborates with DSHS; families who participated in spring and summer 2014 meetings noted that, as families read and discuss books, interest and engagement increase.

Report from Valerie Stevens. Valerie Stevens noted that the Board and Friends Forum would meet on Saturday 20 September to discuss the focus of the Sno-Isles Libraries. Work Source Snohomish County will work with Sno-Isle Libraries to bring job, interview and resume training in the autumn. Sno-Isles have increased their bandwidth by 900% (to five terabytes), at about the same cost as previous bandwidth.

City Report. Phil Spirito described his appearance at a recent City Council meeting, at which he described two initiatives: an Information Services Project, which researches community needs and provision of services, looking into more IT services while keeping books as our main interest; and ways to retain members of Gen Y2 (born after 1977) as they move from one level of education to the next. Spirito also noted that he will be looking for new ideas to involve schools and the Hispanic population, and increase evening programs. He also plans to write articles for the *Monroe Monitor* on special services at the library, starting with Book a Librarian.

Old Business. There was no old business.

New Business. We discussed the inconvenience to library users of road closures for the State Fair Parade, and agreed to raise the issue with the City Council in 2015. Joan Brown will assist with new voter registration on 23 September. Hoopla is now available for library users who want to download music, movies, and audio books.