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BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Amber Rodriguez, Esq.
PRESIDENT

Vincente E. Woodward, Esq.
VICE-PRESIDENT

Judge William Q. Liebmann
Robert L. Coit, Esq.
Todd Howeth, Esq.
Leroy Smith, Esq.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VENTURA COUNTY LAW LIBRARY HELD FEBRUARY 19, 2020.

A meeting was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 12:15 p.m. in the Law Library. Present were Board members Ms. Rodriguez, Mr. Woodward, Mr. Smith, new board member Mr. Howeth, and Mr. Coit. Judge Liebmann was not present. Also present were members of the public Stephen Hofheinz, Lauren Nicholson, Coleen Gillespie, Katie Clunen, Jane Meyer, Mark Hancock, Scott Powers, Sheridan Grace, John Ledezma, and Zoya Shenker. The meeting was called to order at 12:19 p.m.

During public comment, members of the public expressed their opposition to the move. Mr. Hofheinz believed the library should remain where it is because that is what is best for the public; as a paralegal student, he utilized the space frequently & appreciated it. Mr. Hancock stated the library should not move based upon safety, public, historical, and legal perspectives. Ms. Clunen stated she was against the move and that it would ultimately result in the Library not being as easily accessible to the public and to the attorneys. Coleen Gillespie stated the Library was for the members of the public and therefore it should be visible & accessible to the public. It is a precious resource that needs to be kept where it is so it may continue to help the public & host the Legal Aid Clinic & its many clients. Lauren Nicholson stated the move was not practical from a Family Law practitioner's perspective; such cases are emotionally charged and the travel from the courthouse to an offsite location would disrupt the momentum & potential conclusion of the case. Zoya Shenker stated the legal community is not indifferent to the move. She read aloud an article from the VC Reporter about the move being a "done deal." Ms. Shenker reiterated that the Library is a viable, necessary, and specialized research space that should not be moved. Board President Amber Rodriguez then stated she received many calls & emails from local attorneys who all expressed their opposition to the move; she believed this was just the tip of the iceberg. All members of the public expressed their concern over the lack of notice from either the County or the Law Library about the move.

Item 2, During discussion of the future space planning, Scott Powers stated that nothing was set in stone yet, and that this was a long term discussion that began years ago. Mr. Powers stated that ultimately, it will go before the Board of Supervisors to decide & he has yet to present it to the Board of Supervisors. The County pays for the space, so the County Board of Supervisors will vote on whether to approve the relocation of the Library. Mr. Powers also emphasized that the County of Ventura will fund all of the move.

Board President Ms. Rodriguez then suggested arranging a special community meeting with the public & some members of the Board of Supervisors so the public may participate in the discussion as well. The arrangement will create a platform for everyone to express their opinions & promote transparency. This special meeting's date, time, and location will be decided upon at the next Law Library board meeting; the public will be given at least a two month notice to plan ahead and attend.

Board member Leroy Smith emphasized that the Law Library board did not ask to be moved-- that they were happy with the current location.

Board member Robert Coit reiterated that this was political & that the Board of Supervisors is in charge of this decision.

Board member Vincente Woodward stated that the plans discussed at prior Law Library board meetings were contingency planning only-- addressing the question "If this move were to happen, how can we best deal with this?"

It was then decided Scott Powers will work with Board President Rodriguez on setting up the community meeting.

After discussion and on motion duly seconded, it was resolved that:

Item 3, the January 8, 2020 minutes sheet, was approved;

Item 4, the financial statement for AP 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, was approved;

Item 5, the elimination of courtesy emails, was not approved, however, a discussion only item should be included on the next Agenda for fines, process & procedures;

Item 6, the MCLE time adjustment & fee increase, was approved as amended;

Item 7, Mr. Woodward commented on the status of the financial markets looking better & better.

The next regular meeting is set for Wednesday, March 11, 2020, at 12:15 in the Law Library. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22.

Katie Drow
Secretary