

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # *B-6

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE November 25, 2008

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Approval to Hold a Public Dedication Ceremony on December 30, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. for Ryan's Reading Tree at the Stanislaus County Library - Modesto Library Children's Room and Related Actions

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve holding a public dedication ceremony on December 30, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. for Ryan's Reading Tree at the Stanislaus County Library - Modesto Library Children's Reading Room.
2. Authorize the Chief Executive Office to provide for the appropriate items needed for this public event to recognize the generous and private donation of Ryan's Reading Tree to the community and the Stanislaus County Library.
3. Direct staff to prepare letters of appreciation to the Dickerson family and others who have contributed so generously to this effort.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Ryan's Reading Tree is being provided through a generous donation by the Dickerson family and other private contributors. The Tree, a gift to Stanislaus County for the Children's Reading Room at the Modesto Library, is estimated to cost of \$80,000. The monument has been designed, engineered, fabricated and will be installed by Naturemaker Monumental Trees company. The Chief Executive Office and General Services Agency have made some minor modifications in the Modesto Library Children's Reading Room to adequately accommodate the Tree, which is donated in the memory of Ryan Hunter Dickerson. Painting and lighting improvements have been generously donated by DC Vient, Inc., and

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2008-801

On motion of Supervisor O'Brien and approved by the following vote, Seconded by Supervisor Grover

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Grover, Monteith, and Vice Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: Mayfield

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

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FISCAL IMPACT (Continued):

Collins Electrical Company, Inc. Materials for the acceptance plaque have been donated by Granite Gallery.

The Board has previously granted authority to the Chief Executive Office to install an acceptance plaque in remembrance of the inspiration for the project, Ryan Hunter Dickerson, and honoring young readers in Stanislaus County. In this action, it is recommended that the Board of Supervisors now authorize a public event for the dedication of the Tree. As is the County's practice, appropriate expenses will include invitations, programs, refreshments, mementos, and other minimal expenses associated with the public dedication ceremony. Funds are available within the existing budget for expenses, which are not expected to exceed \$2,000.

DISCUSSION:

Background

On April 1, 2008, the Board of Supervisors approved the acceptance of the donation of Ryan's Reading Tree to the Stanislaus County Library - Modesto Library Children's Reading Room from the Dickerson family and friends. Included in the approval, was authority for the Chief Executive Office to make necessary improvements to the Modesto Library to accommodate the donated monument and to install an acceptance plaque in remembrance of Ryan Hunter Dickerson and honoring young readers in Stanislaus County as part of the dedication to be planned in accordance with the Dickerson family wishes.

Ryan's Reading Tree was inspired by the life of Ryan Hunter Dickerson, an avid reader, supporter, and user of the Stanislaus County Library. Ryan volunteered as a "prefect" at the Library's 2005 and 2007 Harry Potter children's events. Ryan passed away suddenly in the summer of 2007 at the age of 18. Ryan's Reading Tree is envisioned to be the centerpiece of the Modesto Library Children's Reading Room. The existing central column will be transformed into a beautiful monumental oak tree that will be a lasting memory of Ryan and become a focal point in creating an inviting and welcoming atmosphere that promotes the joys of reading. The life-like artificial tree is a steel structure with a realistic façade that will create a unique reading ambiance for Library customers.

Ryan's Reading Tree Assembly and Installation

Immediately following the Board's acceptance of Ryan's Reading Tree as a donation to the Stanislaus County Library, and the execution of the associated contract by the Dickerson family, NatureMaker Monumental Trees completed the final design and engineering and began fabrication of the tree monument. The Tree will be 15' tall x 18' x 18' canopy diameter. The project schedule estimated 7-8 months to complete the fabrication of Ryan's Reading Tree off-site and to be ready for on-site installation. Upon completion, Ryan's Reading Tree will be disassembled, transported to Modesto, and then be reassembled on-site at the Modesto Library. Ryan's Reading Tree is over 90 percent complete (Exhibit A). The Chief Executive Office has

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made minor modifications to the Modesto Library Children's Reading Room, in coordination with the Library and the General Services Agency, to accommodate the monumental tree. Painting and lighting improvements have been made possible through generous in-kind contributions provided by two local businesses, DC Vient, Inc. and Collins Electrical Company Inc.

NatureMaker will begin the assembly of Ryan's Reading Tree at the Modesto Library on December 9, 2008. In order to minimize interruption with normal Library operating hours, assembly will commence before the Modesto Library opens that day. Volunteers will assist NatureMaker and County staff with installation and will sign the required waivers per County policy. It is not anticipated that the assembly will pose a significant disruption to Library customers. The appropriate safety measures will be taken during the entire assembly process, which will include the closing of the Children's Reading Room as appropriate. It is anticipated that the assembly of Ryan's Reading Tree will be completed by December 11, 2008.

Local Support and Fundraising

Ryan's Reading Tree has received overwhelming support from the Dickerson family, the Library Foundation, friends, and the entire community. The Library Foundation, the fiscal agent for the project, has been instrumental in making this generous donation to the Stanislaus County Library possible. The Library Foundation is a non-profit organization and has coordinated all activities in support of this project in collaboration with the Dickerson family. To assist with the fundraising element of this project, a presence was established on the Internet at RyansTree.com. Donations for this project were received directly by the Library Foundation via the established web site. Functions such as Ryan's Relay, held in August at Johansen High School, helped to increase awareness and support for the project.

Public Dedication Ceremony and Acceptance Plaque

The public dedication ceremony is recommended to take place on December 30, 2008 at the Modesto Library. A short program, including the unveiling of the acceptance plaque and the "inspiration behind the project" description, is planned to begin at 3:30 p.m. at the Children's Reading Room with a reception to follow immediately in the Auditorium. The event will be open to the public. Other activities during the public dedication will be planned in accordance with the Dickerson family wishes.

This tribute will be enjoyed by future generations of young readers and Stanislaus County citizens who use the Stanislaus County Modesto Library in downtown Modesto. The private funding of the entire effort is a generous gift to Stanislaus County and its citizens. Appropriate appreciation and recognition will be part of the planned dedication ceremony.

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POLICY ISSUE:

The public dedication ceremony for Ryan's Reading Tree is consistent with the Board Priority of Effective Partnership and reflects a truly unique partnership in this community.

STAFFING IMPACTS:

The Chief Executive Office and the Library will be responsible for coordinating the planning of the public dedication ceremony for Ryan's Reading Tree with the Dickerson family and friends. There are no additional staffing impacts associated with this item.

EXHIBIT A – Ryan's Reading Tree – Modesto Library Children's Room



October 31, 2008