



CITY of CALABASAS

LIBRARY COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

DATE: MARCH 8, 2024

TO: LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

FROM: BARBARA LOCKWOOD, CITY LIBRARIAN *BL*

SUBJECT: SENIOR CORNER

MEETING DATE: MARCH 18, 2024

BACKGROUND:

At the last Library Commission meeting, President Mark Shear asked that we look into alternative uses for the Senior Corner Room.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

The library room called the Senior Corner was originally planned as the Friends of the Library (FOL) Bookstore with a Volunteer Room behind it. At some point, the City Management decided it should be an upscale gift shop. They hired a staff member to be a buyer and to run it. It was half a gift shop and half a used bookstore. This was not a successful venture.

Before the Senior Center was built, City Leaders determined that the room should act as a senior gathering place. We moved the FOL books into the copy center and that became the FOL bookstore. Ellen Pangarliotas came up with the name, Senior Corner. We added comfortable seating and a round table. Seniors primarily used the back room for playing games and having craft classes so they could eat and make noise. General patrons started using the front room as a study room, sitting at the round table and closing the door. We moved the round table into the main library area to eliminate this problem.

For the City's 25th anniversary, the room was temporarily used to display historical pictures and documents from the Special Collections Room. The display stayed in the room for several months.

When the Senior Center was built, senior activities moved there. We created a Maker Box space in the back room to house the 3-D printer and VR headsets. Because the room was named the Senior Corner, we moved the large print collection and books specific to seniors to the room. We also have Alzheimer's resource kits there.

The room has never had adequate lighting. People use the room most often to work on their computers or to talk quietly. There also is not another area to move the large print books.

FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Undetermined.

REQUESTED ACTION:

Discussion and recommendations.