

# **BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS**

## **Members**

Wendy Urushima-Conn, Chair

Marshall Anderson • Elizabeth Hansen • Shawna Hook-Held • Ben Moraga • Linda Sotelo

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS**

### **SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **Commissioners:**

**Present:** Wendy Urushima-Conn, Elizabeth Hansen, Ben Moraga, Marshall Anderson, Linda Sotelo

**Absent:** Shawna Hook-Held

**Staff:** Misty Jones, Director – Library, Raul Gudiño, Deputy Director – Library; Bob Cronk, Deputy Director – Library; Jennifer Jenkins, Deputy Director – Library; Tricia Nool, Executive Assistant – Library; William Curtis, Program Manager – Library; Oscar Gittemeier, Program Manager – Library; Catherine Hoang, Bonnie Domingos – SDPL Staff

### **Public:**

Joan Reese, Ann McDonald – FSDPL, Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF, Steve Hermes, Adrienne Peterson, Kim – Skyline

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Urushima-Conn at 12:31 pm via Zoom. Their last meeting was on February 2, 2022.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The February 2, 2022 minutes was approved unanimously.

## **REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE**

None

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:**

Joan Reese

President, Friends of the San Diego Public Library

At the last two Commission meetings, we shared the news of the 100th birthday of one of our longtime volunteers, E. T. Perry, who was actively involved in the day to day activities of FSDPL up until mid-March 2020 when we were forced to shut down due to the pandemic. I am saddened to report that E. T. passed away in early February just 3 weeks after his birthday. FSDPL is following through with the plan for the E. T. Perry Centennial Chapter Award which will honor E. T.'s passion for helping out so many smaller Friends' chapters over the years with his treasurer expertise. This will be a grant awarded annually to assist Friends' chapters which are in transition or otherwise facing challenges serving their libraries.

We are about to announce the availability of the 2022 John McAllister Memorial Library Scholarship for library staff who are pursuing degree or certificate programs in Library and Information Science or related fields. For the first time the application will be online. In the past this opportunity has been publicized through a direct email to all library staff and posting on the Library's intranet with the support of Deputy Director Bob Cronk. Online book sales continue to bring in some income for the "greater" FSDPL and several of our chapters.

Friends chapters have continued to hold both outdoor and indoor book sales, and Friends' used bookstores are open at many branch libraries—most still on curtailed schedules relative to pre-pandemic times due to limited volunteer availability. The greater FSDPL recently held our first indoor book sale in two years. This was modestly successful at least in terms in the enthusiasm of customers and volunteers and the numbers of books sold but of necessity was on a much smaller scale relative to the legendary weekend-long monthly book sales of the past due to the rather constrained space that is currently available. Masks were required for all and capacity limits were in place.

**LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:**

Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF

Master plan - We are beginning to put together the scope for the next phase which really outlines priorities and expenses, it takes a look at branch by branch recommendations and it's going to give us an opportunity to get a little more information from our Community members including putting together some Community advisory committees. There are other opportunities to present to various stakeholders and have a deep and meaningful connection to the city and the Planning Department. We are ensuring that the document itself is aligned with the city's direction and goals themselves, so we will keep you up to date on that.

The Foundation is planning activities now for Library Giving Day and Library Appreciation Week.

The Foundation is launching a new website on March 18 and I just want to give a big shout out to Charlie and Jenna and the Marketing Team with the Foundation and the Library Executive Team as well, who has worked with the Foundation on the branding and the language. It is long overdue for a web refresh and really does clearly outline the work that the library does that the Foundation serves to support and the way that people can get involved and engaged with supporting their library

Two more events that I did want to let you know about, the Foundation is, along with the library, helping Jim Dawes family present a memorial for him, which will be at the library in the Shiley event space, 9th floor on March 19 at 2:00 PM. The other event is this evening's State of the Libraries and Parks Event to be held up on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor at Central Library, with a pre-reception at 5:00 PM and then a hybrid event. It's going to be live but also presented on zoom at 6:00 PM. It's an in conversation with Michel Anderson from the Parks Foundation, myself from the Library Foundation and our friend Lisa Halverstadt from Voice of San Diego and this serves as an opportunity to continue an educational conversation with stakeholders and constituents and supporters of the library. There's been a lot of news about the library in the last few months regarding both the budgets and capital improvements and maintenance needs so this is an opportunity to pull some of that together for a very brief high-level conversation.

## CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

### a. Report on Library Construction Projects

The Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library:

This project is in re-advertisement bids are with the City Contracts and EOC, to review and determine the lowest and most responsive bidder.

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Parking Lot Expansion:

The design consultant working with the City DSD towards the Building Permit, and with the City ADA and Storm Water towards their clearances. The E Contract process is in progress.

### b. Update from Library Director

Public Safety and Local Neighborhoods – March 9, 2022, Wednesday, we will be presenting the Master Plan update and Hiring updates. We have done over 500 interviews this year and yesterday, for a little over half the day, we did selections for the library assistant Is and IIs. We have made selections so as long as we get everybody to accept, we will be in excellent shape to get everybody reopened and to start opening on Sundays.

Security – We mentioned at the last meeting that I was going to have a meeting with the PD and Homeless Strategies. We had that meeting and what I am finding is they stopped intakes at the shelters, and that is why we saw a really large increase in the number of unsheltered sleeping around the building. They have started intakes back although it is slow and not ramping up as quickly as many of us would like, but they are starting to ramp back up. They have also been focused really heavily on midway area. I did get a commitment from Captain Takeuchi that they would send staff over to the library to help the security to get people to move, particularly in the mornings, when the kids are

coming to school. The interim Director for E3 has also reached out to us and to the Mayor's office with his concerns. We have a meeting with him next week, also with the Mayor staff and with the Director of Homeless Strategies to talk about what are some next steps that we can take and what are some ways that we can mitigate what his students are seeing on their way into school. The security team is really hitting it heavy and trying to keep people from loitering around the building in the morning. We said before we changed the Wi-fi hours, and that has helped but there's a lot still a lot of people that need some pretty immediate assistance around the building. We're seeing a lot of health crisis; we're seeing a lot of substance abuse. The guards have done a great job of keeping people from under the easement under the roofline on the Park Boulevard side, but we still have a lot of people camping around on the sidewalks so looking at how we're going to address that. I will keep you posted on how we're moving along in the strategies. NAMI has been in the building. We also have a lead to be working with SDSU, has social work interns and to have them starting and so we're working on that plan as well, so really hope to be able to throw a lot more resources at this issue.

Heather McGhee Event- Monday night we had a phenomenal event. We had Heather McGhee who is the author of the *Sum of US, what racism costs everyone and how we can prosper Together*. It was a zoom event and we had over 500 people attend the event, it was excellent, as part of our yearly partnership with USD. Every year we outdo ourselves on this event so I'm not sure how we're going to top it next year, but somehow, we seem to be able to do it so that was a great event.

New Commissioner - Commissioner Fitzsimons did term off and she is being replaced by Shawna Hook-Held, who was confirmed last month at Council. She works at UCSD and does a lot with students with the Student Center and Students Access. She's really excited to join us. Unfortunately she's on vacation this week so she could not be here.

## AGENDA ITEMS

- a. New Services Presentation – presented by Catherine Hoang, Manager of Public Technology Services division regarding new services that have been added recently during the pandemic and things that are on the horizon.
- b. Special Events Proposal – Misty presented to the Commissioners putting together a proposal for the city for some recommended actions and some recommended changes. Business Proposal will be shared to the Commissioners.
- c. Occupy Thirdspace II Gallery Exhibit – presented by Bonnie Domingos, Art and Exhibitions Manager about the new gallery show. We had a grand opening a couple of weekends ago Saturday, February 19 and had over 300 people in a span of three hours. It was a phenomenal event.

## COMMISSIONER COMMENT

None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The next Board of Library Commissioners meeting will take place on April 6, 2022 at 12:30 PM via Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Wendy Urushima-Conn adjourned the meeting at 1:41 PM.



Misty Jones  
Director, Library Department

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