

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Wendy Urushima-Conn, Chair
Marshall Anderson • Elizabeth Fitzsimons • Elizabeth Hansen • Ben Moraga • Linda Sotelo

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY Wednesday, November 3, 2021

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Wendy Urushima-Conn, Elizabeth Hansen, Elizabeth Fitzsimons, Marshall Anderson, Linda Sotelo

Absent: Ben Moraga

Staff: Misty Jones, Director – Library, Raul Gudiño, Deputy Director – Library; Bob Cronk, Deputy Director – Library; Tricia Nool, Executive Assistant – Library; William Curtis, Program Manager – Library; Oscar Gittemeier, Program Manager – Library; Charlie Goldberg, Director of Marketing – SDPLF, Jill Eyres – Group 4 Architects

Public:

Joan Reese - FSDPL; Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF, Bonnie Domingos, Corrine Wilson, Kymberly Mueller, Laura Kohn, Mina Nguyen, Natalie Ganz, Neha Diggikar, Oscar Rendon, Pat Wilson, Scott Ehrig-Burgess, Steve Hermes

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Urushima-Conn at 12:30 pm via Zoom. Their last meeting was on October 6, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 6, 2021 minutes was approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

Joan Reese
President, Friends of the San Diego Public Library

The Friends of the San Diego Public Library doesn't have much to report yet again this month, although we've continued to be quite busy.

Friends chapters have continued to hold both outdoor and indoor book sales, and Friends' used bookstores are up and running—most on curtailed schedules relative to pre-pandemic times due to limited volunteer availability.

Online book sales continue to bring in some income for the “greater” FSDPL and several of our chapters.

At our October meeting Misty Jones presented an update on Matching Funds for Friends' leaders and very graciously answered numerous questions. We also heard a brief presentation from the president of the College-Rolando Friends chapter apprising other chapter leaders about the concerning situation that the College-Rolando Branch Library has been facing with respect to a proposed student apartment/mini-dorm development; this would require a zoning upgrade on the adjacent lot which includes the main access driveway into the library as well as most of the library's parking spaces. FSDPL has been following this situation for almost five years and has been supportive of the College-Rolando Friends in their efforts to work through the system and obtain a permanent solution that will protect library parking and ensure equitable access to library services for the College area and Rolando Park communities.

The next meetings of both the FSDPL board and of the Presidents' Advisory Council are scheduled for Saturday, November 13, and will be held virtually.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:

Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF

Patrick thanked everyone who participated in some way and are very supportive of this entire process. The Foundation is beginning its year-end fundraising push to get the resources and the tools necessary to provide some ongoing support to the library. Shout out to Bob Cronk, Raul Gudino, Misty Jones and Curtis Williams and all of the folks at the library, it's so exciting at this time of year to put together the stories and gather the stories of impact and whatnot that happened at the library at the last year and all I can say is Wow! this library has been so busy during the time it was closed, opening and now this year actually being open and welcoming people in. It gives me great joy and reading all of those stories and being able to pass those along to the people that support you.

The Foundation is in the process of rebranding, and we're doing this so that we can do a more effective job of conveying that library impact and being able to tell a story about how the Foundation serves. Early 2022, we look forward to sharing with you what that looks like in a way that we're telling that story, more importantly, telling your story and inviting more of our friends and neighbors to be a part of the library family.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

a. Report on Library Construction Projects

The Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library

This project's E Contract re-advertisement process is toward the end of its reviews cycles, and the City DSD's permit conversion from paper to digital process is about to complete.

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Parking Lot Expansion

The project is in its Final Design Phase, it is currently with the design consultant to address the City plan check review comments, for the building permit issuance and E Contract approval.

b. Update from Library Director

Hiring Updates - We just finished our Library Assistant III process and our Librarian I and II processes and we're hoping to be able to fill those positions in the next couple of weeks and get people on board so that we can get all of our remaining locations open Monday through Saturday. Sundays are going to be after the new calendar year before we tackle those but between these two positions, we have over 50 vacancies, so this is going to make a really a big impact on our staffing

Hotspots- We received emergency connectivity funding from the government to purchase more hotspots and Chromebooks. Our hotspot lending program is being well received. They are all checked out and in very high demand, and so we are adding an additional 1100 for 2000 total. Then we're going to have 2,000 Chromebook for lending as well. AT&T has been on the premises getting those catalogued, so that we can start lending them out.

Media Arts Internship - We're going to take put some youth ages 16 to 24 through some training with media arts Center at the City Heights Performance Annex and then roll them into being multimedia interns in the city. We had over 100 applications for 24 spots, so they started with cohort of 12 on Monday and then they're looking for their second 12 cohort. We have plenty of reason to continue this program and there is some additional state funding coming, and so I put this forward as a potential for that to continue it.

Point Loma Library - We had to close for about a week due to mold on the bottom floor in the music room. It has been abated and Facilities is in the process of building the walls. The top floor is reopened.

Vaccination Status - The commissioners received an email from the Office of the Boards of Commissions regarding vaccination status. Reminder to go online and indicate whether or not you are vaccinated. This is not a vaccine mandate for volunteers, this is just to let the Office of Boards and Commissions know what your status is at this point. We are still going to be doing meetings virtually for the time being.

Safety and Security Meeting - Commissioner Anderson brought it up at the last commission meeting, I just wanted to let you all know that we will be putting that as the sole agenda item for the December meeting and invite Captain Shawn Takeuchi, Neighborhood Policing Division San Diego Police Department and Hafsa Kaka Director, Homelessness Strategies and Solutions.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Library Master Plan – Jill Eyres (Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, Inc.)
<https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/about-the-library/library-master-plan>

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Urushima-Conn: It's just amazing because many of us have been involved in libraries for decades, and there's the things that we thought we knew and the things we kind of knew, and then the things we didn't know or we knew all about you know the four branches our House, so this was just really so insightful and to have a document that's updated from what we were working from before is just really incredible. That being said, thank you, Misty.

Commissioner Anderson: Gentle kudos to you, your team everyone that's contributed this, as you can tell a lot of thoughts gone into it so thank you for that and, just a quick note on the equity piece, I know I talked about public safety, a lot, I think we all do it's a big concern, I'll save my tangent for next month, but when you think of it from a preventative standpoint and ensuring that we're bringing in our future up right and ensuring this programming for them and keeping kids off the street, it all starts here so happy to make the motion for approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion by Commissioner Anderson to adopt Library Master Plan. Second by Commissioner Fitzsimons. Passed by unanimous vote.

The next Board of Library Commissioners meeting will take place on December 1, 2021 at 12:30 PM via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wendy Urushima-Conn adjourned the meeting at 1:03 PM.



Misty Jones
Director, Library Department

/tn