

## **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, October 5, 2022**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

##### **Commissioners:**

**Present:** Wendy Urushima-Conn, Elizabeth Hansen, Ben Moraga, Marshall Anderson, Shawna Hook-Held

**Absent:** Linda Sotelo

**Staff:** Misty Jones, Director – Library, Jennifer Jenkins, Deputy Director – Library; Raul Gudiño, Deputy Director – Library, Tricia Nool, Executive Assistant – Library; Ady Huertas, Program Manager – Library; Oscar Gittemeier, Program Manager – Library

**Presenters:** Sarah Hendy-Jackson and Maureen Meadows

##### **Public:**

Ann McDonald – FSDPL, Charlie Goldberg, Steve Hermes

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Urushima-Conn at 12:31 pm via Zoom. Their last meeting was on August 3, 2022.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The August 3, 2022 minutes was approved unanimously.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE**

None

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

Ann McDonald  
President, Friends of the San Diego Public Library

Our August and September FSDPL Board and President's Advisory Council meetings were hybrid meetings. Our October 10th meeting will also be hybrid. However, in the afternoon we will have an in-person Planning Meeting at Mission Valley Library. We will be reviewing our mission, vision, values and bylaws and will set goals for the year.

E.T. Perry Centennial Awards were made: Paradise Hills \$1,000.00 and Oak Park \$1,500.00 to strengthen and grow their chapters.

We decided not to participate in the Americorps VIP Member program this year, but left the door open for future participation.

The Friends shared the SDPL booth at the San Diego Book Festival at USD on August 20. We had a very good day selling books and gathering signatures for the Libraries and Parks for All.

We authorized a new computer to aid in the online books sales which are going so well.

Discover Books has installed 2 bins outside the UH Branch Library. This gives us a place to store boxes of books so that they can be picked up, even when we are not open. These bins are for us to donate our excess books and get some income for doing so.

Although the petition signature gathering is continuing, only half of the Friends chapters have participated. We are going to work on improving the participation in the next two months.

The Friends donated \$787.50 for expenses related to the new updated edition of Turning the Pages, a history of the SDPL written by Clara Breed, former head librarian of SDPL. The original edition of this book was published by FSDPL.

We have caught up on unpacking the boxes of books that had been stored in the center of our office area. Doing so has enabled us to schedule a floor cleaning on October 28 for the entire upper floor.

We are now able to accept large donations. This week several people and their vehicles picked up 60 boxes of books from an estate.

You are invited to come to our UH monthly book sale on the 3rd weekend of each month. We are open on Saturday from 9-3, and Sunday from Noon to 3. It is an amazing sale; you will not be disappointed. We also invite you to stop by on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings from 9-12 to volunteer or to see what we are doing.

**LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:**

Charlie Goldberg, Marketing Director – SDPLF

Library Master Plan - We're moving on to the community outreach phase of this effort and also some 90 minutes active listening sessions with the community. We'll be asking what they like, what they'd like to change, and what they'd like to add at their library location.

I want to thank Jennifer, Jenkins and Library executive team for helping pull together a group of library staff members at the end of the last month who were trained in how to lead those sessions. And so, we're working on getting those scheduled. I know some of you have reached out to us to help us make sure your communities know about these sessions as they're coming up. We really want as broad participation as possible from both library users and non-library users. So once that schedule is published, we'll be reaching out to you, and I'm asking your help to make sure we get as much participation possible.

Advocacy - The City Council had changed their schedule for when budget priority memos are due, so the first one was due September 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to the library staff, and Wendy and Anne for helping us put together a priority memo request to each council district that centered around materials, around maintenance budget, around increasing the city match again this year. I'm adding full time youth service librarians at every location. I think a week from tomorrow, we will hear from the IBA on what that report looks like. We'll know what our work is on the advocacy front through the end of the fall.

And then the last thing I have to mention is we are scheduling candidate forums with the two of the candidates in D6 Kent Lee and Tommy Hough. How we're hoping to get the schedule of the week of October 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you again to Wendy and Ann for agreement to participate as part of the library's transform SD Coalition to ask those candidates questions and participate in those forums. If you have questions that you would like to make sure that those candidates are asked about their library perspective and are not able to attend those, please make sure to forward to Patrick or me and will ensure that they are a part of the presentation catalogue.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

a. Report on Library Construction Projects

The Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library:

The new library building construction is ongoing, and bi-weekly progress meetings are scheduled on Thursdays, afternoon at the recreation center across the street from the project site. A meeting is scheduled in early October to review and discuss the proposed artwork samples, that are planned to be installed in the new building courtyard floor and walls.

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Parking Lot Expansion:

The design consultant is working on addressing the storm water, ADA, traffic, electrical and transportation review comments, meanwhile, the "ECON" process towards contract advertisement was started.

**Oak Park Library:**

AEP is working with the Environmental & Permitting Support team (EPS) is assessing the proposed project site for development impacts per CEQA. Concurrently, we are issuing the Statement of Qualifications for Design-Build contractors and should EPS determine the project is eligible for a CEQA Notice of Exemption, anticipate soliciting for Design Build Request for Proposals in the first quarter of calendar year 2023.

**Old Logan Heights Library Repairs:**

AEP is finalizing the A/E agreement to investigate the existing structure condition and prepare construction documents to restore the existing facility. Additionally, we are supporting ongoing community meetings to determine its future use with the next outreach meeting anticipated before the end of the calendar year.

**Ocean Beach Library:**

In May 2022, Project Team presented to the Ocean Beach Planning Board the three exterior design Concepts (options) that were previously voted on by the community: this community preferred option received approval through the OB Planning Board to be used as the basis of Design for library's expansion. From this point the plan is to proceed with environmental permitting; Coastal Development Permit and Mitigated Negative Declaration and completion of the bridging document to select a Design/build firm for the completion of the project. The environmental permitting phase is anticipated to take 12 to 16 months. We anticipate awarding the design-build contract in summer 2024, however this is contingent upon the project being fully funded.

**b. Update from Library Director**

The incident that happened on September 26<sup>th</sup> was very unexpected and unfortunately probably unavoidable because it was a very determined person. It is really, really traumatizing for Staff particularly after what they went through three years ago and what they go through on a daily basis. We've done a couple of things. We have a guard now stationed all the time on the 9th floor. The guards have been really good about patrolling. We had EAP come in the day of crisis. The intervention team responded immediately. They are talking to staff that were directly impacted, and then we've had EAP come in the next day. EAP did group and individual counseling sessions for staff, and we're continuing to stay engaged with them and working with HR to have group sessions and continue on, not just for this incident, but for a lot of the things that our staff deal with on a daily basis.

Hiring - We are going to be doing the librarian I and II two process fairly quickly and that is crucial to being able to get Ocean Beach open. That's the only one that we lack being open Monday through Saturday. They are down a Youth Services Librarian, so we need to get that position hired before we can get them reopened on Saturdays, then we're going to start adding Sundays. We've been working with our representative employee organization, MEA on the scheduling for Sundays. We've done a few surveys with staff to get their feedback. We're trying to really think about a work-life balance, try to be able to be as flexible as we can within the constraints. We do have a collective bargaining environment so that means that

our staff have to kind of work the same hours. We are trying to create as much flexibility as we can particularly for weekends and nights.

New Positions - Emily Derry replaced Ady Huertas as the new Supervising Librarian for Youth and Family Services. Monnee Tong replaced Jennifer Jenkins as the new Supervising Librarian for Area IV. Kelly Verheyden replaced Kelly Pepo as the new Supervising Librarian for Area II.

Employee of the Year - Jackie Angel was named one of the City's employees of the year. She was the employee of the year for our library department last year, and she was named a city employee of the year. Jackie served with me down at Operation Shelter to Home for about ten months as well. So, she was kind of my right hand down there and handled all of the staffing schedules and everything. She is really phenomenal.

Funding - We finally received the five hundred thousand dollars in Federal grant for improving the Linda Vista patio. We also received a million-dollar grant which was made possible through the Office of Congresswoman Sarah Jacobs for improvements to the surrounding area of the theater and the performance annex. We received another 3.3 million dollars in a State grant for the City Heights, and so that is going to be a fifty percent match from the city, so that gives us about six million total to do some much-needed improvements to the Black Box Theater and the Annex there at City Heights.

We have a program that we're working on with Council District 1, Councilmember Joe Lacava's office. They secured \$100,000 in this year's budget for program called Free4Me and that is free menstrual products for anyone to put in restrooms in Rec Centers and libraries, and we are hoping to get them in as many libraries as we can. The Free4Me is working with the County to make this available, and we're working on implementing that. That's going to make a huge difference for people who need that.

There's been a lot of protests and kind of negative things happening around books and censorship in many libraries. We're very fortunate here that we do not get many requests for challenges for the books. We have a policy that we follow and we've only once removed a title, and it wasn't because of censorship, it was because somebody challenged it, we found out that no one had checked it out in like the last five years so it's probably just not being used. But there's been more than the American Library Association has ever seen in its history and the majority of them are LGBTQ focused. There are a lot also that deal with critical race theory and there's one library that was completely defunded because their librarians did not remove books that had been challenged, and so their community voted not to continue to fund their library. I will say it is encouraging that we got a lot of media attention around banned books here. We talked to a lot of media outlets, there was a lot of interests in the banned books programming that we did. Our team did a phenomenal job. This is the time to speak up and make sure that people understand what a dangerous thing censorship is, what a slippery slope this is, and that we are going to continue to advocate, to make sure that everyone has access to information and that's part of what we're doing with our health information, the project that Oscar has been working along with the circuit libraries and just continuing to push that message to everyone.

You may have read this in the news that the City is getting a new Chief Operating Officer. Eric Dargan is coming from the City of Houston where he serves as the Executive Director of the Public Works Department. He's going to be coming in sometime in November. We have a meeting set up with him in December to brief him on the library department. Jay Goldstone will be staying on for a little while working on some special projects. He's so great, we're going to miss him, but really looking forward to having Eric Dargan on board.

#### **AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. GovDocs Presentation – Sarah Hendy-Jackson  
Sarah Hendy-Jackson presented to the Commissioners on GovDocs.
  
- b. A Kindness Rock Garden Grows at Rancho Peñasquitos Branch Library – Maureen Meadows  
Maureen Meadows presented on the rock garden at the Rancho Penasquitos library.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

Commissioner Anderson will be bringing a Public Safety letter to the Commissioners to be added to the November Agenda.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board of Library Commissioners meeting is adjourned. The next Board of Library Commissioners meeting will take place on November 2, 2022 at 12:30 PM via Zoom.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Wendy Urushima-Conn adjourned the meeting at 1:32 PM.



Misty Jones  
Director, Library Department

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