

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, September 1, 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

Public:

Joan Reese, Ann McDonald – FSDPL; Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF, Kim Laru, Jennifer Jenkins, Steve Hermes, Corinne Wilson

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Urushima-Conn at 12:35 pm via Zoom. Their last meeting was on August 4, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 4, 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 this month, although we've been quite busy. Our Friends' network has helped in getting the word out about the presentations and comment period for the Library Master Plan Phase 1 report.

Friends chapters have continued to hold both outdoor and indoor book sales, and several have reopened their used bookstores with enthusiastic reception from customers and those volunteers who have felt comfortable being in public spaces. Most Friends chapters have continued to meet virtually, although several have met or are planning to meet at their libraries, which is the customary venue in non-pandemic times. Online book sales continue to bring in some income for the "greater" FSDPL and several of our chapters.

In view of the very concerning public health situation, meetings for both the FSDPL board and the monthly meetings with chapter leaders will continue to be held virtually.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:

Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF

I just wanted to extend our gratitude on behalf of the Foundation and the board, and our supporters. Also, to Misty and her team for all they have been doing to ensure that library patrons are safe and communicated with. I know a lot is going on, as you can imagine we get a lot of questions. How libraries are being accessed and services that are available and it gives everyone a lot of pride to be able to say that our library team are just doing such an incredible job at making sure that access to the library is still attainable.

Master Plan Update - Thank you again to everyone who attended our August 24 event presentation and we had, I believe we had about 60 to 65 people attend, we had a very robust hour long conversation I probably could have gone on for longer but wanted to respect everyone's time. We will be presenting another presentation on Saturday September 18 at 2pm and there will be links to the presentation afterward. Charlie and Tricia can provide links.

I am hoping that I can entice everyone to join me at the September 22 public safety and livable neighborhoods committee in making comments and support. The pages are on the library's website pages with details and the times for the September 18 event.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Report on Library Construction Projects

The Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library

This project's E Contract process started, toward a re-advertisement, and all contract documents (including addendums) were consolidated. Concurrently, we are working with the

City DSD on updating this project's documents from paper to digital and transferring its building permit to the digital documents.

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Parking Lot Expansion

The project is in its Final Design Phase, and currently is with the City DSD's plan check review, for the building permit issuance and environmental review / approval.

b. Update from the Library Director

Carmel Valley is getting some new flooring in their lobby so they will be closed from October 4 – October 8. They will be doing pick up service during that time.

There are still 209 vacancies and 174 are new positions.

29 library locations are open and trying to get all branches to reopen.

Do your Homework Program is struggling but we're going to be looking at what we can do, moving forward on a plan for retention.

AGENDA ITEMS

a. Library Updates – Last week, we have gone back to mandatory masking in all of our libraries, and that is for the public and staff at least through September. We do our part to mitigate the rise of cases to make sure that our staff are safe and that the public is safe and so we've instituted that.

You may have read in the news that the city did declare that it will be mandatory for all city employees to be vaccinated and that deadline is November 2, 2021. No update yet regarding in-person meetings.

Robert Frost - It was a really good kickoff and was really well received Jim Hurley and Robert Haas, the Executive Director of the Frost Society and we're super pleased. The poet laureate San Diego was there, and he spoke so it was a really good.

We have some exciting news going on, so there's a lot of funding opportunities that are coming out of the state. Youth Diversion funding was given to the Economic Development Department and their budget this year is five hundred thousand dollars. It's geared for ages 16-24 for those in school or not to provide youth development opportunities for them and training.

Economic development department came to us to say if we had any existing programs that they could fund with this. We have an excellent program at the City Heights performance annex, where we have media arts center doing some workforce trainings in video production and filming and editing everything from working with clients to developing a script to doing a storyboard. They have been doing this training and they just had a film festival there for their students a couple of weeks ago. And I thought, well, what if we took this and we took about 30 students and we put them through this intensive training in the fall and then come January we have 30 interns for the city, whose sole focus is to use their video skills that they just acquired to help tell the city tell its story and to create promotional videos or recruitment videos or help with training videos. We always keep saying the city doesn't tell their story very well so I'm excited that we're going to be able to do this. The goal is to create a talent pipeline and to be able to retain some of these interns and use them in communications or City TV or even libraries and Parks and Recreation department to help with promotional opportunities.

The second opportunity is also youth development for 16 to 24-year-old. This money is coming from the state and it's about 19 million that San Diego would get and its workforce development. It's a three year long period that we would have to spend this money so, this could be an opportunity to expand this program and continue it, but also to fund library NExT.

Clara Breed - they're installing the barrack, it's a replication of the barracks at the internment camps and that the kickoff of that event will be September 18, 2021 from 12 to 2:00 PM here at the central library in the art gallery. We are going to be doing an art installation for that series of programs throughout the fall, so we are really excited to get that kicked off. We have written an additional chapter to Clara Breed's book Turning the Pages. It was published in the early 80's, but it covers the history of the San Diego public library up until 1982 so we've written an additional chapter that covers the last 40 years of the history which is really difficult to put 40 years into one chapter, but we managed to hit the highlights. We also got a new forward written by the State Librarian Greg Lucas, so we're going to be republishing that book for distribution.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

None

OTHER BUSINESS

The next Board of Library Commissioners meeting will take place on October 6, 2021 at 12:30 PM via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wendy Urushima-Conn adjourned the meeting at 1:15 PM.



Misty Jones
Director, Library Department

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