



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Mel Katz, Chair

Matthew Hervey • Susan Atkins • Susan Lew • Judy McCarty • MaryAnne Pintar • Katie Sullivan

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday September 5, 2007

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Matthew Hervey, Mel Katz, Judy McCarty, MaryAnne Pintar, Katie Sullivan

Absent: Susan Atkins, Susan Lew

Staff: Anna Tatár, Library Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Bruce Johnson, Deputy Director; Cynthia Meinhardt, Project Officer II; Carol Young, Senior Management Analyst

Public: Vickie Church, Shelia Padgett

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 2007 minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Vickie Church introduced incoming First Vice-President Shelia Padgett. The Friends' annual meeting will be held on Saturday, September 8 at 9:00 am at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library. Members will be voting on the strategic plan and bylaws. The strategic plan addresses fiscal planning, membership, marketing, leadership development and communication. A key change will entail moving some things out of the bylaws and into rules of conduct to allow more flexibility. Another change will be to allow all past presidents to have voting privileges.

Commissioner Hervey asked about reinstating the annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Ms. Tatár responded that it had not been held the past few years due to budget reductions which have resulted in a lack of funding for the event and a lack of staff available to plan and put on the event.

Commissioner Hervey asked to be provided the cost of holding the luncheon. He also suggested that the Library consider inviting some major donors to see the extent of volunteer activities if the luncheon is reinstated.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD

No Report.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Mel Katz

Commissioner Katz distributed and reviewed a list of upcoming library events including the *Dear Miss Breed* play at the Lyceum, the opening of the North University Community Branch Library, the Richard Lederer event in the Wangenheim Room, and Coffee and Conversation with Tracy Kidder at Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa in October.

DEPUTY CHIEF UPDATE

No report.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Anna Tatár

- Ms. Tatár distributed and reviewed a summary of FY 2007 activity levels. It shows a general growth in usage and square footage even though the operating budget and staff have been reduced.

Commissioner Pintar asked whether on-line usage of library resources is being tracked, as an increase in that area might explain the decreases in the reference question count. Bruce Johnson responded that staff is working with vendors to obtain accurate counts, and he noted that most libraries have noticed the increasing shift toward on-line resources for renewals, reserves, research and other services.

Commissioner Katz expressed concern about how vacancies are impacting the department, and asked if the number of vacant positions has been reduced since FY 2007. Ms. Tatár responded that there are fewer vacancies currently, but due to staff turnover there are always some vacancies, particularly in the hourly ranks. She noted that the installation of self-check machines should help to reduce the impact of reductions and vacancies.

Commissioner Katz asked how long it takes to fill a position. Meryl Balko responded that the time varies greatly depending upon the specific positions. Commissioner Sullivan noted that with reduced staffing, filling positions quickly is critical.

- Ms. Tatár circulated information about the building of the Philadelphia Free Library approximately 80 years ago, noting how similar the issues were at that time to the ones being faced to construct the new Main Library in San Diego today.
- The Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library will be receiving an award from the American Public Works Association.
- The Summer Reading Program experienced a 15 percent increase in sign-ups from the prior year.
- Information was distributed about the electronic resources available at the library, or remotely for library card holders.
- The new Integrated Library System will go live on September 11.
- Groundbreaking for the new Logan Heights library should be scheduled in October. *This event will take place November 8, 10:30 am, 567 South 28th Street at Ocean View Boulevard.** The 80th anniversary of the current branch will be celebrated on October 13.
- The Library will be partnering with San Diego Transit to tout the library as a destination, particularly on weekends when children ride free.
- Frank Goldstein has passed away. He was very involved with the Central Friends, and in the past helped develop sections of the branch master plan. His wife has designated the library to receive donations in his memory.
- The Library has received a 92 percent approval rating in the latest annual survey of City services.
- The Library is also partnering with the Museum of Man for its exhibit on Egyptology.

Commissioner Sullivan commented on how much she has liked the joint displays in the Central Library display windows.

AGENDA ITEMS

10.a Library System Update

Cynthia Meinhart provided a Capital Improvement Project Update. She announced that Darren Greenhalgh has been appointed Deputy Director of the Architectural Engineering and Parks Division. The contractor for the new Logan Heights Branch Library has been selected. The cost was under estimate and on budget due to value engineering of the project to reduce costs.

*Added after the meeting

10.b Budget Update

Motion

Motion was made by Commissioner Sullivan to request a report on the status of vacant benefited positions for the October Commission meeting, including how long each has been vacant and where each vacancy is in the filling process.

Seconded by Commissioner McCarty.

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion

Motion was made by Commissioner Pintar to ask staff to explore ways to track usage of on-line resources.

Seconded by Commission McCarty.

The motion passed unanimously.

10.c Legislative Update

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Katz adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.



ANNA TATÁR
Library Director

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