



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Katie Sullivan, Chair

Matthew Hervey • Susan Atkins • Judy McCarty • Mel Katz • Salvatore Giametta • Alan Ziegus

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Monday, March 23, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Katie Sullivan, Matthew Hervey, Mel Katz, Salvatore Giametta, Judy McCarty, Alan Ziegus

Absent: Susan Atkins

Staff: Deborah Barrow, Library Director; Bruce Johnson, Deputy Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Megan Lim; San Diego Public Library Development Director; Cynthia Meinhardt, Project Officer II; Dominika Bukalova, Research Analyst, IBA Office; Carol Tellez, Executive Secretary

Public: Brenda Mason, Vickie Church

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library. Commissioner Katz welcomed Alan Ziegus, newly appointed Library Commissioner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Correction to February 2009 Minutes: **REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**, second sentence

The 12th Annual Student Essay Contest is *May 7*, 2009.

The February 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Vickie Church

The Friends are continuing to assist with the Children's Book Festival (scheduled for May 9, 2009). Matching funds and the best way to utilize them to provide maximum contributions to the libraries was discussed at a recent meeting. Two separately incorporated Friends chapters, Scripps Ranch and Mira Mesa, are considering returning to the Friends Umbrella group.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Brenda Mason

The Serra Summer Reading Program Conference was held on February 12, 2009 and was very successful. There were 180 participants from San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties. The Border Library Issues conference was held on March 3, 2009, at the Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch Library. The program was so successful that counties in northern California are interested in hosting a similar conference.

AGENDA ITEMS

9.b Library System Update

Cynthia Meinhardt reviewed the written Capital Improvement Project Update report. The State Librarian extended the \$20 million grant agreement deadline on the New Central Library to July 1, 2009. This gives the City time to work with the School District to look closely at the project and possibly complete a feasibility study to identify a budget that pertains to incorporating a high school onto the 6th and 7th floors. Commissioner Katz commented that an exemption to the Field Act is being looked at.

Logan Heights Branch Library is under construction and approximately 75% complete. There has been a change from integral color in the stucco to painted accent colors on the stucco. The colors that were shown in the original schematics were very brilliant, and this cannot be achieved by mixing the color into the stucco. Ms. Barrow passed around samples for the accent colors. Ms. Barrow explained that this change occurred because the project manager and architect felt that they could not match the colors that were originally presented, that colored stucco was expected to fade, and it was costly.

Commissioner Hervey stated that the donor commitment to the Skyline Hills Library expired at the end of 2008.

Ms. Barrow reported that the Ocean Beach and Balboa Libraries could be eligible to compete for DIF (Developer Impact Fee) money to help fund these projects. Commissioner Katz commented that the City borrowed \$103 million from Bank of America for deferred maintenance projects, and that some libraries were included in this plan. Ms. Barrow listed the following libraries that are part of the deferred maintenance package:

- Ocean Beach and Mission Hills Libraries - new roofs
- North Park and Pacific Beach Libraries – HVAC (heating and air conditioning)
- Rancho Bernardo Library – elevator modernization
- Central Library – plumbing

Commissioner Hervey commented that two libraries were used as collateral for this loan. Ms. Barrow explained that Malcolm X and Scripps Miramar Ranch were the two libraries originally proposed as collateral. The Malcolm X Library was not used as collateral because it was a State

Library project, which means that the State is listed on the title. Scripps Miramar Ranch is the only library that was used as collateral.

Ms. Meinhardt commented that the Mission Hills Branch Library was submitted as part of the DIF package and could receive close to \$2 million.

Ms. Barrow mentioned there is no Federal stimulus money available for libraries. However, the State Library is working with the State to try to procure stimulus funding for renovation and/or expansion library projects. The funding would not be available for new construction. Ms. Barrow plans on submitting the Ocean Beach and Skyline Hills libraries for consideration.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Deborah Barrow

- Ms. Barrow reported the Library currently has a total of 34 vacancies; in effect:
25.0 FTE (full-time equivalent)
8.5 FTE from the PLF (Public Library Fund – staff transferred into vacant positions)
.5 PIO (Public Information Officer is working half-time on One San Diego project)
- Ms. Barrow distributed bookmarks and announced the Library has a new online system called Mango Languages. This is a free service and patrons can go online to learn a new international language.
- The Children's Book Festival is on May 9.
- A national exhibition on Abraham Lincoln will be at the Central Library on April 11 through May 8, 2009.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Katie Sullivan

Commissioner Sullivan asked Commissioner Giametta for an update on the Library's volunteer program. Mr. Giametta will report back at the next commission meeting.

The Commission appearance at the March PS&NS Committee was postponed and is being rescheduled for a later date.

AGENDA ITEMS (cont)

9.b Review of Library Fines and Fees

Ms. Barrow explained that the City has been examining the issue of fees and cost recovery, and that City Council has passed a General Fund User Fee policy. The Library has a number of fees, but is mostly fine based, and is not a revenue generating department. Traditionally, library fines have been a tool to encourage the public to return items on time. A memo regarding the proposed revision to the Library's fines and fees was posted on the Library's website, at branch libraries, and other public areas. This issue is scheduled to be heard at the Budget and Finance Committee at 9:00 am on April 1. Ms. Barrow reviewed the proposed Library Fines and Fees Schedule that was handed out to the commissioners, and answered questions about the Library's new pay-per-print system.

After a lengthy discussion about community rooms and adult library fees, the following motions were made:

Motion:

Commissioner Hervey moved to note how important community rooms are and how much the commissioners want branch libraries to be the hub of their community, and that fees not be raised for community room use. The fees for community room use were doubled four years ago and to raise the fees again could present a hardship for a lot of organizations.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCarty and passed unanimously.

Motion:

Commissioner McCarty moved to support the increase of the fines for Adult overdue books to .30 cents a day and maintain the maximum fine of \$20, which is the cost to replace the book.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hervey and passed unanimously.

9.c Budget Update

Ms. Barrow stated there is nothing new to report at this time.

9.d Legislative Update

Legislative Day is on April 15, 2009, and Commissioner Sullivan and Ms. Barrow will be attending. CLA is actively working on trying to lower the threshold for library bond measures and is encouraging Legislative Day participants to discuss this with their Legislators.

Ms. Barrow received an inquiry from Council Member Young's office asking if there was a need for funding for the Skyline Hills Branch Library. The legislator for that particular area, Congressman Bob Filner, is willing to request an allocation of \$25,000 to Skyline for equipment and materials, if the Library can match it.

9.4 Foundation Update – Megan Lim

For the sixth year, the Foundation has met the \$1 million threshold for the City's match for the books and equipment fund, and is on track to meet the full \$1.25 million.

The Marketing and Communications Committee is working on Library Padres Day. The Padres are a partner for the Summer Reading Festival, and just donated 20,000 tickets.

The Second Annual Children's Book Festival is Saturday, May 9. Last year about 5,000 people attended, and this year they are expecting 7,000-10,000. Rana Sampson is the honorary chair.

One Book, One San Diego reception with author Diane Ackerman has been rescheduled (see handout for details).

The Library Connection newsletter has been re-launched. It is an online newsletter that provides information about library programs and services. A forward friendly version will be coming out this month.

OTHER BUSINESS

The possibility of changing the date and time of future commission meetings will be discussed at the next meeting. There will be no meeting on April 1. The next meeting is scheduled for May 6.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Deborah L. Barrow

DEBORAH L. BARROW
Library Director

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