



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Katie Sullivan, Chair

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

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, June 03, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Katie Sullivan, Matthew Hervey, Mel Katz, Salvatore Giametta, Judy McCarty, Alan Ziegaus, Susan Atkins

Staff: Deborah Barrow, Library Director; Bruce Johnson, Deputy Director, Central; Kathleen Wheatley, OCA Deputy Director, Branches; Jay Hill, San Diego Public Library Foundation Executive Director; Deputy City Attorney Paul Prather; Carol Tellez, Executive Secretary

Public: Brenda Mason, Shelia Padgett

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Shelia Padgett

The “hot topic” at this month’s Friends meeting was book sales. Chapter bylaws and overall bylaws are being updated. The annual Friends meeting will be September 12 at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library. Friends membership applications were distributed.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Brenda Mason

Serra submitted their FY 2009/2010 Plan of Service to the State Library. The Oak Park Branch Library is having a book sale from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm on June 13.

AGENDA ITEMS

9.a Deputy City Attorney Paul Prather – Presentation on Brown Act

Mr. Prather gave a brief power point presentation on the Brown Act and answered questions from Library Commissioners and staff.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Katie Sullivan

Commissioner Sullivan attended the memorial service for Friends founder Betty Sherman.

The Children's Book Festival was on May 9 and over 7,000 people attended this successful event. Commissioner Sullivan thanked everyone involved for the great job they did.

The Carnegie Society Annual Tea was held on May 19 at the Mission Valley Branch Library, and was very well attended. Representatives from READ/San Diego gave an overview of the impact their program has and how it can change lives.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Deborah Barrow

- Ms. Barrow reported that 19 people from Branches and 5 from Central are retiring. The Library has 42 positions that have been approved to fill at this time. Kathleen Wheatley is serving in an Out of Class Assignment (OCA) for Meryl Balko, Deputy Director of Branch Libraries, who recently retired. The Library is actively recruiting for this position and has received 34 applications.
- The Library's Customer Service Survey, which is part of the City's Performance Measures, is available on our website from June 1-12, 2009.
- "DAVKA, The Survival of a People, *From Shoah to Survival...in San Diego*" is an extraordinary multi-media exhibit on display on the first floor of Central. It documents the survival of people from the Holocaust.
- The Children's Book Festival was very successful and Ms. Barrow thanked Library and Foundation staff for their joint efforts in coordinating this wonderful event.
- The Library recently received a \$200 donation for a staff member in the Art and Music Section for "patience and exceptional service."
- The Summer Reading Program is from June 15 through August 15, 2009. The theme for children is, "Be Creative @ Your Library," and the theme for teens is, "Express Yourself." Kids and teens who sign up and read 10 books or 100 pages during this time period earn prizes, including 2 free Padres tickets, free food coupons and free museum passes.

- Bestselling author Lisa See will perform a reading from her book *Shanghai Girls* at the Central Library Auditorium on Wednesday, July 1, at 6:30 pm.
- Some of the other positions the Library is recruiting for now are Account Clerk, Auto Messenger, Information Systems Analyst III, Information Systems Technician, Librarian I, II, III IV, Library Assistant, Library Aide and Library Clerk.

AGENDA ITEMS

9.a Library System Update

Cynthia Meinhardt was unable to attend the meeting. Deborah Barrow gave a verbal report on the Library's Capital Improvement Projects.

The City and School District are reviewing options to incorporate the high school into the New Central Library. A meeting with State Library staff is scheduled for next week. The deadline to report back to the State Library is June 30.

Skyline Hills Branch Library project is on hold waiting for funds for construction and on-going operational costs. The San Diego Foundation's/Hervey Family Trust Fund commitment to this project expired at the end of last year. Money previously advanced on the project will be returned, as requested.

9.b Budget Update

- Ms. Barrow reported on mid-year budget adjustments. She explained how \$3.8 million from the Library System Improvement Fund was used to balance the FY2010 proposed budget.

Motion:

Commissioner Sullivan moved that the Library Commissioners send a letter to the Mayor and City Council stating that if the parking meter fee increase is implemented, that \$3.8 million in revenue from the parking meter fee be used to reimburse the Library System Improvement Fund.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hervey and passed unanimously.

- Ms. Barrow explained that the Library Ordinance was established in December 2000 to ensure that the City's libraries are adequately funded. Due to budgetary constraints, this Ordinance has been waived by City Council.

Motion:

Commissioner McCarty moved that the Library Commissioners send a letter to the Mayor and City Council reaffirming the Commissioners' previous motion that given the economic situation with the City it may be necessary to waive the Library Ordinance. The Commissioners do not support permanently rescinding the Ordinance.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Giametta and passed unanimously.

- Ms. Barrow attended a Special Budget and Finance Committee earlier today. The Mayor's May Revision to the Proposed FY2010 budget was reviewed. The Council requested that the Library look into an RSVP type volunteer program. This would be a formal program that could utilize retired teachers and professionals.
- Commissioner Giametta reported that he met with Ms. Barrow and Mr. Mottola a few months ago regarding an RSVP volunteer program. The City is exploring the possibility of creating a centralized volunteer program again. The Library has over 2,500 volunteers. Issues with recruiting more volunteers would be training, space to operate in, and the need to be supervised if they have interactions with children. Ideas on how the Commissioners could recognize volunteers were discussed.
- Ms. Barrow mentioned that background checks and fingerprinting are now required by law for volunteers who work unsupervised with seniors, homebound persons, and children.
- Ms. Barrow reported there is a new magazine called "Our City: San Diego." In their first issue, "Best of the City" they chose the Central Library as "Best Library for Kids With Events for Kids."
- The Library, along with KPBS, received an award from the California Teachers of English Association for the One Book, One San Diego Program.

9.c Legislative Update

None.

9.d Foundation Update – Jay Hill

Mr. Hill gave a brief overview of the Foundation's structure, revenues and expenses.

High level volunteer support has increased 33% from last year.

The Carnegie Society Annual Tea held May 19 was very successful.

For the 6th consecutive year the Foundation exceeded \$1.25 million to Matching Funds.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

Deborah L. Barrow

DEBORAH L. BARROW

Library Director

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