



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, August 05, 2009

## ATTENDANCE

### Commissioners:

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

**Staff:** Deborah Barrow, Library Director; Christine Siegel, Deputy Director, Central; Jay Hill, San Diego Public Library Foundation Executive Director; Carol Tellez, Executive Secretary

**Public:** Brenda Mason, Shelia Padgett

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 12:31 p.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library. Commissioner Sullivan welcomed Christine Siegel, the new Deputy Director of the Central Division. She also welcomed Kathleen Wheatley, the new Deputy Director of Branch Libraries. Ms. Wheatley was unable to attend the meeting.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

## REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

## NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Shelia Padgett

The Friends Annual Meeting is Saturday, September 12, 2009 at the Pt. Loma/Hervey Branch Library. Elections will be held at the meeting. Vickie Church is retiring, and John McAllister is running for President. Chapter by-laws are still being developed.

**SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD:** Brenda Mason

None.

**CHAIR'S UPDATE:** Katie Sullivan

Deferred to Agenda Items.

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:** Deborah Barrow

- The State Librarian authorized an extension of the grant agreement for the New Main Library to August 1, 2010.
- Approximately two weeks ago former State Librarian Kevin Starr appeared at Warwick's in La Jolla to discuss his new book, *Golden Dreams: California in an Age of Abundance 1950-1963*. Mr. Starr mentioned his support of the New Main Library, as a major project for the Proposition 14 funds, and commented he hoped the project would go forward.
- The Library is in the process of hiring staff and filling vacancies.
- Attendance and circulation at the Library has increased this past fiscal year. Attendance increased from 6.2 million to 6.6 million. Circulation increased from 7.37 million items loaned to 7.65 million items loaned. This occurred even though throughout the year, approximately one library per month was closed for repairs/upgrades.
- The Summer Reading Program has been a success and the Padres tickets have been very well received.
- Ms. Barrow mentioned her visit at the Chicago Public Library where she received a tour from Commissioner Mary Dempsey. The building of this central library in the early 1990s helped transform the community. It has nine floors, is over 700,000 square feet, and receives 5,000 visitors a day.
- Ms. Barrow distributed an article on the homeless. It explained an ordinance that was passed in 2006 that due to a shortage of shelter beds, allows the homeless to sleep on public property during specific hours.
- The Central Library showed a documentary film on Nelson Mandela, *Viva Nelson Mandela: A Hero For All Seasons*, on Saturday, July 18, 2009. A host of other programs are provided at the libraries each month.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**9.a Library System Update**

Commissioner Katz gave a detailed update on the New Main Library. The State Librarian granted an extension of the agreement until August 1, 2010. If certain provisions are met, the agreement could be extended until August 1, 2014, for the completion of the project. An estimated timeline for the project is as follows:

- End of September/Early October 2009 – Council authorizes RFP
- Early February 2010 – Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) proposals due
- End of March/Early April 2010 – Council authorizes start of construction – Foundation secures an additional \$12 million
- Early May 2010 – Start construction
- January 2012 – Council authorizes Phase 2 – Foundation secures an additional \$12 million
- January 2013 – Completion of project – Foundation secures an additional \$12 million
- July 2013 – Grand Opening

In addition to the timeline above, Ms. Meinhardt mentioned the project will go before Rules, CCDC and Council for approval and authorization of the bidding phase, and for amendments to the agreements beyond five years. Potential naming rights for the New Main Library were discussed. The Foundation has applied for Solar Stimulus Funds for the New Main Library.

Logan Branch Library is 91% complete and the grand opening is scheduled for this fall. Mr. Hill distributed a fact sheet on the new library.

Mr. Hill will be meeting with Uptown Partnership regarding potential funding for the parking component for the Mission Hills Library.

### **9.b Budget Update**

Ms Barrow asked the commissioners what their priorities for Library services would be if further budget reductions became necessary. The commissioners discussed at length what the effects of reducing hours and/or closing facilities would be. Ultimately the consensus of the commissioners was if necessary, reduce hours and not close facilities.

Commissioner Hervey requested that having Children Youth Librarians be a priority. The commissioners discussed updating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library Plan, and restated their support of this plan moving forward when funding becomes available. In previous meetings with the commissioners, the Council Offices have also expressed their support of this plan. Commissioner Sullivan asked what other technologies are available to help libraries save money. Ms. Barrow mentioned the Library has implemented self-check machines and print vend. She discussed the feasibility and cost effectiveness of implementing other technologies such as PC reservations and RFID.

### **9.c Legislative Update**

None.

### **9.d Foundation Update – Jay Hill**

August 5<sup>th</sup> was Community Partner's Day at Petco Park and members of the Library, Friends and Foundation were recognized on the field prior to the game. Foundation member Gus Magee represented the Library.

The Summer Reading Program is doing great, and children and teens who finish reading ten books receive two free Padres tickets.

The Foundation has arranged hard hat tours of the new Logan Library.

Qualcomm donated \$40,000 to the Families for Literacy Program. Mr. Hill thanked Commissioner Sullivan for her assistance with this donation.

The Summer Reading Program received a \$5,000 grant from Target.

The Association for Fundraising Professionals (AFP) is having a chapter meeting and luncheon event at the Mission Valley Library on Friday, August 7, at 11:30 am. The topic is Social Media.

The Urban Land Institute is hosting a forum on the New Main Library on Tuesday, August 11, at 7:30 am at the University Club.

August 23 is Library Day at Petco Park. The Library will receive a portion of the proceeds for this event.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Hervey thanked staff from the Information Desk at Central for the outstanding service he received.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

***Deborah L. Barrow***

DEBORAH L. BARROW  
Library Director

CT