



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## 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, November 29, 2006

### ATTENDANCE

#### Commissioners:

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

**Absent:** Susan Atkins, Susan Lew

**Staff:** Anna Tatár, Library Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Esther Siman, Acting Deputy Director; Afshin Oskoui, Deputy Director; Cynthia Meinhardt, Project Officer II; Darren Greenhalgh, Senior Civil Engineer; Dennis Gooler, Acting Assistant to the Director; Carol Young, Senior Management Analyst

**Public:** Tom Jamieson, Stan Siegel

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 2006 minutes were approved unanimously.

### REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

### NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### 10.a Library System Update

Afshin Oskoui introduced Cynthia Meinhardt, who will be taking over the new Main Library project from Darren Greenhalgh, in addition to overseeing branch library projects. Mr.

Greenhalgh then provided an update of the new Main Library project. Plan check should be completed in January or February 2007. Over 7,000 tons of contaminated soil has been removed during the remediation of the site, which was more than anticipated. The remediation should be done in December.

A written summary of new Main Library ADA issues was reviewed. The biggest modification was to add ramps to the front entrance, making the ramps the primary access point instead of the stairs.

Mr. Oskoui reviewed the written CIP report to update the Commission on branch library projects.

**REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:** Stan Siegel

The Friends have started a strategic planning process to strengthen the organization. When completed, the report will be brought to the Library Commission.

The Friends have agreed that retaining the quality of Library service is of prime importance when it comes to budget recommendations.

Mr. Siegel will assist the Library in working with high tech/biotech organizations to get them involved in the North University community and new branch library. Ms. Tatár noted that the book collection of the branch library can be geared to this theme, as can exhibits. Commissioner Hervey suggested using exhibits to highlight local high tech publications. Commissioner Pintar noted that the public art, which includes a sculpture of a DNA strand, is also geared to the theme.

**SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD:** Tom Jamieson

The State Library has formed a group of four representatives from northern California library systems to review how the State Library provides services. The proposed Ask Now System has some concerned locally because of the cost.

The Advisory Board will reduce the number of meetings from six to five annually. Serra will hold a retreat in May, which will be used as a training meeting for the Advisory Board.

**CHAIR'S UPDATE:** Mel Katz

Philanthropy Day was very successful, with more than 800 attendees. Video tributes for each honoree, including Commissioner Hervey, were shown.

Susan Atkins is the newest Library Commissioner. She will be sworn in at the January meeting.

More than 100 attendees will be at this evening's Serra Mesa – Kearny Mesa Branch Library reception, including the Mayor.

Commissioner Katz noted that development is going on all around the new Main Library site, and the new construction is very well done.

### **DEPUTY CHIEF UPDATE**

No report.

### **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:** Anna Tatár

- A fact sheet about the new Serra Mesa – Kearny Mesa library was distributed. Councilmember Frye is working on an endowment to fund Sunday hours.
- Ms. Tatár announced that Esther Siman has been appointed to the Central Library Deputy Director position, and Dennis Gooler has been appointed to the Assistant to the Director position until the permanent Deputy Director position is filled.
- A donor has committed to providing \$70,000, and the San Diego Unified School District will be contributing \$80,000 to retain the Live Homework Help online service provided by Tutor.com.
- Mr. Gooler reported that San Diego has been selected by the State Library to do a three year pilot project for online resources with the School District. Students will need a library card to access the resources, and the Library will work with the School District on an initiative to get library cards to students.
- In January the Mayor will announce the One Book One City program in San Diego. It is based upon a successful program initiated in Seattle. The Friends of the Library will be involved in assisting with book discussions, and extra copies of *Enrique's Journey*, the book selected for the program, will be ordered. KPBS received a grant to promote the program in the spring.

Commissioner Sullivan suggested providing a copy of the book to Councilmembers, which will be done when the program is recognized before the City Council in January.

- Arian Collins has been promoted to a Supervising Public Information Officer at the Water Department. Senior Management Analyst Dianne Parham will be retiring in January. She has done a great job doing the budget, benchmarking, as well as developing and overseeing grants.
- Mr. Gooler reported on the visit by six librarians from Iraq who came with State Department translators to tour the Central Library.
- The LOLA committee has selected Jerome Rothenberg to receive the award at the Local Authors' Reception in January. He has authored 60 books.

- Ms. Tatár provided a report on the San Diego Circuit, a regional consortium of academic libraries. The County Library will be participating in the program. The goal of the Circuit is to provide same-day delivery of materials between academic libraries and other member libraries. SDPL would need to purchase a software module in order to participate and interact with their online systems

This item will be brought back to the January Commission meeting for further discussion.

## **AGENDA ITEMS, Cont.**

### **10.b Budget Update**

Staff is working on Business Process Re-engineering (BPR). Results will initially go to the Mayor, and then will be presented to the Library Commission. Ms. Balko reported that the Library has been benchmarking with other public and academic libraries as part of the BPR process. SDPL does well relative to other large library systems, and our fines and fees are comparable even though San Diego is funded lower than many other libraries.

### **10.c Legislative Update**

No report.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Katz adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.



ANNA TATÁR  
Library Director

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