



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF  
LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Mel Katz, Chair

Matthew Hervey  
Susan Lew  
Judy McCarty  
MaryAnne Pintar  
Natalie Rencher  
Katie Sullivan

MINUTES  
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS  
SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2005

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commissioners:**

**Present:** Mel Katz, Judy McCarty, MaryAnne Pintar (via conference call), Katie Sullivan

**Absent:** Susan Lew, Natalie Rencher, Matthew Hervey

**Staff:** Ellen Oppenheim, Deputy City Manager; Anna Tatár, Library Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Margaret Kazmer, Deputy Director; Afshin Oskoui, Deputy Director; Jay Hill, Director of Development; Darren Greenhalgh, Senior Civil Engineer; Arian Collins, Senior Public Information Officer; Dianne Parham, Senior Management Analyst

**Public:** Arturo Castro/Tucker Sadler Noble Castro Architects; Vicky Church/Friends of the San Diego Public Library; Christina Clifford; Ron Rudolph/Turner Construction; Rob Quigley

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The November 2005 minutes were approved.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE**

None.

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:** Vicky Church

Vicky Church affirmed the support of the Friends of the San Diego Public Library for the New Main library and the need to continue forward with the project.

**SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD:** Tom Jamieson

None. Mr. Jamieson was absent.

**CHAIR'S UPDATE:** Mel Katz

Commissioner Katz reported that there were potential donors who are interested in the Main Library project. The funders wanted an accurate cost of construction. Now that there is an updated report, Commissioner Katz expects major announcements to be made in the next two months. Commissioner McCarty asked if the target for fundraising was still \$35 million, or would it be more because of the increased cost estimate. Commissioner Katz indicated that the gap is now \$85 million, but it could be filled by donations from private funders, foundations, or other sources. He mentioned that there was going to be a new bond measure for \$600 million in library projects and wants the library to pursue funding from that source if it is approved. Commissioner McCarty said that she felt that it would be advantageous if the announcements were made as soon as possible. Commissioner Katz said that the City Council wanted a report when \$30 million was raised, and that the City Council will have to approve going forward prior to the targeted July 2006 construction start date.

Commissioner Katz announced Doris Kearns Goodwin is discussing her book *Team of Rivals* as part of the "Great American Writers Series." On December 3 at Petco Park Auditorium, there will be a reception from 6-7 p.m., and lecture and discussion from 7-8. In November the featured author and National Book Award recipient was Jonathan Kozol. On January 12, 2006, Richard Reeves will be appearing at the Scripps Ranch Library as part of the "Great American Writers Series" to discuss his new book, *President Reagan: Triumph of Imagination.*

**MANAGER'S UPDATE:** Ellen Oppenheim

Deputy City Manager Oppenheim said that administration is currently in transition. Mayor Elect Sanders will be sworn in on December 5. Ronne Froman has been sworn in as interim City Manager, and has been meeting with department directors to start outlining a staffing plan. City Manager Froman laid out an organization chart that clustered City services. At this point, Deputy City Manager Oppenheim assumes that the Library Department will fall under Neighborhood Services, but more will be known after the first of the year. The full administrative team may not be in place until June 30, 2006. There is a possibility that Mayor-Elect Sanders will call for special council meetings to be held December 12 and 13. Councilmember Peters will be the Council President once a Strong Mayor Form of Governance starts as of January 1, 2006.

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:** Anna Tatár

Director Tatár congratulated Commissioner Katz on being honored at National Philanthropy Day and at the Copley YMCA Awards dinner. She thanked him for providing a library table at these two events.

Director Tatár announced that the library was the beneficiary of a collection valued at \$40,000. Seventy volumes of rare books were donated by Jane Tatum through the persuasion of the Friends of the Library.

- Development Report: Jay Hill
  - Jay Hill announced that fundraising was significantly ahead of what had been brought in last year, and distributed a report to reflect those increases.
  - Commissioner McCarty asked about the volunteers in the Development Office, and Jay Hill said they were paying for contractors through contributions, and utilizing a large number of volunteers.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **10.a Library System Update**

Deputy City Manager Oppenheim said that the updated cost estimate for the Main Library was important since the project will be dependent on philanthropy. If the project is to begin construction in July of 2006, Council will need to provide approval in April of 2006, and that approval is contingent on fundraising.

Afshin Oskoui introduced the project team that had come to the Commission meeting and provided a review of how the updated report was created. He said that prices were being driven by construction costs, which have been impacted by the demand for concrete and steel created by recent disasters which also caused the local industry to be working at 125% of capacity. He said that parts of the project that had been previously an additive alternative to keep the costs down to below \$150,000, have been reintroduced to the project (this includes the auditorium). There was also an increase in technology, equipment and furnishings.

Afshin Oskoui reaffirmed the importance of a significant commitment from private resources by April of 2006. Deputy City Manager Oppenheim said that the Council will be determining policy issues about the amount they are comfortable with as a pledge versus cash. Afshin Oskoui said that \$1.5 million per month is added to construction costs for each month of delay after July 2006.

Commissioner Pintar asked about the guaranteed maximum price and the impact of this on escalating costs. Afshin Oskoui said that once there is an assurance of funding, Turner Construction will work on the guaranteed maximum price and request bids for 80%-85% of the project. A portion of the construction costs and a contingency fund is established for changes that happen as a project progresses. Commissioner Pintar asked if the \$185 million cost included projections for cost increases, and Afshin Oskouri said cost delays were built in up to an anticipated July 2006 start date. Changes that are the result of the City wanting to alter the project after the guaranteed maximum price has been set are the responsibility of the City.

Commissioner Katz said that contractors won't spend money to bid unless they see the money from donors, and then asked Rob Quigley if the budget cuts had reduced the quality of the project. Rob Quigley said that the unique features of the library have been retained. Afshin Oskoui said that two additive alternatives will be included if funding becomes available: a book conveyor (\$1.5-\$2 million) and photovoltaics (\$2.5-\$3 million). Commission McCarty felt the book conveyor was very important, just as the durability and quality of bookshelves would be important. Rob Quigley said that certain aspects of the library, such as the elevators and the bookshelves, were not value engineered—the assumption is that the library will be built to last one hundred years.

Director Tatár stated that library staff worked closely with the architectural and engineering team to minimize costs related to the maintenance of the new facility. It was an important consideration in selecting building materials, finishes, mechanical systems, and furnishings. As the building program was developed, important consideration was given to consolidate service points for customer's ease in use of the building and also help contain staff operating costs.

Director Tatár also stated that while staffing level for the New Main library is planned at the same level as in the existing Central Library, the Library Building Program consultant has indicated that staffing level for the New Main will be adequate. In order to pay for the increased operating cost of the New Main library, new revenue opportunities are being created through the leasing of two entire floors, charging for parking from 250 spaces (apart from the two hours of free parking for library users), rental space, and proceeds from the sales at the Library store, the café, and the gallery.

Commissioner Sullivan indicated her concern that the report indicated an increase in computers when computers are going down in price, but Afshin Oskoui said that column referred to technology infrastructure, and not just equipment.

Afshin Oskoui said that a presentation may be made to CCDC next week, and they have asked for a fundraising report from the San Diego Library Foundation in January.

There was a general discussion of the importance of realistic numbers.

Other libraries:

- Otay Mesa is the closest to being completed (Spring, 2006).
- North University Community and Serra Mesa are progressing.
- Logan Heights is going out to bid in January/February.
- Commissioner Hervey and Deputy City Manager Oppenheim plan to meet with Councilmember Young to discuss progress on the Skyline Hills branch library.
- San Carlos is having the design paid by Developer Impact Fees. There is still funding needed for land acquisition. It will take about a year for construction design.

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

Commissioner Katz asked Deputy City Manager Oppenheim about the budget. She said that the Mayor will prepare the budget by April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Council acts on it, the Mayor then can exercise a line item veto, and the Council can override his vetoes. The entire process needs to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Deputy City Manager Oppenheim anticipates that the hearings on department budgets will be scheduled earlier than they have been in the past, and there will be more information in January. Commissioner Sullivan asked about when the Commission should meet with the City Councilmembers and Deputy City Manger Oppenheim said that it was always a good time to educate the Council on issues; especially since the two new councilmembers will not be as familiar with the Library Ordinance as the others. She expects the new councilmembers to be sworn in by the end of January. Commissioner Katz said that a letter regarding the Development Office will go out soon.

### **10.e Legislative Update**

Director Tatár indicated that a Request for Council Action has been placed on the Supplemental Docket for next week requesting an increase in the number of branches included in the pool for matching materials funds, the establishments of a matching program fund, a 100% match for the equipment fund, and the inclusion of consultants in the matching funds for the Cay Montgomery Tech Fund. Director Tatár distributed a flyer regarding the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2006, which will make \$600 million available for library construction.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Katz adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

ANNA TATÁR  
Library Director

dp