



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, JANUARY 4, 2006

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Mel Katz, Matthew Hervey, Susan Lew, Judy McCarty,
MaryAnne Pintar, Natalie Rencher, Katie Sullivan

Absent: None

Staff: Ellen Oppenheim, Deputy Chief; Anna Tatár,
Library Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Margaret
Kazmer, Deputy Director; Afshin Oskoui, Deputy Director;
Jay Hill, Director of Development; Dianne Parham, Senior
Management Analyst

Public: Vickie Church/Friends of the San Diego Public Library;
Thomas Jamieson, Serra System Advisory Board; Christina
Clifford

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ellen Oppenheim noted the following correction needed to be made to the December 2005 minutes (Section 10.a Library System Update): "He also said that parts of the project that had been previously an additive alternative to keep the costs down to below \$150,000, \$150 million have been reintroduced to the project (this includes the auditorium)." The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

A birthday cake and card for Katie Sullivan was presented. January 20th is Matthew Hervey's birthday.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Vickie Church

Vickie Church reported that there had been no regular meeting of the Friends in December, but noted that there had been a number of “Letters to the Editor” in the *San Diego Union-Tribune* in support of the Main Library.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Tom Jamieson

Mr. Jamieson reported that the State has not yet presented a budget for the Serra System. The first and second candidates for the System Coordinator position have declined the offer. The Metropolitan Transit System donated DVDs about Rosa Parks to the branch libraries. Mr. Jamieson also presented a \$7,500 check to Anna Tatár, and a \$2,000 check for the Main Library Building Fund. Vickie Church asked where donations could be directed if someone wanted to donate to the Main Library, and Mel Katz recommended the San Diego Library Foundation.

CHAIR’S UPDATE: Mel Katz

Commissioner Katz talked about Doris Kearns Goodwin discussing her book *Team of Rivals* as part of the “Great American Writers Series” on December 3 at Petco Park Auditorium. George Mitrovitch and Jerry Sanders and his wife were there, and the speaker was introduced by John Moores who spoke of his support for the library. Anna Tatár thanked the Commission for their service and distributed to the Board signed copies of Dr. Goodwin’s book. She also indicated that UCSD tapes the program and allows it to be accessed for viewing on their website at <http://www.ucsd.tv/schedule/index.asp?keyword=11371>.

Commissioner Katz said that the *Union-Tribune* ran a positive editorial about the Main Library and the escalating construction cost. Letters of support for the New Main were printed together on a single page. There was also an article in the Real Estate Section of the *Daily Transcript*, and the *San Diego Metropolitan* printed an article written by Commissioner Katz in its January issue.

Commissioner Katz is working with four potential donors and expects a major announcement in a couple of months.

DEPUTY CHIEF’S UPDATE: Ellen Oppenheim

Deputy Chief Oppenheim said that Mayor Sanders had unveiled a new organizational structure that is still being refined. From now until June, City government will be restructured. At this time, the new administrators that are known are as follows:

- Jay Goldstone, from Pasadena, who will act as Chief Financial Officer and starts in January.
- Jo Anne SawyerKnoll from City Schools is also starting later this month. She will be overseeing Ethics and Integrity.
- Kris Michell is in place, and is in charge of Community and Legislative Services.
- Richard Haas, from the County’s Environmental Services Department, started in December in his role with oversight for Public Works.

- For Public Safety, the Fire and Police Chiefs may, or may not, report directly to the Chief Executive Officer and Mayor.
- It is likely that the Library and Park & Recreation Departments will come under Neighborhood Services.
- Land Use and Economic Development has not had an announcement yet.

There is a general sense of the functions. The Deputy Chiefs will be working together to determine the distribution of the departments, which may result in a reshuffling of duties. The immediate focus will be on managing contracts in one place, reviewing the Human Resources process, Information Technology (IT), and administrative functions. Process reviews and creating teams will take place through June.

Councilmember McCarty asked when the status of current unclassified staff would be known. Deputy Chief Oppenheim said resignations would be requested from 300 unclassified staff, and the intention is to hold these resignations for evaluation and accept the appropriate ones. She expects there to be significant cuts in the unclassified ranks.

Commissioner Sullivan asked if it would be appropriate for the Commission to send a letter to the Mayor about the community support for Library staff, and list specific achievements to substantiate the request. Deputy Chief Oppenheim said that she felt the Mayor would appreciate such feedback.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Anna Tatár

Director Tatár announced that the library is planning a Children's Book Festival partnership with the City Club.

Director Tatár also said that fifty hard copies of *Dear Miss Breed* have been donated by the publisher and a donation from a contributor is allowing for the purchase of thirty more. The national launch of the book will take place on February 23rd at an event in partnership with the San Diego Japanese Historical Society. Author Joanne Oppenheim, who is going to be interviewed for *San Diego Magazine*, will then go to the Japanese American National Museum where she will be honored at a luncheon. Director Tatár said that three or four months of programming is being planned, including a Reader's Theater. She is also looking into the possibility of having a postage stamp made in Miss Breed's honor. Matthew Hervey brought up the personalized postage stamps that can be made on request.

Director Tatár said that art critic Robert L. Pincus picked the Robin Bright display at the Pacific Beach Library as one of the year's best ten art exhibits.

Director Tatár said that the Pacific Beach Town Council Opinion survey for 2005 gave the library the highest rated service in the community.

Director Tatár said that in order to save money on postage, paper, and labor, the Library would like to distribute the Commission packets electronically. Commissioner McCarty said that was fine with her. Director Tatár said this information would also be on the Library's webpage.

Director Tatár announced that author and syndicated columnist Richard Reeves will discuss his new book, *President Reagan: Triumph of Imagination*, as part of the Great American Writers Series presented by the Library and the City Club of San Diego at the Scripps Ranch Library on January 12 at 7:00 pm.

Director Tatár mentioned that Val Hardie was one of the "50 People to Watch" in *San Diego Magazine*. Director Tatár and Jay Hill have both appeared in this issue in previous years.

Director Tatár said the Development Office was doing a great job.

- Development Report: Jay Hill
 - Commissioners Sullivan, Hervey and Katz have provided funding for additional personnel.
 - The word is spreading about endowments. There is over \$4 million now, including the Jane Cameron gift.
 - Commissioner Katz asked about direct mail. Jay Hill said they continue to maximize this opportunity, and that they have received a \$10,000 gift from a new contributor.

AGENDA ITEMS

10.a Library System Update

- Afshin Oskoui provided the report on December activities. Otay and North University Community are well into construction, with Otay having an anticipated spring opening. The design for Mission Hills library is underway, with the architect working on options suggested by a community survey that indicated parking was an issue that might be solved by building an underground construction. San Carlos design development continues, along with the Balboa library. Ocean Beach land is being purchased and the architect is doing design work since the property is smaller than previously anticipated. A presentation to the Centre City Development Corporation board on the fundraising for the Main Library will be presented the week of January 9th and they are waiting on the contractor completing the police station demolition to fulfill the insurance requirements. An analysis of options for Skyline has been presented to the community and Council. Engineering staff is working with the State on the Logan Heights drawings and expect it to go out to bid in February or March. Mr. Oskoui talked about a recent article of how Encinitas ran into the same problem of high bids which caused the cost of their library to rise.

10.b Budget Update

None.

10.e Legislative Update

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to create a letter of support for the library team, which was seconded by Commissioner McCarty and passed unanimously. Vickie Church indicated that the Friends were doing the same.

Commissioner Katz thanked everyone for their efforts in the last year. Commissioner McCarty complimented Commissioner Katz on his wonderful job of promoting the Main Library, which he is confident will break ground in July.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Katz adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

ANNA TATÁR
Library Director

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