

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS  
SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 2004**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Commissioners:**

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

**Absent:** Susan Lew

**Staff:** Bruce Herring, Deputy City Manager; Brent Eidson, Assistant Governmental Relations Director; Afshin Oskoui, Deputy Director, Engineering and Capital Projects Department; Meryl Balko, Deputy Library Director; Esther Siman, Assistant to the Director; Carol Young, Senior Management Analyst

**Public:** Thomas Jamieson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The June 2004 minutes were approved.

**REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:** Katie Sullivan

Councilmember Frye is working to get defibrillators at all library facilities. There is already a plan in place to install them in all new City facilities.

The book sale at University Heights has been going well - \$2,300 was earned in one day. The revenue goes into the matching funds. Ms. Balko reported that the Library met its \$1 million goal for the matching funds in FY 2004. The Friends of the Library provided about \$275,000 of that sum.

**SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD:** Tom Jamieson

No report.

**CHAIR'S UPDATE:** Mel Katz

Commissioner Katz reported that the City Council restored Sunday service hours in six Council Districts, but that the reductions to weekday service hours at the Central Library and the library materials budget were approved.

Commissioner Katz mentioned the *Reader* article concerning the use of the \$1 million in seed money given to the Library Foundation by the City of San Diego. The article also focused on who should be credited with raising the \$49 million in private and grant funding for capital improvements. He noted that the *Reader* is continuing to research this issue, and that Channel 39 also picked up on the story. He noted that the goal of raising \$53 million in non-City funding to support the library improvements program has been raised to \$100 million.

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:** Meryl Balko

- Ms. Balko reported that Executive Secretary Rua Johnson has retired, although she will be working occasionally through the summer as a provisional employee. The Library Commission will be presenting Ms. Johnson with a gift, as a token of appreciation for all of the work that she has done to support the Commission. Commissioner Sullivan noted that she also provided support to the Friends of the Library, and was a great resource for information.
- Ms. Balko stated that the Library was fortunate to have Sunday service hours restored. However, as of July 12, the Central Library will no longer be opened on Monday and Wednesday mornings or on Tuesday and Thursday evenings due to a reduction in Central Library service hours.
- The Library has received notification of a \$2 million bequest for the La Jolla/Riford Branch Library. A portion of the bequest will be used to fund Sunday service hours in FY 2005. The Library will work with the Friends of the La Jolla Library to develop a plan for the remainder of the gift.
- In FY 2005 the library materials budget will be reduced by \$1.1 million, leaving a \$2.5 million balance.
- There will not be an August Library Commission meeting.
- A volunteer recognition breakfast has been scheduled for August 31 at the Balboa Park Club. Commissioners will receive invitations.

- The First 5 Commission is scheduled to approve the first round of proposals at its July 19 meeting. Approval of the RFPs had been postponed after several letters of protest were submitted. The protests were denied, and the Library's proposal for \$4 million to provide Preschoolers' Door to Learning areas in four branch libraries should be approved.
- Groundbreakings are being planned in late September or October for the new Serra Mesa and North University City Branch Libraries.
- The Central Library is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and articles from the *San Diego Union-Tribune* and *San Diego City Beat* on the Central Library's basement holdings were distributed.
- READ/San Diego held its annual tutor conference in June, and more than 400 attended from all over the state.
- October 20 at noon will be the date of the next Great American Writers event, featuring former *New York Times* executive editor Max Frankel.

**MANAGER'S UPDATE:** Bruce Herring

Mr. Herring recognized the exceptional effort of Library staff in obtaining \$29 million in grant funding for the Library Improvement Program.

The City was able to balance the FY 2005 budget, and absorb the \$17 million in State funding reductions. Another \$5.2 million is still in jeopardy, although the Library Department is not expected to be affected. Mr. Herring mentioned the 5.8 percent pay reduction taken by unclassified staff, by virtue of their paying more into the City's pension fund.

Mr. Herring noted that the \$1 million in seed money given to the Library Foundation by the City was deposited into a fund at the San Diego Foundation, and that he has reviewed its budget each year and has been fully briefed on the expenditures from this fund.

The City is in the final stages of selecting the Main Library construction manager from two finalists, both which have substantial experience managing complex projects. The finalists will be interviewed on July 22, and it is hoped that the recommendation will go before City Council before the August recess. CCDC will be putting \$50 million into the project, and bonds will be issued shortly to provide the first \$20 million increment.

The leadership of the Downtown Partnership met with Mr. Herring to offer their support of, and assistance with, the Main Library project.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**10.a Library System Update**

Afshin Oskoui of the Engineering and Capital Projects Department began his presentation by noting that Commissioner Pintar would be serving on the committee to select the construction manager for the Main Library. He then provided a brief status report of the Library's capital improvements projects. A written update, including project fact sheets, was also provided by Library staff. Commissioner Katz commented that he liked the written presentation which included photographs of the existing libraries and renderings of the planned facilities.

Commissioner Hervey asked if there has been any effort to define themes for new branches, as was done at Point Loma. Mr. Oskoui responded that a dialog does occur between the City and the community to develop a theme, and to work with the architects and artists to incorporate the theme. Commissioner Hervey asked whether the Library Commission should be involved in this process. It was agreed that staff would report back to the Commission on this issue in September.

Mr. Oskoui also noted that the City Council recently passed an art master plan, which will hopefully bring together art and architecture.

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

Brent Eidson of the Governmental Relations Department reported on the Public Library Fund (PLF) budget. The Governor's January budget submittal had recommended no reduction to the fund, but then agreed to a \$1.5 million cut in program funding. However, the legislative conference committee has approved the January amount, which means that the Library can anticipate receiving approximately the same amount of PLF funding in FY 2005 as in FY 2004.

Regarding the State budget, the legislative leadership said last week that it could not agree to the Governor's budget plan, and an alternative plan was brought forward, but not approved. The leadership is now back in negotiation with the Governor, and working with the mayors of the ten largest cities in California.

The League of California Cities has agreed to support a plan that would result in a \$1.3 billion reduction to local governments for two years, along with constitutional protection that will prevent the State from raiding local government funding in future years. The Governor did not support the League's ballot measure because it would have provided the constitutional protection starting in FY 2005, rather than delaying it until FY 2007.

### **Motion**

Motion was made by Commissioner Sullivan that Commissioner Katz be authorized to contact local legislative delegates and speak on behalf of the Board of Library Commissioners on the State budget once a measure is agreed upon in the Legislature.  
Seconded by Commissioner Pintar.

The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Motion**

Motion made by Commissioner Sullivan that Commissioner Pintar be authorized to speak on

behalf of the Board of Library Commissioners on the selection committee for the Main Library construction manager.

Seconded by Commissioner Rencher.

The motion was passed unanimously.

### **10.c Branch Library Hours**

No report.

### **10.d Legislative Update**

SB 1161, the library construction bond legislation, had the dollar amount removed in order to move the bill through the approval process. Funding will be reinstated at a later date, but not necessarily at the \$1 billion level that was originally contained in the bill. Senator Alpert wants this legislation to provide a long-term solution to meet the capital needs of libraries throughout the state.

#### **Motion**

Motion made by Commissioner Pintar that the Board of Library Commissioners supports SB 1161.

Seconded by Commissioner Sullivan.

The motion passed unanimously.

A letter to State legislators will be drafted to inform them of the Commission's support of this legislation.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Katz adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

ANNA TATÁR  
Library Director

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