



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, MAY 2, 2006

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

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

Absent: Susan Lew, Natalie Rencher

Staff: Ted Martinez, Jr., Deputy Chief; Esther Siman, Assistant to the Director; Margaret Kazmer, Deputy Director; Meryl Balko, 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

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Katz welcomed Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., former Grossmont College President, as the City's new Deputy Chief of Neighborhood Services.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Vickie Church

Vickie Church attended Legislative Day with Jay Hill. The Friends held a Treasurer's Forum, which was well attended. There will be an upcoming forum on book sales. The winners of the essay contest will be recognized on May 4 at 6 pm at the Balboa Park Club. Katie Sullivan will attend.

Matthew Hervey asked about volunteer recognition by the Friends. Vickie Church noted that Friends have annual event in September. Katie Sullivan mentioned that, in the past, there had been a breakfast or lunch and certificates for Library volunteers held by the Library. Margaret Kazmer said that had not happened for the past few years because of budgetary constraints.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Tom Jamieson

Vera Skop is the new Serra Cooperative Library System Coordinator. She previously worked for the Greenwich (Conn.) Public Library for 15 years.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Mel Katz

The Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch Library opened on April 7, 2006. Councilmembers Ben Hueso and Jim Madaffer as well as Mayor Jerry Sanders were in attendance. The facility was renovated from 10,000 to 15,000 square feet.

The Commission endorsed Proposition 81 at their April meeting, and a memo was sent to Council. The Chamber of Commerce also voted to support Proposition 81. Supporters plan to ask the Union-Tribune Editorial Board for an endorsement.

A survey conducted by the American Library Association, noted that two-thirds of all U.S. adults have visited public libraries. A survey by The San Diego Foundation found that libraries were the second most popular Arts and Culture activity.

DEPUTY CHIEF'S UPDATE: Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

Deputy Chief Martinez commended the volunteers and the Commissioners for their valuable contributions. He reviewed his assignments as Deputy Chief of Neighborhood and Customer Services, and distributed his Values and Expectations which he has shared with his Department Directors. Although he was not able to attend the formal opening of the Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch, he did visit the branch and also visited Logan Heights and San Ysidro branches. He was impressed with the commitment of the staff and cleanliness of the branches. The Mayor's Library budget was better than expected, with no reductions, and that he is committed to working with the employees and Commissioners.

Judy McCarty was disappointed that the Library Ordinance was not supported by the Mayor. Deputy Chief Martinez said they are grappling with the problem of the operating funds budget. He said the Library Ordinance would probably not come up for a vote during the May 3rd Library

budget hearing. There was a discussion about the new budget process. Dr. Martinez said the Mayor was working through the new process.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Margaret Kazmer for Anna Tatár

Flowers were received by the library for every Central section. San Diego Magazine and U.S.A. Today had articles about Miss Breed and there was a mention of the book in Newsweek. At the community budget hearing at North Park, there were no questions raised by the community on the library.

The Grand Jury made two tours of the library, and, in its formal report, complimented the Library on its Service Level Agreement with the Water Department, which is a project of preserving and indexing old documents and photographs. There will be a reception at the end of May with a display of the photographs in the second floor corridor. Katie Sullivan said that the Grand Jury report should be highlighted to the Council.

On May 11, there will be a Carnegie Society tea at the La Jolla Branch Library.

The Public Library Association's Advancement of Literacy Award was awarded to READ/San Diego in February. Valerie Hardie, READ/San Diego Literacy Program Administrator will be accepting the award at the ALA Conference in New Orleans in June.

Jay Hill said there was approval for the Associate Resource Development Officer, which is currently being advertised. Mary Anne Pintar will participate on the interview panel. The \$1 million match has been achieved and the Library can match donations. Las Patronas have given a grant for the Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch in the amount of \$13,225.30, and the La Jolla Debutantes have given a grant for the Logan Heights Branch in the amount of \$10,000.

Judy McCarty noted that the Neighborhood Pride and Protection Ordinance of the 1990s put Park and Recreation and the Library under the umbrella of Public Safety, which allowed it to obtain additional funding.

Commissioner Katz asked that the minutes reflect that Jay Hill said it would be possible to raise \$1.3 to \$1.5 million dollars in matching funds this fiscal year.

AGENDA ITEMS

10.a Library System Update

Afshin Oskoui, Deputy Director, Engineering & Capital Projects, provided the update on library projects:

- Main Library's construction plans were finalized and two contracts for demolition and removal were on their way. It would take four to five months to complete this process.
- Otay-Nestor Branch opened on April 7.

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- Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch is on schedule, and should open in late summer or early fall.
- North University Community Branch is slightly behind schedule but the work is ongoing.
- Logan Heights Branch Phase I is completed, and the State architect is reviewing the plans.

10.b Budget Update – Katie Sullivan

Commissioner Sullivan said the budget and mandated increase of positions for new facilities would not require further reductions in staff or materials. There would still be reduced Friday and Saturday hours. There was a discussion about what are the areas of greatest need if additional funds are identified. The Commission felt that restoring full service days for Friday and Saturdays was the first priority, and increasing the match was second.

The Independent Budget Analyst recommended not bonding. If this occurs, the library might face additional reductions. Meryl Balko said that options included changing the hours, pairing branches, and offering regional service.

Vickie Church mentioned that there was an article discussing the delay of deferred maintenance. Meryl Balko said there was not a large reserve for deferred maintenance. Dr. Martinez said that the Mayor was committing to stabilization.

Commissioner Katz would not be available at the budget hearing Wednesday May 3rd. Commissioner Sullivan will speak for the Commission and state that the Commission appreciates that the Library has not taken additional reductions. Commissioner Sullivan noted that this may be an opportunity to educate new Councilmembers about past Library budgets. Commissioner Pintar said it might be useful to put some background information in a letter for the Council that could be distributed at the meeting. There was also a discussion regarding informing the Mayor on the importance of the Library Ordinance. The Commissioners agreed this was an issue that should be addressed in a meeting with the Mayor. Commissioner Sullivan moved, Commissioner McCarty seconded that the Commissioners reiterate their support of the Library Ordinance. The motion was passed unanimously. Commissioner McCarty suggested that the issue would be best addressed after the budget hearings.

10.c Legislative Update

Jay Hill reported on Legislative Day, at which the Proposition 81 and the Public Library Fund issues were presented to San Diego's legislators or their staff. At the entrance of the State Library, there are boards depicting Proposition 14 projects. The Logan Heights Branch Library project and Main Library project were exhibited. The Development Office will be working on 125th anniversary of Central Library ceremonies including inviting legislators for next year. Commissioner Katz distributed information regarding Proposition 81 which will be on the June 6th ballot.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Katz noted that he has been reappointed to the Commission and Commissioner Hervey and Commissioner Lew will be asked if they wish to be reappointed. Commissioner Rencher will not be reappointed, and her replacement has not yet been designated.

Commissioner Katz thanked Esther Siman, Margaret Kazmer, and Meryl Balko for their hard work on the Library's behalf.

ADJOURNMENT

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



ANNA TATÁR
Library Director

dlp