

**MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 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; Anna Tatár, Library Director; Patti Boekamp, Chief Deputy Director; Afshin Oskoui, Deputy Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Library Director; Margaret Kazmer, Deputy Director; Drew Ector, Council Representative; Carol Young, Senior Management Analyst

Public: Thomas Jamieson, Margo Liemback, Ted Liemback, Robert Magness, Rudy Narvaez, Edward Teyssier, Claudia Thompson, Connie Zuniga

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 2004 minutes were approved.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

Edward Teyssier requested that the Library Commission vote to recommend to City Council that it place the new Main Library on the ballot.

Mr. Magness also spoke in support of putting the new Main Library before a vote of the public, noting that the 1985 Branch Library Facilities Report recommended regional branch libraries.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Katie Sullivan

Commissioner Sullivan reported that she and Commissioners Katz and Rencher attended the annual meeting of the Friends of the Library.

The Friends are spearheading a membership drive, and a new webpage.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Tom Jamieson

The Tudor.com program is up for renewal. Congressman Cunningham is working to get federal funding to continue the program for another year.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Mel Katz

The ground breaking for the North University Community Branch Library was held last week, and the Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa Branch Library ground breaking will be held on October 9 at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Katz reported that the wife of former Library Commissioner Arthur Brody passed away. A card signed by the Commissioners will be sent to Mr. Brody.

Commissioner Katz announced that Literacy Program Coordinator Chris McFadden was retiring after 17 years of dedicated service to the Library Department. Mr. McFadden was the founding administrator of the READ/San Diego adult literacy program. Within six months of beginning operation, the program surpassed its one year goal, and has been surpassing its goals every year since. The program, which has expanded to include workplace literacy, and which now provides services to the entire County of San Diego, has become the model program both in California and nationally.

Mr. McFadden thanked City and Library administrators and the San Diego community for their tremendous support of READ/San Diego.

Mr. Herring commented that Mr. McFadden brought so much passion to his position, that if we could replicate his passion we would be so well off as a city. He has been one of the more entrepreneurial employees, bringing in funds to the program as well as doing good things for people, which is a great combination.

Commissioner McCarty added that she remember Mr. McFadden's enthusiasm when she met with him in 1988, and how many plans he had for the program. She thanked Mr. McFadden for his leadership, noting that someone may take his position at READ/San Diego, but no one will take his place.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Anna Tatár

- Ms. Tatár attended the annual Friends of the Library meeting, and thanked the Friends for their support, which helped the Library reach the \$1 million goal for contributions to the matching funds.
- The September 19 Wangenheim Room event featuring Jeff Weber was successful.
- The Library's webpage will contain Library Commission information including agendas, meeting minutes and reports.
- Gold library cards were given to Library Commissioners, as well as to City Councilmembers to promote Library Card Sign-Up Month.
- Mayor Murphy was named Elected Official of the Year by *Library Journal*.
- The meeting to award the third round of Proposition 14 grants is scheduled for November 29 to 30.
- Brochures for the "Stories of Faith" program, funded by the California Council for the Humanities, were distributed. Ms. Tatár thanked Lynn Whitehouse for spearheading the project, with assistance from Aglae Saint-Lot and Marc Chery.
- Ms. Tatár reviewed the written response to Commissioner Rencher's site visit questions. She also provided the Commission with a memo on the status of repairs and improvements to the Malcolm X Branch Library. The Facilities Division of General Services has scheduled to repaint the exterior of the facility, clean the carpet, and complete other repairs.
- Jay Hill will attend the November Commission meeting to provide an update of fundraising plans.

Regarding the site visit questions, Commissioner Rencher asked when the Logan Heights community will become involved in fundraising efforts.

Commissioner Katz noted that a systems approach is being taken for fundraising for the Library Improvements Program.

Mr. Oskoui said that 12 meetings have been held in the community concerning the siting and design of the library. It has been a dynamic and engaged process, and a majority of the community has embraced the project. Successful fundraising efforts have included the acquisition of Proposition 14 and First Five Commission grants. A project update will be provided at an October 18 meeting with the Friends of the Library.

Mr. Hill will attend the October 18 Logan Heights Friends of the Library meeting to provide a fundraising update.

Mr. Herring reported that the Mayor and Councilmember Madaffer worked with each Council office to determine the highest priority needs for the Library Improvements Program, because there was not enough funding to include every project in the plan. City Council adopted an agreement that no projects would be added until all of the projects in the program were completed or a fully funded project was identified. It would be City Council's prerogative to modify the list of projects if so desired.

Margo and Ted Liemback spoke about the needs at Oak Park. Claudia Thompson noted that there is a Friends of the Library group for the branch, and asked about providing more maintenance for the library. Adding a teen area has been identified as the greatest need. Support from the Friends of the Library is critical.

Mr. Oskoui reported that the ADA work at the Beckwourth Branch Library will be completed by mid-November. He also reported that the Skyline Hills Branch Library design subcommittee worked on a new layout for the siting of the new facility. The planning committee will be presented with the revised design work.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

Mr. Herring provided a brief overview of the City's financial situation, saying that bankruptcy was not ever considered. The City awaits the completion of the outside audit by KPMG. It is still hoped that the City will be able to go forward with the sale of the library bonds in July 2005.

Regarding the funding of the Main Library project, the relocation of the police garage is a separate project funded primarily with redevelopment money. The Main Library is funded with \$50 million in redevelopment funds, which paid for the design, the \$20 million state grant, and the rest coming mainly from the bond issuance.

The financing plan covers the cost of both construction and ongoing operations. Turner construction will be fine-tuning the cost estimates, but the preliminary analysis shows that the current cost estimates appear realistic.

AGENDA ITEMS

10.a Library System Update

Mr. Oskoui gave a brief summary of the written Library CIP Update.

It was requested that the names and contact information of the Proposition 14 board members, plus a summary of the Skyline Hills project, be provided to the Library Commissioners electronically.

Ms. Tatár briefly reviewed the written report concerning the community meeting process.

10.b Budget Update

No report.

10.c Legislative Update

The Governor signed the bill placing a \$600 million library bond on the 2006 ballot. He also approved the California Teleconnect funding bill.

A letter from the Mission Hills Friends of the Library to change the name of the proposed new branch to the Mission Hills/Hillcrest Branch Library was submitted to the Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Katz adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

ANNA TATÁR
Library Director

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