



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, SEPTEMBER 7, 2005

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners

Present: Mel Katz, Susan Lew, Judy McCarty, MaryAnne Pintar,
Katie Sullivan

Absent: Matthew Hervey, Natalie Rencher

Staff: Ellie Oppenheim, Deputy City Manager; Anna Tatár,
Library Director; Afshin Oskoui, Deputy Director; Meryl
Balko, Deputy Director; Margaret Kazmer, Deputy Director;
Jay Hill, Director of Development; Carol Young, Senior
Management Analyst

Public: Vicky Church, Thomas Jamieson, Cecily McEuen

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The June 2005 minutes were approved.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Cecily
McEuen

Vicky Church was introduced as the incoming president of the
Friends of the Library. The annual meeting will take place on
Saturday, September 10 at 9:00 am at the Mission Valley Branch
Library.

Memberships are increasing, and the Friends are focusing on raising money.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Tom Jamieson

No report.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Mel Katz

Commissioners Katz and Sullivan called and then visited all Council offices to discuss the Library budget, and they testified at the budget hearings. The Assistant Director of Development position was reinstated. Commissioner Sullivan noted that the reinstatement was made at the expense of the library materials budget, which took a reduction to offset the increase to the Development Program.

Open hours at branch libraries were also cut, down to 41 or 45 hours per week for most branches, including Mission Valley. Commissioner Katz reported that, according to Financial Management, the Library Department operating budget would have an additional \$14 million to allocate if the Library Ordinance were in effect.

The Library Foundation has been working on fundraising to raise \$50 million for the new Main Library.

Turner construction should be providing a construction estimate by early October.

Commissioner Pintar asked about the status of the response to the Chamber of Commerce letter requesting information about the Main Library. Commissioner Katz responded that the response deadline has been extended beyond October, after the construction estimate is available.

Main Library operating cost and revenue information developed by staff to respond to a donor request was distributed and reviewed. It was noted that there was no increase in staff if current open hours were maintained due to new technology and design elements that will reduce staffing requirements. It was also noted that estimated revenue increases would offset the increase in operating expenses if the current hours were maintained.

CCDC is reporting that there are currently 27,000 residents in the ballpark redevelopment area, with 91,000 estimated for the year 2020.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Anna Tatár

- The Library received the 2005 Marshall Cavendish Excellence in Library Programming from the American Library Association for the Stories of Faith project. Commissioner Katz recognized Aglae St. Lot, Marc Chery and Lynn Whitehouse for their work on the project, which has become a model for other libraries.

- Ms. Tatár reported that the Gates Foundation is offering the Library a grant of \$144,000 to replace obsolete computers purchased with a previous Gates grant. The funds will be deposited into the Matching Electronic Resource fund.
- Jay Hill gave a PowerPoint presentation on Development Program activities. The Library achieved its goal of \$1 million in donations to the matching funds for the second year in a row. For each dollar invested in the program, \$6.70 was returned to the Library. Direct mail returns increased 96 percent, and contributions from the Friends of the Library were up 43 percent. The number of gifts has doubled over the last two years.

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE: Ellen Oppenheim

Deputy City Manager Oppenheim noted that she is looking forward to working with the Library Commission.

AGENDA ITEMS

10.a Library System Update

Mr. Oskoui reported on the opening of the College-Rolando Branch Library. Four other branches are currently under construction. Details were provided in the written CIP Update.

Otay Nestor may open by the end of the year. \$75,000 in additional FBA funds has been allocated for the project.

The schematic design for the Mission Hills Branch Library has been approved, and staff is working to get DIF funds advanced to pay for the completion of the design. Balboa and San Carlos projects will be going to City Council in October to receive approval to advance to the next stage of design.

There are still issues in the community regarding the siting of the Skyline Hills facility. Redesigning the branch is under consideration.

The contract for remediation of the new Main Library site is going forward. Turner construction is working on a cost estimated based upon the completed plan, and the plans will be delivered to Development Services for permit review. It will then take three months to get construction bids and negotiate the final cost under the construction manager-at-risk process.

10.b Budget Update

Sunday service was restored at the City Heights/Weingart library, and service hours were restored at the Oak Park and Malcolm X facilities thanks to funding provided by the Council offices.

Open hours will be restored at the La Jolla/Riford Branch Library with funds from the Jane

Cameron Endowment Fund.

Currently phones are not being answered at branch libraries on Fridays through Sundays. Phone service will be restored next weekend. The Library is moving ahead on a new phone system that will help staff to better manage these calls.

The library materials budget is down to \$1.8 million. The goal would be to have it at 19 percent of the operating budget, which would be approximately \$7 million.

10.c Legislative Update

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Katz adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

ANNA TATÁR
Library Director

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