



BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes

WEDNESDAY, November 1, 2023
Mary Hollis Clark Conference Center, 12:30 PM
San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common
330 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101

Attendance

Commissioners:

Present: Wendy Urushima-Conn, Sarah Moga-Aleman, Dr. Wendy Ranck-Buhr, Pat Bevelyn

Absent: Linda Sotelo, Ben Moraga

Staff: Misty Jones – Director, Jennifer Jenkins - Deputy Director, Raul Gudiño - Deputy Director, Oscar Gittemeier - Program Manager, Tricia Nool - Executive Assistant

Library Foundation: Natalie Ganz, Chief Philanthropy and Engagement Officer

Friends of the Library: Ann McDonald

e3 CivicHigh: Brett Taylor, CEO

Item 1: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Urushima-Conn at 12:34 pm. Their last meeting was on October 4, 2023.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

The October 4, 2023 minutes was approved unanimously

Item 3: Requests for Continuance

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

Item 5: Friends of the Library Report – Ann McDonald, Past President

Congressman Juan Vargas named Friends of the Oak Park Library his “Constituent of the Month” for October, and presented the Oak Park Friends with a proclamation which commends them for their

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dedication to the library and their efforts to bring a new facility to the community. We are grateful for the Congressman's support.

The FSDPL monthly book sales continue to do well, though the University Heights monthly sale still isn't seeing quite as much individual (non-reseller) traffic as before the pandemic. Our online sales of more expensive books also generate good revenue – one book sold at auction in October on eBay for \$1,300! The book sale team continues to do the hard work of evaluating donations both large and small, including collections from estates, and we deeply appreciate all the volunteer hours they invest in this work.

Four chapters (Balboa, Clairemont, North Clairemont, and Serra Mesa) will be teaming up to host a coordinated “book crawl” book sale on November 18th. Shoppers who get stamps from all 4 sales in their “passports” will get a prize from the last location visited. Branch addresses and sale hours can be found on the Friends' web site at <https://friendsofsdpl.org/chapterbooksales.htm>.

The Friends are supporting the Library Community Engagement Committee's Paperback Book Drive effort, which will provide paperback books to people incarcerated at local federal and County correctional facilities. We are always happy to be able to find new homes for books which have been generously donated.

Many thanks to Oscar Gittemeier for interfacing with the City in order to facilitate translation of our Get Out the Vote flyers for the County Supervisor special election this November. We were able to distribute flyers in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Arabic to all 15 branches in County Supervisory District 4. Turnout for the August election was higher than expected, and the hope is that that trend will follow in November.

We are, of course, looking forward to the November 6th City Council meeting where the Library Master Plan will be presented to Council for adoption!

Item 6: Library Foundation Report – Natalie Ganz, Chief Philanthropy and Engagement Officer

1. LMP to be presented to City Council on afternoon of Nov 6. At 2 pm
 - a. 4.5 years in development, several updates to Commission, more than 11,000 community members provided input along the way
 - b. Asking supporters to call in, write, or attend in person and ask for the Council to adopt the plan.
2. Advocacy for the library's annual budget underway.
 - a. Asked for the remaining FTE YSL's; 500K maintenance budget; additional 250K for books/materials.
 - b. Meetings currently underway or being scheduled with Council members.
3. Launch of Books Unbanned during Banned Books Week
 - a. National initiative to provide youth with online access to frequently banned or challenged books. We became the third system to participate in this growing national collaboration.
 - b. 100% funded with philanthropy, need support
 - c. \$20K gift has been received in support of that effort, and donor is encouraging other supporters to join her.

4. ULC Annual Forum and takeaways
 - a. Libraries as essential infrastructure (“resiliency hubs”)
 - b. Importance of advocacy (local, state, and Federal) in supporting the library
 - c. Library-Foundation relationship is critical

Item 7: e3CivicHigh Update Report - Brett Taylor, CEO

On October 11th, e3 Civic High partnered with the Teen Center to host the 10th Anniversary Showcase and celebrate the e3 Civic High and Central Library partnership. Over 125 people were in attendance including board members, community members, parents, scholars, alumni, and staff from e3 Civic High and the Central Library. Library staff guided most in attendance through library tours that helped our e3 parents learn about resources available to their families. The event was a huge success and we are hopeful that our community will become active library patrons. We look forward to future partnership activities and events.

Item 8: Report on Library Construction Projects - Raul Gudino, Deputy Director, Library Operations

The Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library:

The new library building’s construction is ongoing, and bi-weekly progress meetings are being held on time. The general contractor with their subcontractors, are busy installing the building’s envelope with finishes (exterior walls and storefront systems), the interior drywalls, and the site Bio-Filtration basins and storm water drainage, as well as the parking curbs. A meeting on site was held last week to discuss the IT system and its materials order.

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Parking Lot Expansion:

The Notice to Proceed was issued on September 18th, and the team is reviewing materials submittal and construction RFI’s, the general contractor received the SWPPP Storm Water permit in early October, and working on submitting the differed approved submittals, for the project’s team review and then the City DSD for permitting. The general contractor is suggesting start the work on the southeast side of the parking and keeping the west canyon side open to the public, along with the existing ADA parking stalls and sidewalk, the final phase work plan will be sent to the Library Branch Manager, who is attending the site meetings in this regard.

Ocean Beach Branch Library:

Waiting for comments from DSD from August submittal for the Coastal Development Permit and CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) process. The Geotechnical consultant has started the site investigations for the Geotechnical Report to help DSD with the environmental determination. These processes are ongoing and will be done by Winter 2024. The design team is continuing to update necessary documents with the coordination of multiple design disciplines to finalize the bridging documents. The bridging documents are scheduled to be completed Winter 2024. Awarding design-build contractor and consultant process will begin Winter 2024.

Item 9: Library Director Report - Misty Jones, Library Director

Security - Raul and I met with several members of Royal Security Group, LLC to discuss a potential security assessment of the library system as recommended in the IBA report [Response to Request for Analysis of City Security Services](#). They will be bringing forth a proposal. Depending on the scope, we will determine next steps and will engage the Commission at this time.

Unbanned Books - The Unbanned Books initiative officially launched on September 30. <https://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/booksunbanned>. As of mid-October, we had 228 signups for library cards and over 70 people had logged into the collection. North Carolina, Florida, Texas and New Jersey are the most popular states as well as a number of people from California.

Here are some responses as to why they wanted access:

- *I live in Florida and I don't want to lose access to queer literature. I am queer and being able to access queer literature is important to me.*
- *I'm a transgender boy living in a conservative city and without a lot of access to representation of people like me.*
- *I love reading but am currently unemployed and live with very conservative family. If I want to read about queer or what my parents deem "radical" books, I have to hide them and physically owning them can just be more trouble than I need.*

Library Masterplan - The item was heard at the October 5 Community and Neighborhood Service Committee and was unanimously recommended to move forward to full Council for approval. We are planning on the week of November 6 for hearing at Council.

Other - We received a \$9.1 million Building Forward grant for the Oak Park Library. Unfortunately, we did not receive the grant for the San Carlos Library project so will be working to identify sources of funding to move this project forward.

Item 10: Agenda Items

- a. ACTION ITEM: Naming rights approval to name the staff break room at Mission Hills Library to Jaymee Topacio
Moved by Commissioner Bevelyn. Second by Commissioner Ranck-Buhr.
Passed by unanimous vote.
- b. Programming Spotlight
Adult Programming Update: One Book and Banned Books Read-a-thon – Oscar Gittemeier, Program Manager

Youth Programming Update: Summer & Eclipse Engagement, Excel Student Access Card update, Cultural Event Outreach – Ady Huertas, Program Manager

Item 11: Commissioner Comment

Item 12: Other Business

Next meeting is on December 6, 2023, 12:30 PM at the Mary Hollis Clark Conference Center,

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Item 13: Adjournment

Commissioner Wendy Urushima-Conn adjourned the meeting at 1:17 PM