



BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

10:00 AM

330 Park Blvd. Central Library, Mary Hollis Clark, Ground Floor

Attendance

Commissioners:

Present: Sarah Moga-Alemany, Dr. Wendy Ranck-Buhr, Pat Bevelyn, Sitara Sethi, Sam Yoeuth

Absent: Linda Sotelo, Mark Tran, Phyllis Pfeiffer, Scott Walter

Staff: Misty Jones – Director, Ady Huertas - Program Manager, Oscar Gittemeier – Program Manager, Tricia Nool - Executive Assistant, Vic Slater – Program Manager

Library Foundation: Jenny Mehlow, Natalie Ganz

Friends of the Library: Pat Wilson

e3 CivicHigh: absent

Item 1: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Moga-Alemany at 10:00 AM. Their last meeting was on August 6, 2025.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

The August 6, 2025 minutes was approved unanimously

Item 3: Requests for Continuance

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

Name: Allie

Please bring back virtual attendance options. The library is important to me but in person meetings are not accessible (especially mid-day). Even a recording would be more helpful than written minutes. The virtual meetings helped me feel more engaged with what was happening with my library and the system overall.

A draft response will be created for Sarah's review and will be sent to Allie.

Item 5: Friends of the Library Report – Pat Wilson, President

The Friends were happy to be an Exhibiting Sponsor at the KPBS San Diego Book Festival on August 23rd. Our book sale booth was in a prime location and busy all day, which ensured that we spoke to hundreds of book (and library) lovers. Many thanks to Lisa Heinz, our online and events book curator, and all the volunteers who staffed the booth. Special thanks, too, to Steve Schmal our indefatigable membership evangelist, whose ability to reach out to passers-by and convince them to become Friends is unparalleled.

The Friends' next pop-up book sale will be at the North Park Book Fair on October 18th. We also encourage you to stop by our monthly book sale at our University Heights location – the next one is September 20th and 21st.

The University Community Friends are working on ways to stay connected during the branch renovation process. They are fairly well-resourced and will be available to help with programming funding once the branch re-opens, and FSDPL will be on hand to support them if necessary.

The Friends of the Malcolm X Library will have their annual Gift Day fundraiser on September 20th, with a free Family Fun Day from 12pm – 4pm and a VIP Evening Soiree from 5pm – 7pm. Many other Friends chapters sponsor and/or organize community events at their branches – please check them out!

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

We're here to support you however we can. This is an open invitation to help us double down on our advocacy efforts as they continue. Just to note about the monthly sale, I stopped by the other day at the University Heights sale, it's such a delight to be able to go and for about \$20.00 I could take more books than I could carry, so I encourage anybody who is wanting to just enjoy a little time to stop by there.

The Library Foundation have signed our part of the lease for the new shop in Mission Hills, it's awaiting counter signature which we expect very soon and then you'll start hearing from us on more concrete plans around opening day and how we can celebrate and how we can gather. This is more, this is a community space; this is a place where community convening and inspiration and connecting with our neighbors and elevating our community will happen.

We just received another donation from the Miller family. They've made several donations of rare books for the past few years. About 200 books in total. There's a lot in the Rare Book Room from this family and that the library has been collecting for decades and decades and a lot of people don't know this but even if something is not on display you can access anything that's there and a library staff person will help. This isn't a museum this is a library, right? These materials belong to the community, and we can access them.

Our Board of Trustees will meet for the first time this fiscal year on Monday. We will welcome a new trustee Brianne Hyder, she's with SDG&E so that's a great step for us in having representation from our corporate community and our corporate supporters on our board so that the idea is generally corporate folks will have a better idea of what the library does and how the Foundation helps and be more inclined to participate in support in a number of ways.

Couple of updates on what I shared last month, the grant from the Carnegie corporation that we received, we're starting to spend it now, so those dollars are being put to work through the Discover U and the Adult Online High School college readiness program so that's pretty quick turnaround. We received it in July. Dollars are already out there being spent and that's what we like to see. Also, as you learned last month, our CFO Jeff Rowland moved to his next chapter in his career so we will be hiring a new CFO. We are in this stage where we are putting together our job description and when it's ready, we will broadcast.

And then lastly just an update that our September appeal that I mentioned last month is going to hit mailboxes in a couple of weeks. So pretty soon you'll get a nice happy letter, and you can choose if you want to respond to it. We do have a match opportunity for \$25,000.00 that goes through October 15th, and you know those appeals are a foundational part of how we generate the basic level of support that Foundation needs to operate so it's not only is it a broad communication about the impact of the library and how the Foundation helps, it is of critical part of how we get our work done and it's an opportunity for anybody to support at whatever level they want to and whatever feels good to them. Supporting the library is a really joyful experience so it's an invitation for anybody.

Item 7: e3CivicHigh Update Report - Brett Taylor, CEO

No report

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

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Parking Lot Expansion:

The library's new south-east side parking "Phase I" construction was opened for public use. During site work for the northwest parking area ("Phase II"), the team encountered unexpected soil conditions at the bottom of the canyon, which required more extensive excavation and support than originally planned. To reduce the impact and cost of this issue, the City will conduct additional soil testing starting the week of August 25 to locate more stable ground (bedrock), which will help guide negotiations with the contractor. Results from the testing are expected by mid-September. If an agreement is reached, construction could resume by mid-October. Lastly, the traffic signal portion of the project will be removed from the current scope and deferred to a future Capital Improvement Program (CIP) project. The traffic control improvements were not found to be triggered by our contract work; however, they can be added as a subsequent phase in the future.

The parking expansion project is coordinating with (3) CIP projects:

- The Miramar Valve Replacement's valve vault construction was completed, and the vehicle-rated lid delivery is expected in June 2025.
- The Library Fire Sprinkler system upgrade project is expected to start construction in the first week of March and expected to be complete mid-July.
- The Library Mechanical system upgrade is expected to start in July 2025, and the construction duration is estimated to be 8-10 months.

Ocean Beach Branch Library:

We have received a Notice of Exemption from CEQA and a Categorical Exemption from NEPA in Spring 2025. RFQ phase was completed the end of May 2025. PM and Field team shortlisted top 3 firms from this process in June. We are finalizing RFP with the contracts team to move forward with request for proposals and interviews. We are on schedule to start the award process Fall 2025 and award the Design-Build contract by Winter 2025.

Oak Park Library:

This project has been awarded using a Design-Build Community Based Competitive Design competition with the submission by Barnhart Reese Construction in partnership with RNT Architects being the successful proposal. The award of the first phase (the design phase) was approved by City Council on October 29, 2024. The Kick-Off Meeting between the contractor's team, project stakeholders and City Staff took place on December 19, 2024, and Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued on December 24, 2024. The design phase has officially started, design is anticipated to be completed by Winter 2025 with potential early start packages for site grading and Right-Of-Way work. Additional funding is necessary to award subsequent phases (the construction phases) which is anticipated in the Fall of 2025. Design is progressing per schedule, 30% design submittal was reviewed through Citywide plan check and updates are taking place. 60% expected by first week of September. 30% grading plans submittal was reviewed through Citywide plan check and updates are taking place. 60% Submittal expected by first week of September. Change order #1 to amend the phase funding schedule is routing for approval to award early start packages for grading and right of way work.

Old Logan Heights Library:

The building rehabilitation design was completed and approved with the DSD the permit was issued on February 25, 2025. The Kick-Off Meeting between the contractor's team, project stakeholders and City Staff took place on April 9, 2025, and Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued on April 11, 2025. Mobilization took place on May 12, 2025; Contractor performed abatement and interior demolition; currently working on roof replacement. Construction completion is expected by Summer 2026.

Rancho Peñasquitos Library Rehabilitation:

The project is currently at 100% design and DSD review for permitting ongoing. The request for the addition of a community patio to the scope of work, was re-evaluated due to significant stormwater compliance requirements and will be pursued as a stand-alone project in the future. Currently, the project construction is underfunded by approximately \$1.5M. Will reach out to

Public Libraries Department and evaluate alternatives to mitigate these recent unanticipated impacts to the project. The project is on track for award in FY26, pending resolution funding shortfall.

City Heights Performance Annex Expansion:

The project is currently at 60% design. The Mayoral Action for the Design-Build contract has been completed, comptroller certificate has been issued. The LNTP is scheduled to be released this month. Construction is anticipated to begin in October.

Item 9: Library Director Report – Misty Jones, Director

Broken windows will finally be replaced in Central Library.

Window washing - Raul and his team have been looking at other options if we can have someone come in and do it in phases or what different options that we can do.

We did have the meeting last night at Logan Heights about the old Logan project. This was the community meeting to talk to them about the use of this. So, what we're planning for that is to do a digital memory lab for the Logan Heights community. We received a two and a half million grant and then we got another 2.5 million CDBG grant to do this project. The community wanted a computer lab and archive. What we've done is we've come up with an idea to do a digital memory lab and partly because the Mellon Foundation, we got a big grant for expanding our memory labs in the system so we're able to utilize that funding which is really helpful and it's really going to be a cultural archive for Logan Heights. We'll have all the technology where people can come in and they can digitize old photos, they can do oral histories and capture stories. We'd like to work with the Historical Society to digitize their photos because we heard they may lose their space and are looking for someone that can take those photos. We will also be working with the high school to have the teens come in and learn how to use that equipment and kind of work as interns in the space and teach people and then create this kind of intergenerational space as well. So, we presented that last night, the community is very excited and were very receptive to that idea. We're going to use the model that we have at City Heights with the performance annex. The Idea lab there teach them filmmaking and all of that so kind of having a partner come in and teach those media arts and create Workforce development opportunities for teens in the creative industry.

We have two anniversaries coming up. College Rolando will celebrate 20 years in the current building and 70 years in the community. It's a big anniversary for Benjamin Allied Gardens as well with 60 years. I just wanted to mention I had a great meeting, thanks to Pat Wilson for the introduction, with Norma Chavez who's the Executive Director of the ACLU. We talked about how we can use the library as a resource for our immigrant community and giving out information for knowing your rights. We're really excited to expand that partnership with them as well.

Item 10: Agenda Items

- a. Staff Schedule Changes – Misty Jones, Library Director
We sent out the notice yesterday that our last Monday will be next week so starting on September 15th we will have 20 locations that will be closed on Monday. We have 17 locations that will remain open Monday through Saturday, the rest will be Tuesday through Saturday.
- b. Youth Services Updates – Ady Huertas, Program Manager
Presentation on Welcoming Week, The Great Escape Reading Challenge, Discover U (Fall 2025 Life Management Programs for Teens and Emerging Adults), Discover U (Fall 2025 College and Career Programs)
- c. Adult Programing Updates – Oscar Gittemeier, Program Manager
Presentation on City Heights Performance Annex ongoing classes and renovations will start in October, I Can! Center and Accessibility Programs upcoming events, Art and Culture Exhibitions: Uncharted Elsewhere, 9th Floor, August 2 at 1PM and In the Land of through October 12, 1st Floor, One Book, One San Diego Winners: (Adults) Deacon King Kong by James McBride, (Teens) Family Style: Memories of an American from Vietnam by Thien Pham, (Kids) The Interpreter by Olivia Abtahi and Monica Arnaldo. September is Library Card sign-up.

Item 11: Commissioner Comment

Commissioner Dr. Wendy: In the monthly incident summary, when I look at the increase in incidents although as a percentage, it doesn't look as high as the others. The Mira Mesa branch is up by 10 incidents from July to August and I was just wondering if we knew anything about that. I know you are well aware there's a lot going on surrounding the library right now and that is involved with the retail space as well as the rec center and the teen center and so it's very busy over there. So, I'm just wondering if there's anything we need to bring to the attention of the Mira Mesa town council because that is a meeting that's held right there at the library, because that seems to be awfully high and as we have talked in this space many times before, our library staff is really getting inundated sometimes, so I was just wondering if there was anything we knew about that increase of that particular branch.

Vic Slater: I have reached out to the San Diego Police Department community resource officers, the ones that are specific to each one of the branches. Parents and their children are kind of avoiding the Mira Mesa branch library because it's an uncomfortable environment for them to be in and that's what I'm trying to alleviate so that we can have people feel that they're more comfortable there. The last conversation that I had with San Diego Police Department was last Wednesday and the Sergeant said that he was going to increase the patrol areas and to at least increase the patrol within that area so that we can get that back under control. We are doing the same thing for the Linda Vista branch. I just got out of the meeting and Kelly Verheyden was out there and she expressed her concerns over that branch as well. There's going to be some work

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that's going to be done in the courtyard so they're going to be breaking ground on that pretty soon.

Commissioner Bevlyn: Is Mira Mesa part of the overnight Rover schedule?

Vic Slater: They are part of the overnight Rover schedule.

Item 12: Other Business

Hotspots: Ready to be launched by next week.

Next meeting is on October 1, 2025, 12:30 PM at the Mary Hollis Clark Conference Center, San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common, 330 Park Blvd., San Diego, CA 92101

Item 13: Agenda Building

Library Advocacy

Item 14: Adjournment

Commissioner Sarah Moga-Alemanly adjourned the meeting at 11:12 AM.