



BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

12:30 PM

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

Attendance

Commissioners:

Present: Sarah Moga-Aleman, Dr. Wendy Ranck-Buhr, Sitara Sethi, Sam Yoeuth, Scott Walter

Absent: Mark Tran, Phyllis Pfeiffer, Pat Bevelyn

Staff: Misty Jones, Ady Huertas, Tricia Nool, Vic Slater, Bob Cronk, Curtis Williams, Raul Gudino, Sarah Banks

Library Foundation: Jenny Mehlow

Friends of the Library: Pat Wilson

e3 CivicHigh: absent

Item 1: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Moga-Aleman at 12:33 PM. Their last meeting was on September 3, 2025.

The Commissioners welcomed Chris Ryall to the Board.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

The September 3, 2025 minutes was approved unanimously

Item 3: Requests for Continuance

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

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

In addition to the normally scheduled book sales around town (there's a list on our website at <https://friendsofsdpl.org/book-sales-by-chapters/>), the Friends will be at the North Park Book

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Fair on October 18th with a curated selection of interesting books for sale. We'll also do some advocacy and membership outreach. Please stop by between 10:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

Our regular monthly book sale at University Heights will be that same weekend. Saturday October 18th, 9:00 AM -3:00 PM and Sunday, October 19th, 12:00 PM -3:00 PM.

The Clairemont chapters will be at Clairmont's 75th Birthday Bash, also on October 18th, from 1:00 PM -6:00 PM at the Clairemont Town Square Food Court Parking Lot. The Friends will have free children's books to give away.

New branch staff have been welcomed to many locations. The Friends are looking forward to collaborating with new partners once everyone is settled in. Now that Budget Season is once again underway, we are looking for new, more effective ways to work with the Library Foundation and Commission to keep our libraries open!

Item 6: Library Foundation Report – Jenny Mehlow, Chief Marketing & Public Affairs Officer

Banned book week is coming up and this year we partnered with the San Diego State University journalism and media studies seniors who are completing the capstone project. We tasked them to reaching out to new voters 18- to 25-year-olds to address book bans with them or this year's banned book week and they're rolling out several tactics on campus online. The Hillcrest farmers market is coming up on the 12th and they're going to have a booth. They're also doing social posts and creating a digital advocacy toolkit for us and it's going to go on the Foundation website. The Foundation September acquisition hit in the middle of September. So far, we've had 100 responses and \$17,000.00 so that's all within 2 weeks so that's feeling pretty good, perhaps current news may be making an impact.

We are launching our search for a new Chief Financial Officer. Jeff our last Chief Financial Officer was in place for 10 years and he left to pursue another career. Follow us on LinkedIn, the Library Foundation SD if you don't already and then if you know anybody that would be appropriate for the position that you would like to recommend, please reach out to Patrick.

The Foundation was also very proud to join the anniversaries that have just passed and then this fall, we're just focusing on advocacy communications and fundraising. Budget priorities is already in place.

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. City conducted additional soil testing in September to locate more stable ground (bedrock). Results from the testing are expected in late October. 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, work is completed, pending Fire Dept sign off.
- The Library Mechanical system upgrade is expected to start in Nov 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 to award subsequent phases (the construction phases) is partially available in SAP. PM working with Libraries team to release the funding for award of Phase two of contract to stay within schedule. Design is progressing per schedule, 60% building design and grading submittals were received and are under Citywide plan check review. 60% right of way submittal expected in October.

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

Baker and Taylor who is our major book vendor that we purchased the majority of our titles from is in financial trouble. They did have a sale to a company called ReaderLink that was supposed to happen Friday that has been terminated and then ReaderLink actually has joined a lawsuit with OCLC against Baker and Taylor for the misuse of their data. Baker & Taylor will not be taking any new orders but will try to fulfill existing carts and commitments to orders in processing. There are 3 major book vendors in the nation and the 2 competitors are not taking on additional clients due to capacity thresholds.

We found out yesterday that Hotspots are not going to be e-rate eligible. We suspected that the federal government was really trying to not make them eligible and trying to pull back a lot of the things that had previously been eligible. They released the decision yesterday that they will not be eligible. We do have a substantial Hotspot lending program, we have about 2,000 hotspots. I do not know what the sustainability of that will be after because it's very expensive and we do have a high loss rate with them so we may have to sunset that program. We're going to talk to the Department of IT just to see what the feeling is but it's expensive to continue and we also have other budget issues.

Both anniversary parties were lovely. College Rolando celebrated well 25 years in that building and 70 years serving that community, so they had a really good anniversary celebration. Allied Gardens Benjamin celebrated their 60 year anniversary. There was a fair and it was packed. They had ponies and a petting zoo with chickens and bunnies and a goat. It was it was a lot of fun and it was nice to see them.

This Saturday, La Jolla's having their Filipino Celebration at the library.

Schedule selection is done, we did a big major schedule overhaul, and we've got everybody in place. We reduced Monday hours and 20 locations, so we had to do a big schedule selection

process. We're opening up vacancies for transfer opportunities so we're working through that process now.

Item 10: Agenda Items

- a. Library Advocacy
Discussion on how the Commissioners can help and be more involved in advocacy.
 - Know your councilmembers and their staff in your district and establish a relationship with them.
 - Mailing postcards
 - Will provide key dates to the Commissioners
 - Will draft a letter from the commissioners for approval at the next meeting
 - Misty will share the annual report with statistics to the Commissioners

- b. Adult Programing Updates – Sarah Banks
Comic Con 2025 Recap, renovations on City Heights Performance Annex will begin in October 2025, I Can! Center & Accessibility Programs (upcoming events: October 1 – Knit One, Crochet, Too, October 15 - Arts & Crafts with Vickie Lawrence, October 15 – Knit One, Crochet, Too, November 17 - Brain Balance | ADHD), Art and Culture Exhibitions (Uncharted Elsewhere ends on January 4, 2026; In the Land of...ends on October 12, 2025, 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 & Monica Arnaldo; Systemwide CERT Programming: Around 50 classes scheduled systemwide (from now - June 2026)

- c. Youth Services Updates – Ady Huertas, Program Manager
Early Literacy Highlights: Uke Can Read/ Strum and Sing the ABCs, Early Literacy Programs with Special Guests: Book and Ballerina Storytime, Lead Prevention Puppet Show, Urban Forestry Storytime; 1,000 Books before Kindergarten; Storytime Academy: This training was designed and developed by library staff to strengthen storytime skills, connect practice to the science of early learning, and build confidence in leading engaging programs for children and caregivers.

Item 11: Commissioner Comment

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Item 12: Other Business

Next meeting is on November 5, 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

E-rate

Security Guidelines

Item 14: Adjournment

Commissioner Sarah Moga-Alemaný adjourned the meeting at 1:32 PM.