



BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 5, 2025

12:30 PM

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

Attendance

Commissioners:

Present: Sarah Moga-Alemany, Dr. Wendy Ranck-Buhr, Scott Walter, Phyllis Pfeiffer, Pat Bevelyn

Absent: Mark Tran, Sitara Sethi, Sam Yoeuth

Staff: Misty Jones, Ady Huertas, Tricia Nool, Vic Slater, Bob Cronk, Curtis Williams, Raul Gudino, Jennifer Jenkins, Oscar Gittemeier, Karen Nguyen, Catherine Hoang

Library Foundation: Patrick Stewart, Jenny Mehlow, Natalie Ganz

Friends of the Library: Ann McDonald

e3 CivicHigh: absent

Item 1: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Moga-Alemany at 12:30 PM. Their last meeting was on October 1, 2025.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

The October 1, 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

Congratulations to Friends chapters at North University Community, Oak Park, and San Ysidro,

which were all awarded FY26 CPPS money! North University will use the funds for new furniture for their Children's Room, and the awards for Oak Park and San Ysidro will go for programming.

In November, four chapters (Balboa, Clairemont, North Clairemont, and Serra Mesa) will be having a Book Sale Crawl on November 15th. Patrons who visit all four sales will get a special gift at their last stop. Thousands of gently used books will be available, all at bargain prices. Hours vary between the sites, but all sales will be open from 10am – 1pm. See our website (<https://friendsofsdpl.org/>) for exact times and a helpful map of the locations. That weekend is also the monthly UH sale, so it's a great time to start hunting for holiday gifts.

The Friends were recently contacted by the faculty advisor to the K Kids Club at Hancock Elementary, who is interested in expanding library use by military families. We connected him with Jeremy Davies, branch manager at Tierrasanta (closest to Hancock) and are looking forward to seeing what the collaboration will produce.

Item 6: Library Foundation Report – Patrick Stewart, CEO

Total number of contributions to support the library is up 18% from this time last year. Number of new donors are up 50% from last year. Average gifts amount up to 30% from last year. This is to remind us that library patrons are showing up to support the library during these challenging times.

You may have seen in other parts of your social media feed or other parts of the news, the Carnegie Corporation reached out to public libraries across the country. If you were a Carnegie library or you still have your original Carnegie building unrestricted, they just sent \$10,000 to every single one of those libraries. There's like 180 libraries. They've been doing a lot of work in the education space, but they're starting to recognize again that public libraries are really the center of the way that we connect with people.

The Foundation sent the councilmembers budget priority memos calling for 37/7: all libraries open 7 days a week. We are starting to meet with council and will again meet all of them in advance of the budget's mid-year projections. Bracing for not great news, but also priming them to "look for cuts" elsewhere...not the library.

Developing Council one-pagers designed for council offices to quickly see the impact their libraries in their districts have on their constituents.

Thank you to some of Misty's staff for being able to get us some data as to how libraries were used in the last fiscal year. We're compiling those by city council district. So, your city council district is able to look and say, this is what happened at the 4, 5, 6 branches that are in my district. Council District 1, which is the beaches, Carmel Valley, Pacific Beach, La Jolla, and Point Loma. Last year, the doors swung open in those branches 400,000 to 600,000 times. People came into those libraries simply to use the computers or the Wi-Fi hotspots. 2,000 programs were developed for the community, and 60% of those programs were designed specifically for young people under 18. So, it gives our council district, our council staff, and our council

members and their staff an opportunity to look and go, what's happening in the San Diego Public Library is no joke. This is a fully functioning, working hard organization that will make tremendous amounts of impact and value to the community six days a week. We'll get to the sevens. So, once we get that done, I'll share those with you. And these are great opportunities for you guys to be able to use those in talking points, as you're speaking with council members.

Mission Hills Library Shop: Opening on December 1, 2025. To include an opening event with Misty, the Foundation and CD3 Councilmember Whitburn. Weeks' worth of activities: Author readings, family/community events, local authors' events, etc.

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

I just want to give you an update on Baker and Taylor. So, as I reported last month, Baker and Taylor was our major vendor. And they were supposed to have a merger or have an acquisition from another company called ReaderLink that fell through. And then Baker and Taylor said, we'll send you what you've already ordered, but we're not fulfilling any more orders. Then they came back and said they're going out of business in January, so they're not even going to fulfill the current orders. So, we have had to scramble to get another vendor. And at that time, last month, we were really concerned because the two other major vendors had said we can't take on any new business. Ingram has decided that they will work with us. So, we are going to be signing

a sole source contract with Ingram to get through probably the next year so that we can have another RFP process go out to bid again. But we're going to do it a little differently in that we can work with several vendors instead of having just one so that we don't get into this situation again. Did we lose any money? Yes, that's what we're working through now. Baker and Taylor actually owes us money for lease collections that we have ordered that they have not fulfilled. Ingram is trying to scale up as quickly as possible. We had a conversation with them, so they're having to hire a lot of people. We have alerted the council members, and then we're going to put a notice on our website alerting people that we're probably going to be delayed in getting the newest materials.

Hotspots - Curtis is going to give you a presentation on E-rate. We found out that hotspots are not eligible for E-rate. E-rate is a source of reimbursement money that we get from federal for technology, and we thought we were going to be able to use this to reimburse us for the hotspots, but they have now deemed hotspots ineligible. At first, they said they were going to be eligible, and then FCC said, no, they're not. The program is expensive to continue so we're strategizing on other different funding sources we can use to pay for these. But then also strategizing on what our long-term plan is for hotspots. Do we start to phase that program out? Because right now, we have 2,000 that we're lending. Do we lower that number and really focus on trying to get people connected to affordable internet in their home? So, we really did it to try to be a bridge, always knowing that it was not really a sustainable program because it's very expensive and time consuming to operate. We'll keep you posted on how those are doing.

Budget - We haven't had any news yet; we don't know yet what the budget's going to look like. We should know pretty soon; I would say by December. We'll know if we're going to be hit with any further reductions next year.

Letter of Support - You all agreed that you wanted to write a letter to the mayor and the city council with support of maintaining or restoring library funding. So, we've given you two options, two letters.

Chair Moga-Alemany made a motion to use the 2nd letter with Commissioners Ranck-Buhr and Bevelyn's edits. Commissioner Pfeiffer second the motion. Passed unanimously.

Item 10: Agenda Items

- a. Understanding E-Rate Program – Curtis Williams, Program Manager presented to the commissioners.
 - E-Rate is a federal initiative that helps schools and libraries obtain affordable telecommunications and internet access.
 - Administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (**USAC**) under direction of the Federal Communications Commission (**FCC**).
 - Supports equity in education by narrowing the digital divide.

- b. Adult Programing Updates – Oscar Gittemeier presented on adult programming updates
City Heights Performance Annex renovations started in October 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 2026: SDPL / USD Black History Month Author Talk - Author Natalie Baszile discusses *We Are Each Other's Harvest: Celebrating African American Farmers, Land, and Legacy* and *Queen Sugar*
I Can! Center & Accessibility Programs: **November 17 - Brain Balance | ADHD**

- c. Youth Services Updates – Ady Huertas, Program Manager and Karen Nguyen, Librarian II
Karen presented on IDEA labs: Making space for makers

Item 11: Commissioner Comment

Item 12: Other Business

Next meeting is on January 7, 2026, 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

Item 14: Adjournment

Commissioner Sarah Moga-Alemany adjourned the meeting at 1:38 PM.