



BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

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, Pat Bevelyn, , Sitara Sethi, Sam Yo euth

Absent: Phyllis Pfeiffer, Mark Tran

Staff: Misty Jones, Ady Huertas, Tricia Nool, Vic Slater, Raul Gudino, Jennifer Jenkins, Oscar Gittemeier, Francesca De Vera

Library Foundation: Patrick Stewart, Jenny Mehlow, Natalie Ganz

Friends of the Library: Pat Wilson, Ann McDonald, Elida Chavez

e3 CivicHigh: Brett Taylor

Item 1: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Moga-Alemany at 12:31 PM. Their last meeting was on November 5, 2025.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

The November 5, 2025 minutes was approved unanimously

Item 3: Requests for Continuance

Item 4: Non-Agenda Public Comment

A written public comment was submitted and provided to the Commissioners.

NAME: Jack Forman

ADDRESS: La Jolla, California 92037

SUBJECT: Program on November 29th at the La Jolla Branch Library

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

The Friends donated some books at an event in San Ysidro.

Item 6: Library Foundation Report – Patrick Stewart, CEO

Advocacy: We've already met with each of the City Council members and met with the mayor. We have already begun talking about 37/7, that's our mantra for this year. All 37 branches should be open 7 days a week. We've got letters that are going to each of the City Council members this week in advance, they're submitting their budget priority memo updates on Friday to the Independent Budget Analyst office and we have also been working with Misty's team to put together a data project that gives each of the council members in their offices an opportunity to see how their libraries and their council districts are being used.

State of the City Address - Thursday the 15th next Thursday at 3:00 PM. We are hosting an in-person watch party at the new Mission Hills library at 3:00 PM.

Chief Financial Officer - We just made an offer to someone who's starting with us, and she'll be at the board meeting on Monday. We're excited to have her here.

We opened the new library shop on December 1st in Mission Hills so please do come on by. It's a great opportunity to raise more money that supports the foundation that ultimately supports the library.

We just finished our year end apps which was very successful. More new donors than any of our appeals before which is really great. People are coming out and saying the library is important, we want to support the library any way that we can. We also received \$100,000.00 grant from the open AI foundation.

Item 7: e3CivicHigh Update Report - Brett Taylor, CEO

Our charter was renewed for another 5 years. We are in the midst of our recruitment season for next year already in January. As you see it there's a small sign, we're working on some of the things to help show the public more that we exist. When families come and tour our facility, they end up coming to E3 civic high. We appreciate the library partnering with us on this but really wanting to get the word out that we exist, that we have a great program, that we take part in our partnership with the library and it's a real different option for kids in high school. Enrollment is declining in San Diego, so all schools are dealing with this. We anticipate seeing some more of those high school closures and we do not want to be part of it. We're not close to that yet that's why we were reauthorized for 5 years. Thanks for the support of the library and everything that they've been doing for us throughout this time.

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 to locate more stable ground (bedrock) and the result will be evaluated by the designer for resolution. 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 Feb 2026, 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. Due to the federal funding considerations tied to this project, our office is working closely with a team of attorneys to ensure full compliance before releasing the RFP. We're taking this extra time to make certain all federal funding requirements are properly addressed; it is much better to resolve these items now than encounter issues later in the process.

We are anticipating starting the award process Winter 2025/2026 and award the Design-Build contract by Spring 2026.

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, 90% building design and grading submittals were received and are under Citywide plan check review as well as DSD for building construction approval. 90% right of way submittal expected in January 2026. Construction on the early packages is anticipated to begin in the Spring 2026.

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 finishing the roof replacement and electrical upgrades as well as plumbing infrastructure installation. Construction completion is expected by Fall 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

Personnel - We are conducting several hiring processes. We have approximately 50 vacancies but will only be able to fill a portion of these until we have a better understanding of what budget reductions will be proposed. We do not want to fill positions that may be reduced in the next FY budget.

Robert Cronk will be retiring on February 4, 2025, after 35 years of service for the City of San Diego, all in the Library Department.

There has been a change in the City's Executive leadership team. The Library now reports to Rania Amen, Chief Community Services Officer and City Engineer

Media - There was an excellent article about Commissioner Chris Ryall.

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2026/01/05/san-diegos-newest-library-official-is-a-comic-books-veteran-tv-producer-and-library-superfan/>

We also had several media stories regarding the Winter Reading Challenge.

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2026/01/02/get-into-the-winter-reading-challenge-being-offered-by-san-diego-public-library/>

<https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/books-art-san-diego-public-library-winter-reading-challenge/3953652/>

Materials Purchasing - We have been successful in working with Ingram Content Group to purchase materials after the dissolution of Baker and Taylor. We will be entering into a sole source agreement with them while we prepare to go out to bid for a new contract and vendor.

Security - We are working with Purchasing and Contracting to finalize the scope for the security RFP. The Library will be doing a separate process rather than being part of the larger City RFP.

Item 10: Agenda Items

- a. Budget - We have been asked for 7% reduction proposal which equates to about 5.3 million. We have Executive Budget Reviews in February, so we'll have a little bit more information to what exactly we're looking at as far as reductions. We're trying to maintain as many hours and programs as we can. We're working with the Performance and Analytics Department to get really good statistics on usage, community need and taking everything into consideration as we're making these decisions. We're putting forward different options to give the mayor 's office and council and have them decide what the best options are for reductions. We have been asked to hold on to vacancies just in case we have to reduce them and to not fill any that are not crucial.

- b. Adult Programing Updates – Oscar Gittemeier
Arts and Culture Exhibitions: Mother Tongue Opening Reception: Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 4PM – 6PM. Onview is January 31- April 18, 2026
2026 One Book, One San Diego: Save the date: OBOSD Pitch Party 2026, Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 - Central Library
2026: SDPL / USD Black History Month Author Talk – Natalie Baszile
Annual Patron Satisfaction Survey – Coming in March 2026
City Heights Performance Annex: Media Arts Internship Onboarding

- c. Youth Services Updates – Ady Huertas, Program Manager and Francesca De Vera, Librarian III
Presentation on Pride Storytime – Mental Health America Collab
In May 2024, SDPL Awarded \$10,000 LIVE Grant from Mental Health of America of California

January 7, 2026

Page 6

Item 11: Commissioner Comment

Item 12: Other Business

Next meeting is on February 11, 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

La Jolla Branch Library Storytime (November 29, 2025)

Item 14: Adjournment

Commissioner Sarah Moga-Alemanly adjourned the meeting at 1:37 PM