



# BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 7, 2026

12:30 PM

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

### Attendance

#### Commissioners:

**Present:** Sarah Moga-Aleman, Dr. Wendy Ranck-Buhr, Pat Bevelyn, Sitara Sethi, Phyllis Pfeiffer

**Absent:** Mark Tran, Sam Yoouth, Scott Walter, Chris Ryall

**Staff:** Misty Jones, Ady Huertas, Tricia Nool, Vic Slater, Raul Gudino, Jennifer Jenkins, Oscar Gittemeier, Dana Sanchez, Kelly Verheyden, Bob Surratt, Curtis Williams

**Library Foundation:** Patrick Stewart, Jenny Mehlow, Natalie Ganz, Lindsay Cooper Martin

**Friends of the Library:** Pat Wilson

**e3 CivicHigh:** Brett Taylor

#### Item 1: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Moga-Aleman at 12:33 PM. Their last meeting was on January 7, 2026.

#### Item 2: Approval of Minutes

The January 7, 2026 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: Allie

ADDRESS: San Diego, CA 92116

SUBJECT: Online viewing and participation of Commission meetings

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

The Friends are concerned about the possibility of further cuts to the Library's budget in FY27. To that end, we held an Advocacy workshop led by Library Foundation CEO Patrick Stewart at our January President's Advisory Council meeting. The workshop was recorded and will be available for Friends to review. In addition, President Pat Wilson and Friends of the Malcom X Library's Patricia McFadden attended the City Council's Public Comment hearing on the FY 27 budget held on February 23rd, and support for the Library dominated the submitted written public comments for the session. There will be another public budget hearing on March 10th at 6pm; the Friends and Foundation are encouraging library lovers to attend and make their voices heard.

Many Friends chapters funded Black History Month and Lunar New Year activities (including the ever-popular Lion Dancers) at branches across the City. We are anticipating the need for more programming money to come from Chapters after June, and are working on strategies to make sure that all branches have access to resources.

The Friends will again be a table sponsor at the upcoming Serving with a Purpose conference in May. Representatives who have attended past SWaPs have returned with glowing reports and valuable insight from the experience.

Sale of donated books continue to be the lion's share of income for the organization, and we are always looking for more. Our next FSDPL book sale dates are March 21st and 22nd (9am – 2pm on Saturday, and 12pm – 3pm on Sunday); chapter book sale information can be found on our website at <https://friendsofsdpl.org/book-sales-by-chapters/>. New titles come in daily, so there's always something to see.

**Item 6: Library Foundation Report – Patrick Stewart, CEO**

Advocacy - We do a lot of advocacy, we try do that year-round, but this is that time of the year where we're diligently meeting with elected officials and the Mayor's office. We can increase our talking points when it comes to how you encourage elected officials look at the way the libraries are being used in their community. One of the things that I had the pleasure of doing just recently was joining Misty and another one of your commissioners Scott Walter at San Diego State looking at a collaborative program opportunity between the 2 entities and how the library foundation supports that collaborative opportunity. This is where our money goes when we raise money to support the San Diego Public Library close to feeling really cool innovative opportunities like that and that's the kind of thing that we got to talk a lot about when it comes time to talking with elected officials.

Innovation - Piloting new things, scaling things thinking outside the box being able to recognize what's going on in the community and librarians and quickly creating opportunities for the community to engage in a really meaningful deep meaningful valuable and impactful way with the library.

Library Support Network has created a National Library Giving Day and that's going to be April 1<sup>st</sup>. You'll be getting more information about that and then following up that month is National Library Week

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beginning the week of April 20th and there's themes that have been set forth by the American Library Association that we will be highlighting excellence in San Diego Public Library system. Right to Read is a theme highlighting library workers and an opportunity for us to talk about how folks can get out and take action to support the library. There are opportunities to meet in person at the City Council. April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor 's budget will come out and so we'll get a real honest to goodness sense of what the city is thinking when it comes to our San Diego Public Library. With the help of the library staff, we were able to take a look at how libraries are being used in council districts. We're talking to our Council District Council representatives about not cutting money for programs, we're talking about not taking programs away from children youth and families.

We opened the new bookstore in December Mission Hills. We've got these great new little bookmarks that will leave with each of you to remind you to come and join us at Mission Hills. We have a Library shop at the old Mission Hills branch and it's really fantastic. It's another way that we raise money to support.

**Item 7: e3CivicHigh Update Report - Brett Taylor, CEO**

We're so happy with everything that the Central Library has supported us with the partnership with the Teen Center, so if you ever get a chance to head up to the Teen Center, we just had an art exhibition from E3 civic high students. It was album covers it was 3D woodcut printed and now there's a poetry exhibit. There is some art and some poetry from our kids and so it's just been a great collaboration it's pushing our learning facilitators, our teachers to really think about how we create products that really display our kids' learning. We are in a private kind of facility and the fact that it's not very open and so to have a space that the public is able to see the work of our kids has been really meaningful and so we're looking forward to try to keep the Teen Center full and if you get a chance to ever pop up there, take a look and we appreciate all the partnership that it's been given to us so.

**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 contractor will be directed to proceed under dispute, and E&CP will coordinate with contractor for remobilization. Libraries will be informed when construction picks up again.

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 complete. However, the Fire Alarm system has maintenance flags ("Trouble Codes") that are preventing permit sign-off. Currently scoping an upgraded Fire Alarm Panel (FACP) due to the age and condition of the existing system to address both the Trouble Codes and get final permit sign-off for the sprinkler system.

The Library Mechanical system and Roof upgrade is expected to start in Mid-May 2026, and the construction duration is estimated to be 8-10 months. Material has been ordered with 14-16-week lead time.

**Ocean Beach Branch Library:**

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Ocean Beach Library Expansion project was issued in late January to the three Design-Build firms shortlisted through the RFQ process. Proposals are due at the end of February. Following proposal review, interviews are anticipated to be scheduled in March, with firm selection targeted for May. Subject to contract execution and required approvals, groundbreaking is anticipated to occur prior to the end of December 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. Phase 2 (the construction phase) was awarded. 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 was received, and it is under review by the PM team for completeness. Citywide plan check to follow. 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. Due to roof framing delays resulting from unforeseen conditions, including non-standard material sizing and unexpected water and sewer conditions, the construction completion is now anticipated in Winter 2027.

**Rancho Peñasquitos Library Rehabilitation:**

The project final design completed and ready for DSD permitting. The request for the addition

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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 is underfunded by approximately \$2.5M. Will reach out to Public Libraries Department and evaluate if the project will be funded in FY27. The project solicitation for bid in FY26 was delayed due to funding and is currently on track for award in FY27, pending resolution funding shortfall.

**City Heights Performance Annex Expansion:**

This is a fast-track project. Project design is complete and permitted. Construction is ongoing. The Mayoral Action for phase 2 is routing for approval. Project completion and opening by early summer 2026.

**Item 9: Library Director Report – Misty Jones, Director**

**Personnel** - We have not received approval to fill any positions. We did move some staff around to fill some of our most crucial gaps.

Robert Cronk's last day was February 5, 2026. Jennifer Jenkins will be moving into his role as DD for Public Services and we will work to fill the DD for Customer Experience, but it will likely be next fiscal year.

**Media** - There was a great UT article about the newest art exhibit, Mother Tongue. <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2026/02/08/in-the-curators-words-at-central-library-a-new-exhibit-examines-our-interconnectedness-through-textile/>

KUSI also covered our Black History month events. <https://fox5sandiego.com/black-history-month/san-diego-black-history-month/#/questions/5294859>

**Interlibrary Loan** - The Library provides our cardholders with the option to access materials that are not in our catalog through three different lending programs, Circuit, Link+ and Interlibrary Loan. Due to staffing vacancies and unexpected early retirements, we do not have adequate staffing to maintain all three programs. We have analyzed usage, and we lend far more materials than we borrow through Interlibrary Loan, and it takes a good deal of staff time to process requests. Therefore, because Interlibrary Loan is more staff intensive and less utilized by our patrons for borrowing, we have decided to temporarily suspend the Interlibrary Loan program. We will continue to focus on core in-library services and will maintain access to Circuit and Link+.

**Budget** - The City is facing a deficit of approximately \$110 million next fiscal year. We have been asked to propose a 7% reduction which is approximately \$5.3 million. We are working with the Performance and Analytics department to gather statistics such as usage, amenities, facilities condition, median household income, educational attainment, etc. in order to inform decisions for reductions.

**Item 10: Agenda Items**

- a. La Jolla Branch Library Storytime (November 29, 2025) – Misty Jones, Library Director  
Misty gave a brief background on what happened on November 29 at La Jolla Library Community Book Swap event and storytime.
- b. Adult Programing Updates – Oscar Gittemeier, Program Manager  
Oscar presented on Adult Programming updates: Community Engagement Programs, 2026 Black History Month Author Talk and Book Clubs, One Book, One Coast, One Book, One San Diego (Book nominations open through 3/15/26), Mother Tongue Art and Culture Exhibitions through April 18, 2026, Arts and Crafts Day on March 18, 2026, City Heights Renovations, Annual Patron Satisfaction Survey 4/2/26-5/2/26, National Library Week 4/19-4/25, 2026.
- c. Youth Services Updates – Ady Huertas, Program Manager  
Bob Surratt presented on unveiling of Low Rider Forever Stamps in partnership with the US Post Office.

**Item 11: Commissioner Comment**

**Item 12: Other Business**

Next meeting is on April 1, 2026, 10:00 AM 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 1:37 PM