



BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

12:30 PM

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

Attendance

Commissioners:

Present: Sarah Moga-Aleman, Scott Walter, Chris Ryall, Mark Tran, Pat Bevelyn, Dr. Wendy Ranck-Buhr

Absent: Sitara Sethi

Staff: Misty Jones, Tricia Nool, Raul Gudino, Jennifer Jenkins, Curtis Williams, Ady Huertas, Vic Slater, Oscar Gittemeier, Emily Derry

Library Foundation: Jenny Mehlow, Natalie Ganz

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

e3 CivicHigh: Brett Taylor - absent

Item 1: Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Moga-Aleman at 12:33 PM. Their last meeting was on July 1, 2026.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

The July 1, 2026 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

The Friends had a booth at KPBS book festival and did amazingly well. There were 11,000

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attendees at the Bookfest and sold a lot of books and made about \$4,000. Thanks to Lisa Hines and her entire team who put this together. San Carlos Friends president is moving to Colorado. Pat, Misty and Patrick are meeting regarding the matching fund. Our goal this year is to draft a Memorandum of Understanding between the library and the Friends.

Item 6: Library Foundation Report – Jenny Mehlow

Where's ODI – largest participation to date

Join Library Shop SD and our friends at Meet Cute in welcoming #1 internationally bestselling author **JOHN GREEN** and special guest **HANK GREEN** for a conversation around John's adult fiction debut, ***Hollywood, Ending***. The pair will discuss the book, answer audience questions, and more. All tickets include an autographed copy of *Hollywood, Ending*.

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Sunday @ 7:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. check-in

California Center for the Arts, Escondido

340 N Escondido Blvd, Escondido, CA 92025

14th Anniversary of the Foundation and Library Shop

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 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.

Construction operations resumed in Summer to align with the Roof/HVAC project and library closure. The City and contractor were not able to reach an agreement on the cost of work, and the contractor was directed to proceed under dispute. The contractor is working on additional

testing/sampling, and the remaining construction, including the retaining wall, will resume in September. Based on current conditions, we are estimating the project will be completed in Summer 2027.

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

The Library Fire Sprinkler system upgrade project work is complete. However, permit sign-off is pending fire alarm panel delivery/installation. Currently the Fire Alarm Control Panel (FACP) is being replaced, and work is anticipated to be completed in 1-2 weeks (beginning of September).

The Library Mechanical system and Roof upgrade are in construction phase: The interior HVAC work was completed. Exterior HVAC and Roofing construction on-going. Anticipate late August to complete punchlist. Project will be completed in Fall for possible re-opening in October.

Ocean Beach Branch Library:

Since the last update, the Design-Build team of EC Constructors and Domus Architects has been selected and issued a Limited Notice to Proceed (LNTP). A project kickoff meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2026, with the Design-Build team and project stakeholders to formally initiate project activities and confirm next steps.

Upcoming efforts will focus on design coordination between Library staff and the Design-Build team to refine project requirements and advance the design. The project remains on schedule, with a groundbreaking event anticipated in December 2026.

Oak Park Library:

The scope of work for the Oak Park Library Project includes the design and construction of the new Oak Park Branch Library. The principal facility is a freestanding multi-story structure of 20,000 sf for the library and an additional 10,000 sf for a sorting facility.

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.

A groundbreaking ceremony in coordination with Council District 4 (CD4) occurred on May 14, 2026. This kicked off the construction phase with the grading work. Building permit was issued on 8/28/2026 allowing for the continuation of construction moving forward with foundations and actual building construction.

The demo/grading subcontractor cleared and grubbed the site and began mass grading. They cut grade for the building pad, then over-excavated and filled/compacted the pad with approved imported fill material. The building pad was then certified. They also completed rough grading for the remainder of the site, including the parking lot, surrounding sidewalks, and bioretention basin.

Construction Schedule: Design-Build Start: December 24, 2024

Site Construction Start: May 14, 2026

Estimated Construction Completion: Spring 2028

Budget: Construction Cost (Agreement with Barnhart-Reese Construction, Inc.): \$34,900,000

Total Project Cost Estimate: \$39,627,197

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 commenced on May 12, 2025. Since that time, the contractor has completed abatement activities, interior demolition, and roof replacement. In addition, the contractor has substantially completed the building's rough electrical work, as well as the installation of water, sewer, and associated plumbing infrastructure.

Current activities include coordination and completion of the SDG&E connection scope, ceiling finishes, and lighting installation. Due to roof framing delays associated with unforeseen field conditions, including non-standard material sizing and unexpected water and sewer conditions, project completion is now anticipated in Winter 2027.

Rancho Peñasquitos Library Rehabilitation:

The rehab project will be repairing existing building and architectural features such as fiberglass, reinforced gypsum treatments, stucco walls, perimeter walls, steel cross beams, stair railings, and parapet wall caps. It will also replace approximately 24,000 square feet of parking and sidewalk and would remove and replace portions of existing ornamental landscaping. The project final design completed and ready for DSD permitting. 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 is estimated to be \$3.1M, total. The work is to be done by the City and a Job Order Contractor, Exbon. Notice To Proceed (NTP) is tentative for 9/8/26 and completion date is estimated to be Fall of 2027. This library facility will not be open during construction.

City Heights Performance Annex Expansion:

This is a fast-track project. Project design is complete and permitted. Construction has been completed with pending delivery of final furniture, fixtures, and equipment. Final building inspection is slated for early September with occupancy turning over to the City once approved. The final portion of the project is for the Solar component and connection is anticipated to be completed by early October.

Item 9: Library Director Report – Misty Jones, Director

Library Hours

The new hours went into effect on August 29, 2026.

Central, Point Loma and Rancho Bernardo have reduced Saturday hours from 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Allied Gardens/Benjamin and University Heights moved to a Tuesday-Saturday schedule

Marilyn & Gene Marx Special Collections Center will be closed August 29 - September 7 for transition. Their new operating hours will be:

- Mondays - *By appointment only*
- Tuesdays - 11:30 am – 8:00 pm
- Wednesdays - *By appointment only*
- Thursdays - 9:30 am – 6:00 pm
- Fridays - *By appointment only*
- Saturdays - 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
- Sundays – CLOSED

The Judith Harris Art Gallery will have new hours. Open Tuesday–Saturday (weekday hours stay the same), and 1:00 AM – 4:00 PM on Saturdays. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

Rancho Peñasquitos closed for repairs for approximately 12 months.

Ocean Beach closed for renovation and expansion for approximately 24 months.

Facility Issues

On August 7, San Ysidro flooded due to a malfunctioning urinal sensor and will be closed for 6-8 weeks for repairs. We are assessing how quickly we can reopen parts of the building for a cool zone.

On July 22, a car drove through the Clairemont Branch Library causing significant damage. The building is currently undergoing asbestos abatement and once concluded, repairs will begin. It will remain closed for approximately 2-3 months.

Partnerships/Initiatives

SDPL has formed a new partnership with Google to offer patrons the Grow with Google online Career Certificate program. Professional certificates are available in fields like Data Analytics, Project Management, Cybersecurity and UX Design. Those that complete Google Career Certificate get exclusive access to CareerCircle, offering free 1-on-1 coaching, interview and career support, and a job board to connect directly with employers, including over 150 companies in the Google Career Certificates Employer Consortium.

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Through support from San Diego Foundation, Dr. Seuss Foundation and Library Foundation SD, SDPL launched the Decodable Books collection in the Denny Sanford Children's Library.

SDPL is continuing our partnership with RUTH Remember Us The Holocaust to bring the RUTH exhibit to the Central Library. The exhibit will open on September 29, 2026, on the 2nd floor and will remain until 2028.

Media Coverage

There were several media stories promoting the importance of a library card as a back-to-school resource.

There were also several media stories about the proposal to use several library sites for affordable housing in the Affordable Housing Master Plan. There was a misperception that libraries would be eliminated but this is not the case. The plan calls for libraries to be included as part of a potential housing development.

Personnel

Adriana (Ady) Huertas has been named Deputy Director of Customer Experience.

Other

September is Library Card Sign Up month

One Book One San Diego is celebrating its 20th year. Book Selections are

Adults: *The Buffalo Hunter Hunter* by Stephen Graham Jones

Teens: *The Cartoonists Club: A Graphic Novel* by Raina Telgemeier and Scott McCloud

Kids: *Books on Bikes* by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell, illustrated by Brizida Magro

Item 10: Agenda Items

- a. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of San Diego & San Diego City Library Presentation – Chrissy Green, Community Engagement Coordinator
Dolly Parton 's imagination library started 31 years ago and it's a book gifting program

- b. ACTION ITEM: Letter of Support for Funding Oak Park Library to be revised and will present at the October meeting
- c. Adult Programing Updates – Oscar Gittemeier, Program Manager
30 Comic Con panels held at the Central Library
Library Sign Up month
One Book 20th Anniversary Library Card
One Book, One San Diego Winners
KPBS San Diego Book Festival Outreach
City Heights Annex Idea Lab – Prebys Grant
City Heights Performance Annex Reopening is on 9/16/26 at 12:30 PM
- d. Youth Services Updates – Emily Derry, Supervising Librarian
Presented on Decode with ODI (decodable books) located in the Children's area

Item 11: Commissioner Comment

Item 12: Other Business

Next meeting is on October 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

ACTION ITEM: Approve revised Letter of Support
Marvel Presentation – Commissioner Chris Ryall

Item 14: Adjournment

Commissioner Sarah Moga-Alemany adjourned the meeting at 1:47 PM.