

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Wendy Urushima-Conn, Chair

Marshall Anderson • Elizabeth Hansen • Shawna Hook-Held • Ben Moraga • Linda Sotelo

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, July 6, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Wendy Urushima-Conn, Elizabeth Hansen, Ben Moraga, Marshall Anderson, Shawna Hook-Held

Absent: Linda Sotelo

Staff: Misty Jones, Director – Library, Bob Cronk, Deputy Director – Library; Jennifer Jenkins, Deputy Director – Library; Tricia Nool, Executive Assistant – Library; William Curtis, Program Manager – Library; Ady Huertas, Program Manager – Library; Oscar Gittemeier, Program Manager – Library

Presenters: Kevin Tran & Rachel Kuyper, Library Staff

Jan Hintzman - President, Friends of the College-Rolando Library; Joan Reese - Immediate Past President, Friends of the San Diego Public Library

Public:

Ann McDonald – FSDPL, Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF, Charlie Goldberg, Steve Hermes

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Urushima-Conn at 12:30 pm via Zoom. Their last meeting was on May 4, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 4, 2022 minutes was approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Submitted on Wednesday, July 6, 2022 - 15:30

Name: Allison

Email: dontlickmytoothbrush@gmail.com

Board or Commission: Library Commissioners, Board of Meeting Date: Wed, 07/06/2022

Comment Type: Agenda Comment / Closed Session Comment Agenda Item Number: 8

Comments: Thank you for continuing to make these meeting recordings available online. Can the library make recommendations for needs that should be accommodated by development services? I'm not sure why a seven-story residential building is a "kiss of death" - in fact it should support the library! There could be shared use parking agreements with the development as well as requiring the developer to provide transit amenities, bike amenities, even funding transit frequency to the library. Do you have a sense of how people access the library currently? (What is the split between driving, transit, walking, biking, etc.)? Commissioner Anderson mentioned the Transit Priority Area, which it seems benefits the library. I just want to caution against the library preference being allocating \$ toward something without knowing what its funding, especially if accommodations can be made with the developer going through mitigation that can benefit the library.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

Ann McDonald

President, Friends of the San Diego Public Library

The Friends had an in-person officers and board lunch meeting at the Mission Valley library on June 11th which was designed to help us know each other better. On June 29th, we voted to go ahead with the AmeriCorps VIP Member program we are looking forward to interviewing and then settling on a good candidate.

We have been working hard to unpack boxes of books to fill the new shelving which we had installed on June 22nd. What an improvement in the appearance of the lower level, but a lot of work it has been to fill these shelves and reorganize the books.

I invite and urge all of you to come to one of our book sales on the third weekend of each month on Saturday, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM and on Sunday from noon to 3:00 PM. On Sunday, we sell bags of books for \$5. Book sales for the corporate friends, as well as those various branch libraries are improving each month. Word is spreading that the friends book sales are finally back. We are looking forward to the kickoff on Saturday July 9th of the libraries and parks for all signature gathering celebration, and the training of volunteer signature gatherers. Recruiting volunteers is a major need we have. We are hoping that our AmeriCorps Member will be able to help us attract and retain good volunteers for all of our branches, as well as corporate.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:
Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF

On behalf of libraries transform SD, which is a coalition between the Commission, the Friends and the Foundation to advocate and this year we certainly did advocate very heavily for the needs of the library and we just got done sending out around a thank you to all of the library supporters who joined us on to the various activities, either joining in at the Council meetings, writing postcards, calling or emailing their Council members, showing up at their own individual by their town councils, planning boards, garden clubs, garden groups, whatever it is, and extolling the virtues and the impact of the library to their friends and neighbors and I think that that was a really effective year this year. We're also in the process of sending out Thank yous to each of our elected officials as well.

We have kicked off the second phase of the library masterplan. A few of you were in attendance on the evening of the final a city council meeting where they're discussing the budget. But we had we brought the consultants Jill Eyers from G4 architecture and Carson Block from Carson Block Technology to know sort of what the next phase looks like, which will include even more individual branch communities' feedback. They visited a few of the branches and we have a follow up meeting with them this Friday. Libraries Transform SD in our individual branch communities will be able to get involved, over the course of the next roughly 12 to 16 months to put together what will be the final components of the library master plan.

The Foundation is leading the way and trying to find more sustainable long-term funding to support our libraries. We've partnered with our friends at the park foundation and are kicking off the signature gathering phase for libraries parks for all and we're doing that in Claremont, the North Claremont Park and Rec center off of Genesee this Saturday and some updates throughout the next six months or so. But we do have a bit of an uphill battle to climb, but one that we all are ready to take on. I just want to extend an early thank you for to this group here for support around that effort.

I just wanted to mention very quickly I just had a conversation with one of your library supporters a few minutes ago. I had the opportunity to talk really at length and in detail about the work that the library and Librarians do programming around equity, equitable access and social justice and creating spaces and programs for every member of our Community, be able to see themselves in their libraries and in their communities and as a part in as a fabric of San Diego through their participation with libraries. It really filled me with a significant sense of pride being able to talk about the work that you all do and creating those opportunities for everyone and that's why we're doing what we're doing and love having that conversation and will continue to have that conversation with everybody that we possibly can.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

a. Report on Library Construction Projects

The Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library:

The pre-construction meeting was held on 6/8/2022, and the "NTP / Notice to Proceed" was issued on 6/13/2022. The actual construction work is planned to start around Mid-July, and the Groundbreaking event is likely to be held on Friday 7/15/2022 at 8:30 AM.

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Parking Lot Expansion:

The City DSD approved the construction drawings set, that is now “Ready to Issue The Building Permit”, when the contract will be awarded. The design consultant is working with the City Storm Water towards their clearance and addressing E&CP comments. The City E Contract process is in progress. instead of this item going out to a consultant for the study it's going to be done in-house by engineering staff. This is a project that was proposed in 2002-2005. It was still an active project and there has been interest from the Councilmember and the Community to take another look at that.

University City library expansion is getting 1.9 million.

San Carlos Phase One is getting 1.5 million. Finished design and purchased the land and start the construction for that library.

Ocean Beach Library expansion is getting 4.5 million so that will almost fully funded project with the \$3 million donation that we're getting. We also have a federal ask for an additional 4.5 million for that so that would be totally fully funded and that's moving forward on the federal front.

Oak Park Library - we got \$20 million that will fully fund the Oak Park project.

Ocean Beach - they put forward three Design ideas and have done a month's worth of Community engagement on that. It wraps up tomorrow, we had the surveys, I think we ended up getting around 200-250 surveys. They're going to be compiling that they'll have another meeting in August, with the Community to give them the results of what the three choices were and then just start moving forward with that project, especially now that we have funding, we can start moving forward with that expansion.

b. Update from Library Director

Budget - We did end up getting the do your homework at the library positions so those did get funded, that is to convert them from hourly into halftime position, so we will have a permanent halftime employee for each location, and then supplement them with one to two hourly positions per location, depending on use so that's going to allow us to be able to continue the homework programs throughout the year, and not have any interruptions and to continue the summer, like summer camps and the winter camps that we're doing. It's been so instrumental in getting kids back engaged in school and helping them, you know re engage and even during the pandemic when they were remote learning using the online option of that so it's going to allow us to continue on that so it's great news.

Free4Me Pilot Project - We also received \$100,000 for a pilot project called Free4Me. It is to provide feminine hygiene products in 100 different locations throughout the city, recreation centers, libraries, etc.

Hiring Updates - We're trying to get reopened on Sundays. We are fast and furious trying to hire people. We're doing a couple of more hiring processes of the 275 vacancies that we had at the beginning of the fiscal year. We have about 100 left to fill. It's the lower level

positions, entry level positions that were struggling with a little bit. There is going to be some raises coming the beginning of the fiscal year so there's a 5% raise that is coming. On there are also some special salary adjustments for some of those lower level positions so I'm hoping that's going to make an impact and we can start filling those positions because they're crucial to us getting open on Sundays. We are really struggling with the Covid cases. We have a lot of staff out and continuous every single day; we probably have between three or four this morning, so we're getting hit so we're struggling just to stay open the Monday through Saturday but still trying to get Sundays before the school year starts. We're also working with our represented employees' organization on scheduling in general, so we've done a staff survey to get the staff's sentiment around the schedules that we have now. We're looking at what is fair across the board, what can we do to give people a better work life balance also with the understanding that we need to be open for the Community as to when the Community can come into the library, and they are Community also work so it's trying to balance on that, so it's going to be a long process, probably long and painful like when we did our conversion from hourlies to benefited, but I think it'll definitely be worth it in the long run.

Pride Parade - The Pride parade is coming up next Saturday, so we are marching in the Pride parade, we will also be at the pride festival on July 16. You are welcome to march with us and also come to the festival to stay the booth, so please just let me know. We have outreach T- shirts, ODI will be in our parade we're going to have ODI in a classic convertible.

Comic Con - Comic con coming up, we're in full swing. We will again have a booth at Comic Con, and we'll be doing the educator in libraries conference here at the Central Library.

Library Master Plan - will be back and they're going to come in August and do a presentation on what phase two is going to entail. We had great visits to the branches, we got out to not as many branches, as we wanted to, we tried to get to one in every Council District we almost did but not quite. I think we ended up getting to about 10 locations. Some of them we just had to do the drive by. They really got a lot of feedback, were able to meet with staff and to meet with our IT team and they got to go out and see our delivery and sorting and delivery operations.

Security Report - I'm going to start we're going to start putting this in every report the incident summary, the security summary. And again, just the caveat, the percent change from the previous year does look high, but that is because we were closed a good deal of fiscal year 21. So of course, that is going to skew the results if you look at the incidents from 2019, 2020, 2022 we are down incidents; we are still having issues with things like substance abuse and mental illness. We do have our behavioral health. Nami is back in the building so they're doing their hours again. We've reached out to our partners that are really engaging PD and homeless outreach have really done a great job of kind of helping us starting you know they're starting to do more enforcement. They're starting to open up the shelters more and provide more places for people and to do more outreach and so we're really we're seeing some improvement in kind of the conditions that we've been seeing around the building that we were really concerned about so and we're just going to keep at it and keep engaging our partners to try stay ahead of any issues.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Presentation on Outreach to Patrons in Detention/Coming out of Detention – Kevin Tran & Rachel Kuyper, Library Staff
- b. College Rolando Library Parking Issues – Jan Hintzman – President, Friends of the College-Rolando Library; Joan Reese – Immediate Past President, Friends of the San Diego Public Library
Presentation and explanation of the parking and situation in College-Rolando fully requesting that the library Commission consider adopting a statement that would support the Friends position and the Planning Commissioners position recommendation.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Wendy Urushima-Conn: I know the one of the tricky things is we're it's still hard to determine what the developers are going to do, but I really appreciate you bringing this to light. Of course, what good is a library, if you can't park there and get their input and I appreciate your stats about the areas of service and the income levels and all of that so I'm going to call on Commissioner Hansen.

Elizabeth Hansen: Thank you for the presentation and I wanted to just ask a couple clarifying questions, the first is, can you go into the site plan that you said was the developers. I'm seeing on this, that they have proposed exclusive spaces for the library up at that left-hand corner, it says the 25 spaces. And, which is pretty comparable to most shared parking agreements, and they are, it seems, in my opinion they're making an effort to try to preserve some parking for the library I'm struggling a little bit, because I know you're in the process of or you have an existing shared parking roommate. I understand that you guys want something in perpetuity or moving forward that's understandable, however I'm struggling a little bit because these are two distinct eight peons the property lines are fairly clear and I don't know that it's in our purview to dictate what another property owner should or shouldn't do on their property and I think that the first step is a shared parking agreement, we see them in the city, all of you know all the time on multiple developments, especially infill developments like this where we have such a critical housing shortage and we also want to bring more people and homes into areas where there are more manageable housing costs and this I think areas, one of those. And I think other than negotiating a shared parking agreement as part of any sort of some middle that this developer has going forward I'm not sure that we legally or appropriately can really say that we think there should be some permanent solution for the for the library on somebody else's property and struggling with that one a little bit just to be completely candid.

Elizabeth Hansen: I would be open to getting going on record and expressing hope or desire that the private property owner and whatever project comes forward on you know contemplates shared access and or parking and some sort of long term agreement to preserve the access and a parking for the for the library. But, again, I think one of the challenges, you have is the way this property line goes and the access being from mohawk and not from one as much unless there is some sort of easement for access and parking and I don't think it's appropriate, again I'm struggling and obviously it's my occupational hazard here, which is forcing me to struggle.

But I'm struggling to dictate or come so strongly far as certainly wanting to advocate for libraries and access and equity, but also challenged with being too strong and telling private property owners what they can and cannot do I guess that's where I'm coming from, but I I'd be very interested to hear my colleagues have to say.

Wendy Urushima-Conn: I first I just I want to thank Ms. Hansen, I know this is an area of your expertise and I think that you know everyone on this call. You know all of us are here because we love the library, and we want it to be a resource for everyone, I think you know there's definitely no question that every single person on this call wants people to be able to access every library, I think that just goes without saying, the question is, you know I think what Commissioner Hansen brought up is it within our purview. To you know I'm leaning toward, and this is just me personally thinking a general letter of support if that's what you're asking for I'm definitely comfortable with that and maybe I would look to Commissioner Hansen to

Help us with that language, but I would also be again interested to hear what the other Commissioners have to say again, you know just recognizing Commissioner Hansen's expertise on this, this is what she does all day she understands the rules and the regulations and again just wondering what's within our purview knowing that we all are in complete agreement let there be, and that the first thing out of my mouth, every day, for whatever I'm doing is about equity.

Ben Moraga: I think, as a condition, since we're not a regulatory body, the best we can do is a letter of support carefully worded, obviously. I would charge that to someone else not myself but I'd love to see a draft of that, so I would move to that that we draft some sort of letter of support that we can that we can approve or review, but there's not much else we can do. If we can put it in the packet before, so we can review and maybe we can put in and consent or something or not considered, we can have it pulled it for me to have a cold if people have questions.

Wendy Urushima-Conn: we do have a motion on the floor to submit a letter of support and with Misty's offer to run it by the city attorney. Do I have a second on that motion or there any other further comments or questions before we move to provide support letter?

Marshall Anderson: just want to note it's 215 new residential units, and this is a transit priority area right, so they could be providing zero parking spaces. Now, the fact that it sounds like they've already made a concession to at least allow for shared parking spaces speaks volume to the developer's commitment so as long as we're not doing anything to get away from the project, you know I largely agree with the method or the route for Elizabeth laid out. At the end of the day, we're in a housing crisis, and this is an urban library it's flanked on all sides or soon to be all sides by large residential apartment developments.

Misty Jones: I just want to clarify that we did the joint use agreement when there was a hotel planned we did know that if there was housing would need to be a different agreement and we have already spoken to the developers' representatives about that there would need to be the developer, have not spoken to recently, but we still you know, we have supported the Council and the mayor's office had spoken to his representatives who put forward that they are willing to negotiate a different agreement moving forward, that would preserve parking so that is what

they have put forward. And that's really you know until we know what they're planning definitely we're kind of stuck in limbo, a little bit so.

Ben Moraga: The way you just leave that out sounds like a nice letter of support, would you know, encourage the continued negotiation have sufficient part of it.

Elizabeth Hansen: I would just say I don't mean to be a broken record from the last meeting, but I do think there's opportunity for us to wait for some middle to see what the project is to see what the benefits are to also then provide support or recommendations for inclusion in you know future plans things that if you're not getting something we can try to do that I just I mean we can do a general letter of support that says we're advocates for libraries and we want to see this project, and you know keep in mind that shared parking global I mean we can write a beautiful letter that supports this, but again I want to remind everybody that this is the very beginning of the process, it's good that we have early support for preserving the access, preserving the parking if that's what we do and that's got to be carried through the entire entitlement, which is months and months, if not years, some. So, I just absolutely open to reviewing a draft of a letter that we would discuss next time, but I do want to just emphasize that this is very, very beginning of the journey.

Shawna Hook-Held: And I just wanted to add, in that I would like, I can definitely see us sending a letter of support but also like waiting to see what the new agreement is I think we're not going off of the most recent developments.

Wendy Urushima-Conn: So we can have a full understanding, again, I appreciate Commissioner Hansen, and the Commissioners sharing their expertise, thank you, Misty for taking the lead on a general support letter and we can again review that and noted that early in the process, thank you for that Elizabeth.

A draft general letter of support to be reviewed by the City Attorney's office will be presented to the Commissioners at the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next Board of Library Commissioners meeting will take place August 3, 2022 at 12:30 PM via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wendy Urushima-Conn adjourned the meeting at 1:59PM.



Misty Jones

Director, Library Department

/tn