



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Mel Katz, Chair

Matthew Hervey • Susan Atkins • Susan Lew • Judy McCarty • MaryAnne Pintar • Katie Sullivan

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday August 1, 2007

### ATTENDANCE

#### Commissioners:

**Present:** Susan Atkins, Matthew Hervey, Mel Katz, Susan Lew, Katie Sullivan

**Absent:** Judy McCarty, MaryAnne Pintar

**Staff:** Anna Tatár, Library Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Bruce Johnson, Deputy Director; Cynthia Meinhardt, Project Officer II; Carol Young, Senior Management Analyst

**Public:**

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 2007 minutes were approved unanimously.

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### 10.a Library System Update

Cynthia Meinhardt provided a Capital Improvement Project Update.

The Logan Heights bid opening went well, and within budget. The low bid was the contractor who constructed the new Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library.

The North University Community Branch Library will open to the public on September 19.

A meeting was held in San Carlos to review the design, and the community was supportive of the design as is.

Afshin Oskoui was promoted to the new position of Assistant Director of Engineering and Capital Projects. He will continue to be responsible for oversight of project design and

management. Commissioner Katz suggested that the Commission send a letter of congratulations to Afshin.

### **REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE**

None.

### **NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

Commissioner Katz reported that the annual meeting will be held on September 8, and the strategic plan will be shared to the membership-at-large.

Commissioner Hervey noted that the Friends of the Library have been nominated for an Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) award. He will be purchasing a table for the Friends at the November 14 awards dinner.

### **SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD**

No Report.

### **CHAIR'S UPDATE: Mel Katz**

Commissioner Katz distributed a summary of features of the North University Community Branch Library. Commissioner Atkins expressed concern about the artwork, stating that the design is of a plant, while beautifully sculpted, does not adequately represent the human biotech industry, which was to be the theme of the artwork. She will be discussing the art with staff of the Commission for Arts and Culture.

The Harry Potter Night Bus visited the Mission Valley Branch Library on July 5. The Library received excellent press, and the publisher said that San Diego had the best organized and attended event.

The Library Foundation provided \$800,000 of the \$1.3 million raised for the matching funds in FY 2007. He noted that the Library Foundation and Development Office are currently being audited by the City.

Commissioner Katz distributed postings concerning the Library from the *Voice of San Diego* blog about the cost of City library services compared to those of the County Library. He responded to the information by providing statistical information to the Institute for Policy Research, which had posted some information on the blog. The response was that the Institute appreciated receiving the information and will be doing a more complete study of library services in the fall.

Commissioner Katz thanked Commissioner Hervey for his family's generous contribution to the Library Foundation and to fund Sunday service hours at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library. He also thanked Commissioner Sullivan for her family's generous contribution to the Library Foundation. A portion of both contributions will be used to establish a challenge grant to attract other contributors to the Foundation.

#### **ASSISTANT DEPUTY CHIEF UPDATE**

No report.

#### **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:** Anna Tatár

- Concerning the *Voice of San Diego* blog, Ms. Tatár noted the importance of getting the word out about San Diego Public Library's performance measures and accomplishments. More of this information will be posted on the Library's website. It should also be noted that the Central Library is a major resource library which includes more than 500,000 unique books and media, and has the most extensive Government Documents collection in the region.
- The San Diego Public Library has had a partnership with the San Diego Fine Woodworkers' Association since 1992. They have been contributing funds to build our woodworking collection and its national magazine touted the collection as being one of the best in the nation.
- Ms. Tatár thanked Library staff and volunteers for the wonderful efforts to host Harry Potter events.
- Vincent Bugliosi will be the speaker at the next Great American Writers event on August 9th at the Point Loma/Hervey Library. Naomi Wolf will be the speaker at the November 15<sup>th</sup> event at the Central Library.
- Ms. Tatár thanked Bruce Johnson for the work he did in providing the City's response to the San Diego Grand Jury report.

Commissioner Hervey suggested that consideration be given to issuing a combined response from both the City and County Library directors to the *Voice of San Diego* on the different roles of the library systems.

**AGENDA ITEMS, Cont.**

**10.b Budget Update**

Ms. Tatár thanked Meryl Balko and Bruce Johnson for their managing of all of the changes brought about by the new operating budget. No employees had to leave the City, and only one employee had to leave the department. Two employees had to demote, but six Library Assistants and four Librarians received promotions. Staff is working very hard to maintain services.

Ms. Tatár also noted that funding for the restoration of the City Heights Performance Annex was approved by the Mayor and City Council.

**10.c Legislative Update**

No report.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Katz adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.



ANNA TATÁR  
Library Director

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