



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Katie Sullivan, Chair

Matthew Hervey • Susan Atkins • Susan Lew • Judy McCarty • MaryAnne Pintar • Mel Katz

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Thursday June 12, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

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

Absent: Susan Lew, Judy McCarty, MaryAnne Pintar

Staff: Anna Tatár, Library Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Bruce Johnson, Deputy Director; Carol Young, Senior Management Analyst, Jyothi Pantulu, Debt Management Dept.

Public: Isabel Schon, Brenda Mason, Shelia Padgett

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 2008 minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

AGENDA ITEMS

9.a Library System Update

Jyothi Pantulu provided an overview of the Mayor's proposal to lease four City facilities, including the Malcolm X and Scripps Ranch libraries, as collateral to secure \$103 million in bonds. The City's essential and unencumbered assets were reviewed, a value was established, and the four properties were chosen. The City has never defaulted but if it did, the Joint Powers Agency would take hold. The assets would not revert to the lender, and foreclosure would not occur. The portion of revenues going to Library maintenance is \$1.96 million. This is the first time libraries were included; however, substitutions of properties can be allowed. In the past,

police, fire, and golf courses were used. Library Director Tatár stated that deferred maintenance dollars are needed for repairs, and are also needed for State Public Library Fund maintenance of effort.

Commissioner Hervey questioned why the Commissioners and Library were not informed of this proposal ahead of time. Ms. Tatár explained that this was an oversight.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Katie Sullivan

Commissioner Sullivan announced that it was an honor to be selected as the new Chair of the Library Commission. She has 17 years of experience working with libraries. Former Chair Mel Katz will be missed.

The Library Commissioners donated rare books to the Wangenheim Room for Library Director Tatár and Commissioner Katz. Ms. Tatár's book is entitled, "*Mathias Sandorf*," by Jules Verne. Mr. Katz's book is entitled, "*The Life and Adventures of Martin Chuzzlewit*," by Charles Dickens. Mr. Katz's book also has a Fore-edge painting by Martin Frost.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Anna Tatár

- Ms. Tatár introduced Dr. Isabel Schon, who will be collaborating with the San Diego Public Library when she retires. Dr. Schon is currently working for the California State University, San Marcos. At the University, Dr. Schon created the Barahona Center to collect and provide information about books in Spanish and books in English about Latinos published in the United States and internationally for children and adolescents. Dr. Schon will be setting up a similar center for the San Diego Public Library. She will be working out of the Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Library. The Library is investigating the feasibility of creating a website that has searchable databases of recommended books.
- Jay Hill stated that for the 5th year in a row the Library Foundation exceeded \$1 million to matching funds. If matching funds savings are available, they may exceed the prior year's record. The total revenue is anticipated to be near \$4 million.
- Ms. Tatár shared baseball reference guides prepared by SABR (Society for American Baseball Research) and Library staff.
- Ms. Tatár reported that the Library's strategic plan for technology submitted to the State was approved. She also acknowledged the staff for preparing such a comprehensive plan that will guide the work of the department in this area for the coming year. It will allow the Library to apply for reimbursements from the State and Federal governments for technology. Approximately \$420,000 will be applied in 2009.
- Ms. Tatár congratulated five library staff members who received a total of \$25,000 in scholarships for attending Library school.
- Ms. Tatár mentioned that on the Library's website, under "Hot Topics," is information regarding the United States Open Golf Tournament being held at the Torrey Pines Golf Course in San Diego. There is also a pathfinder with information about golf.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Shelia Padgett

The Friends advocacy group met and contacted Council Members. The Friends also sent in a response to an article in the Union-Tribune about the New Central Library. Ms. Tatár will be attending the Friends meeting on Saturday, June 14, at the Benjamin Library.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Brenda Mason

No report.

AGENDA ITEMS, Cont.

9.a Library System Update, Cont.

Permits were pulled for the New Central Library by Engineering and Development staff. Construction on the Logan Branch Library is about 20% complete. A Union-Tribune article about the New Central Library was distributed. Mr. Katz stated he hopes to be at City Council in December 2008 with \$50 million in contributions.

9.b Budget Update

The Office of the Independent Budget Analyst (IBA) recommended reinstatement of Library staff and \$500,000 increase to match for matching funds. The Council voted to support this recommendation. The Mayor is expected to veto it.

Motion:

Motion made by Commissioner Hervey and seconded by Commissioner Atkins to draft a letter to the Mayor and City Council to support the IBA's recommendation to add \$500,000 to the City match for the matching funds, and to reinstate the Library Assistants, Librarians and Custodian positions.

Motion was passed unanimously.

9.c Legislative Update

No report.

OTHER BUSINESS

The American Library Association (ALA) conference is in Anaheim, California this year. It starts on June 26, and 36 librarians from the San Diego Public Library will be attending.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anna Tatár".

ANNA TATÁR
Library Director

CY