



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

## Members

Katie Sullivan, Chair

Matthew Hervey • Susan Atkins • Judy McCarty • Mel Katz • Salvatore Giametta

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

#### SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

## ATTENDANCE

### Commissioners:

**Present:** Katie Sullivan, Matthew Hervey, Mel Katz, Salvatore Giametta

**Absent:** Susan Atkins, Judy McCarty

**Staff:** Bruce Johnson, Deputy Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Jay Hill, San Diego Public Library Foundation Executive Director; Megan Lim; San Diego Public Library Development Director; Cynthia Meinhardt, Project Officer II; Jesse Mays, Library Liaison, Council District 1; Carol Tellez, Executive Secretary

**Public:** Brenda Mason, Shelia Padgett

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 2008 minutes were approved unanimously.

## REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

## NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Shelia Padgett

The Friends have been helping the San Diego Public Library Foundation with the Children's Book Festival which is scheduled for May 9, 2009. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Essay Contest is February 12, 2009.

**SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD:** Brenda Mason

The Serra Summer Reading Program Conference will be held in the Carlsbad Library on February 12, 2009. A Serra conference entitled, "Border Library Issues: Exploring Common Interests/Expanding Opportunities" will be held on March 3, 2009 at the Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch Library. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Isabel Schon and Jose Aponte, Director, San Diego County Library.

**CHAIR'S UPDATE:** Katie Sullivan

Commissioner Sullivan reported the passing away of Friends founder Betty Sherman, and library supporter Bob Magness.

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:** Bruce Johnson

- Ms. Barrow and Ms. Balko attended a PS&NS meeting which was being held at the same time as the Commission meeting. A report and powerpoint presentation on library hours and patron usage was prepared for this meeting.
- Dan Mottola, the Library's Human Resource Officer, gave an overview of the Library's Volunteer Program. Ms. Sullivan asked if the Commission should take a larger role in working with volunteers. Commissioner Giametta volunteered to work with Library staff on this.
- Mr. Johnson mentioned that Ms. Barrow wanted to recognize staff for the great job that they have done during all the budget issues.
- The Library had several events in honor of the President's Inauguration. The Performance Annex had an Inaugural Ball and about 150 people attended. There were live broadcasts all day at the Central Library, and at the Malcolm X and Rancho Bernardo Branch Libraries. The Malcolm X Branch Library also hosted a community "open mic" for residents to share their views on this historic event.
- The Central Library is getting ready to launch a new pathfinder called Job Start which will have numerous library and internet resources for patrons who are job searching.
- Downloadable Video was added to the Downloadable Audio collection in January 2009. There are currently 100 titles in downloadable video format. The audio book collection was started in April 2008 and has had 13,539 checkouts.
- The Library is partnering with the Pacific College of Oriental Medicine to hold Health Information Literacy Workshops. The workshops will be held at the Central Library, and Mission Valley, and Serra Mesa Branch Libraries.
- The Library is one of 50 libraries nationwide that is participating in a new book discussion, *Let's Talk About It, Love and Forgiveness*, sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA).

- Hungarian writer Sándor Márai is being honored this month at several events in both San Diego and Los Angeles. There will be a plaque unveiling by Mayor Sanders at the House of Hungary in Balboa Park on February 22 at 11:00 am. The Central Library is hosting a panel discussion that same day from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. A film screening based on Mr. Márai's work will be held at the Central Library Auditorium on February 23, at 6:30 pm.
- The Library is one of 16 libraries in the United States that is partnering with the Aquila Theater Company in New York City. They will be visiting San Diego in March to present their performance of *Page and Stage: The Power of the Iliad Today*.
- READ San Diego's annual recognition dinner is Friday, February 6, at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom.
- One Book, One San Diego kickoff event is February 18, 2009, with author Diane Ackerman, at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center, David & Dorthea Garfield Theatre, 4126 Executive Drive, La Jolla 92037.
- The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Local Authors event took place on January 31, 2009. The exhibit on the first floor of Central contains 186 books, written by 155 authors. Council Member Todd Gloria attended the event, along with Union-Tribune reporter Burl Stiff.
- The Library is partnering with the San Diego Children's Museum. Starting this month, the Museum is providing the Central Library and each branch library with 2 family passes for checkout. Patrons can check out the passes for 10 days, and are able to reserve them in advance.
- A handout was distributed on budget meetings that are occurring in the Council Districts. The Mayor will be attending some of these meetings. Nothing new to report on the budget at this time.
- At the December meeting the Commissioners asked about the possibility of working to lower the threshold for library bond measures. This would be a good topic for Legislative Day in April. The California Library Association is checking into this.
- Packets of information on the New Central Library were handed out, and the latest newspaper articles were included.
- Pay for Print technology is being implemented at the Central Library and Branch Libraries. This will allow patrons to manage their own printing from computers, rather than having staff collecting the money and printouts. Brian Ruark is the staff member in charge of this project.
- Commissioner Hervey asked if the San Diego Public Library had joined the Library Circuit, which has the shared library catalog. Mr. Johnson explained that the Circuit libraries use Innovative, and that we would need a bridge in order to be a part of that system. There are also annual costs, and costs to join. Mr. Johnson will follow up with Ms. Barrow. Ms. Barrow attends the Library Circuit Directors meetings.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **10.a Library System Update**

Commissioner Sullivan distributed information on the library system. Cynthia Meinhardt reviewed the written Capital Improvement Project Update report. Incorporating a high school onto the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> floors of the New Central Library is being explored. Last month City staff met with School District staff, consultants, and Division of the State Architect staff to investigate this option. A feasibility study is being proposed to determine a cost estimate for the project. Commissioner Sullivan asked about the possibility of obtaining a waiver to the Field Act, and it is being looked into.

Logan Heights Branch Library is under construction and approximately 68% complete.

Commissioner Katz requested clarification on Scheme C for the Skyline Hills Branch Library. Scheme C is a stand alone library, and does not incorporate the existing library into the new library.

### **10.b Budget Update**

Commissioner Sullivan reported that a few of the Commissioners met with the Council Offices to discuss the Library System Improvement Plan and that the meetings went well. The Council Members were very supportive of the Library System Improvement Plan, and library issues and budget. The meeting with Council District 8 is still pending and will take place in a couple of weeks.

Commissioner Sullivan commended Ms. Barrow and her staff for the wonderful job they did in preparing the report to the PS&NS Committee. Commissioner Sullivan distributed a chart called Libraries Background and Activity By Council District. The chart shows which libraries are in each Council District, and 2008 attendance and circulation for each library. There is no date yet for the New Central Library project to appear before the City Council. We are still waiting to hear from State Librarian Susan Hildreth on a formal extension on the \$20 million grant.

Commissioner Sullivan attended the San Ysidro Branch Library grand re-opening on January 21, 2009. The event was well-attended.

The Commission is being docketed to appear before PS&NS in March to discuss The Library System Improvement Plan. The Commission is hopeful that the PS&NS Committee will go on record as fully supporting this Plan.

### **10.c Legislative Update**

Commissioner Sullivan and Ms. Barrow will be attending Legislative Day on April 15, 2009 and encouraged other Commissioners to attend. One topic for discussion with Legislators is the possibility of working to lower the threshold for library bond measures.

### **10.d Foundation Update**

The Foundation received a commitment of \$50,000 per year for the next four years to support the Isabel Schon International Center for Spanish Books for Youth. Mr. Hill handed out an informational brochure on the Center that is in both English and Spanish.

The Logan Heights Branch Library is scheduled to open this Fall.

The Library Connection newsletter was re-launched this month. It is an online newsletter that provides information about library programs and services.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

***Deborah L. Barrow***

DEBORAH L. BARROW  
Library Director

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