



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Katie Sullivan, Chair

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

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Katie Sullivan, Matthew Hervey, Mel Katz, Salvatore Giametta, Judy McCarty, Alan Ziegus

Absent: Susan Atkins

Staff: Deborah Barrow, Library Director; Bruce Johnson, Deputy Director; Megan Lim; San Diego Public Library Development Director; Cynthia Meinhardt, Project Officer II; Dominika Bukalova, Research Analyst, IBA Office; Carol Tellez, Executive Secretary

Public: Brenda Mason, Shelia Padgett

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 12:32 p.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Shelia Padgett

A recognition ceremony for the winners of the 12th Annual Student Essay contest will be held on May 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the Balboa Park Club. The Children's Book Festival is May 9, and it is anticipated that over 7,000 people will participate this year. The University Heights Branch Library book sale is held on the third Saturday of each month and is the largest fund raiser of the Friends Umbrella group.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Brenda Mason

A workshop on Legal Websites for Public Library Staff will be held on May 6, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the San Diego County Public Law Library, South Bay Regional Center, 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Katie Sullivan

The Foundation has worked with the Padres to secure 20,000 tickets for the Summer Reading Program. When a child reads ten books, he/she is eligible to receive two tickets to a Padres game.

About two weeks ago the Mayor held a meeting with Library stakeholders to discuss his proposed budget. City Council subsequently voted unanimously to support the Mayor's proposal to not cut Library services or hours.

One Book, One San Diego event last night (April 21) at the Jewish Community Center was very well attended. Mo'olelo Performing Arts Company did an interpretive reading from the 23rd chapter of author Diane Ackerman's book, *The Zookeeper's Wife*.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Deborah Barrow

- Ms. Barrow reported that staff has been attending budget hearings all week, one in each Council District. There are two upcoming Employee Town Hall meetings. The first is April 28 at Chollas Operations Center, and the second is April 29 at the War Memorial Building. The Library is scheduled to go before City Council for its budget hearing on April 29 at 6:00 pm.
- The Children's Book Festival is May 9, and Ms. Barrow will be introducing author D.J. McHale at 1:30 p.m.
- The Library has several events planned in celebration of Earth Day. The Library participated in a panel discussion at San Diego State University.
- The Lincoln exhibit on display in the lobby at Central has been highly acclaimed and well attended.
- Mango Languages, a free online system for Library patrons, has ten international languages available to learn.
- Managed Competition and efficiencies have been a topic mentioned at Council meetings. Although certain functions of the Library Department were looked at, nothing went forward at that time. There may be future review.

AGENDA ITEMS

9.a Library System Update

Cynthia Meinhardt reviewed the written Capital Improvement Project Update report. The School District is working with their legal team to review options to incorporate the high school into the New Central Library without requiring redesign, major construction changes or a new feasibility study. An exemption to the Field Act is no longer being pursued. The possibility of incorporating a charter school into the New Central Library is being explored.

Logan Heights Branch Library is under construction and is approximately 83% complete. The furniture contracts have been awarded. It is scheduled to open in the fall.

Skyline Hills, Mission Hills, San Carlos, and North Park Branch Library projects are on hold waiting for funds for construction and on-going operational costs.

Commissioner Hervey commented on the need to revisit the issue of the Library Ordinance next year with the Mayor and Council.

9.b Budget Update

- Ms. Barrow passed out copies of the Mayor's proposed FY2010 budget, and expressed appreciation to the Mayor, Council and City staff that the Mayor's budget proposal does not close any libraries, does not lay off staff, or reduce services. The FY2010 budget is very similar to the FY2009 budget. Some of the key changes are:
 - Mid-year reduction of one position.
 - Mid-year reduction in Matching Book Fund - \$250,000.
 - IT funds were decentralized City-wide and added back to the Library budget.
 - Addition of 4.25 positions for the Logan Heights Branch Library.
 - Change to Print Vend contract which provides photo copiers. Patrons purchase a special card, add value to it, and print their own copies. Staff no longer has to collect money or copies for patrons.
 - About \$450,000 PLF funds received mid-year have been incorporated into the FY2010 budget for possible use for some existing Sunday hours, training, and materials
- Commissioner Katz asked about the Library System Improvement Fund. Ms. Barrow explained that it is General Fund money and that it was previously set aside by Council as seed money for Library projects. \$3.8 million is being proposed from this fund due to the budget crisis to cover the gap from the amount anticipated from the proposed parking fee. If the parking fee goes forward, the Mayor has indicated that the funds from the Library Improvement Fund would be replaced.

Motion:

Commissioner Katz moved that the Library Commission urge City Council to restore the Library System Improvement Fund of \$3.8 million.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Giametta and passed unanimously.

Motion:

Commissioner Katz moved that the Library Commission support the proposed budget. The Commission appreciates that no libraries are being closed and that no hours are being cut. The Commission thanks all City employees, and our Library employees in particular, for the sacrifices that they're making. The Commission also thanks the Mayor and Council for their hard work and leadership in maintaining the library system.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner McCarty and passed unanimously.

9.c Legislative Update

Commissioner Sullivan and Ms. Barrow attended Legislative Day on April 15, 2009. Some of the important points of discussion were: thanking the Legislators for maintaining the Public Library Fund; support for Bill ACA 9 which is seeking to lower the threshold for library bond measures to 55%; and ways to obtain stimulus money from the Federal government for libraries.

9.d Foundation Update – Megan Lim

One Book, One San Diego event with author Diane Ackerman was held on April 21, and about 500 people attended.

The Padres will host a future Library Branch Managers meeting at Petco Park.

The Carnegie Tea event will be held May 19 at the Mission Valley Branch Library.

There will be an article on Jeff Davis, Supervisor, Social Science Section, in the upcoming newsletter describing how his section provides employment resources for patrons.

OTHER BUSINESS

The starting time for future commission meetings has been changed from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be no meeting on May 6. The next meeting is scheduled for June 3.

Commissioner Hervey and Megan Lim spoke at the Rancho Santa Fe Rotary Club and received a very nice thank you letter. Commissioner Hervey received a letter from a donor who attended this event. The donor would like to donate his music collection to the library, and also volunteer his time.

National Philanthropy Day is November 3. Commissioner Hervey is the honorary chair.

Commissioner Giametta's report on Library volunteers will be heard at the next Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 2:06 p.m.

Deborah L. Barrow

DEBORAH L. BARROW
Library Director

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