



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Katie Sullivan, Chair

Susan Atkins • Salvatore Giametta • Matthew Hervey • Judy McCarty • Abby Silverman Weiss • Alan Ziegus

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, October 07, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Katie Sullivan, Susan Atkins, Matthew Hervey, Alan Ziegus

Absent: Salvatore Giametta, Judy McCarty, Abby Silverman Weiss

Staff: Deborah Barrow, Library Director; Christine Siegel, Deputy Director, Central; Kathleen Wheatley, Deputy Director, Branches; Jay Hill, San Diego Public Library Foundation Executive Director; Darren Greenhalgh, Deputy Director of Engineering & Capital Projects; Carol Tellez, Executive Secretary

Public: Brenda Mason, John McAllister

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: John McAllister

John McAllister is the new president of the Friends of the Library. At the annual Friends meeting last month, \$1,100 in donations was collected for the library. On October 17, the Friends will hold a forum on membership for all chapters.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Brenda Mason

SERRA is continuing to accept scholarship applications for students attending MLIS programs.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Katie Sullivan

Commissioner Sullivan stated that the letter to the Mayor and Council urging them to put the New Main Library project out to bid was distributed this week. The project will appear before the Rules Committee on October 14, and the target date for the full City Council is October 27. The letter to the Mayor and Council regarding energy stimulus money was not sent because it was determined the New Main Library project was ineligible for these funds due to completion date constraints.

Commissioner Sullivan asked for a volunteer to join the Commission's Budget Committee.

It is anticipated that new Commissioner Abby Silverman Weiss will attend the November meeting.

According to the City Attorney's Office, six affirmative votes are needed from members of the City Council in order to renew the four consultant agreements for the New Main Library project.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Deborah Barrow

- The new Logan Branch Library is 98% complete. The grand opening is scheduled for Friday, December 11, at 11:00 am.
- The Library was awarded an LSTA Grant called, "Family Place," to support literacy efforts at the Logan Branch Library.
- The Library has recently received some good publicity. Rancho Bernardo Branch Manager Barbara Schwartz was interviewed by a local news station regarding tutoring and did an excellent job. The large book display at the La Jolla Library also received favorable publicity.
- An exhibit called, "Helen Suzman – Fighter for Human Rights," will arrive at the Central Library within the next few days, and be on display until the end of October. Ms. Suzman was a South African who fought against apartheid and anti-Semitism.
- Public voting will start soon for the One Book, One San Diego selection. The three choices are: *Outcasts United* by Warren St. John; *Dreamers of the Day* by Mary Doria Russell, and *Song Yet Sung* by James McBride.
- The Library was contacted by a representative for author Susan Lankford about a possible program on homelessness. Ms. Lankford spent years researching this issue, which included downtown San Diego. Her new book is titled, *downtown USA: A Personal Journey with the Homeless*.
- In a recent newspaper article, Mayor Sanders commented favorably on the New Central Library.

AGENDA ITEMS

9.a Library System Update: Darren Greenhalgh

On November 18, there will be a Mission Hills Town Hall meeting with Council Members and community members to discuss the Mission Hills Library project.

Mr. Greenhalgh gave a detailed update on the New Main Library. The project will go before the Rules Committee on October 14 to request authorization to put the project out to bid; renewal of four consultant agreements; and authorization to spend \$500,000 of the funds already approved by CCDC in order to get through the bidding phase. The target date for the project to appear before the full City Council is October 27. At that time, six affirmative votes from City Council Members will be needed to approve the four consultant agreements.

9.c Legislative Update

The Philadelphia Public Library, which was established by Benjamin Franklin as the first public library in the United States, was scheduled to close all 54 branches on October 1. The Pennsylvania State Legislature passed their budget and the Library system is staying open.

9.e Foundation Update

A reception for the Helen Suzman Exhibit will be held on October 22 at the Central Library.

The Foundation is coordinating hard hat tours of the new Logan Library.

Mr. Hill thanked the Friends of the Library for their continued support.

A handout on the Foundation's accomplishments was distributed.

The Summer Reading Program was a huge success.

Sample brochures and bookmarks describing Library programs and ways to support the Library were passed out. Mr. Hill thanked Commissioner Sullivan for finding a donor to provide the printing of these items.

Updated FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) regarding the New Main Library are on the Foundation's website.

9.c Budget Update

Ms. Barrow reported that the City is continuing to experience budget problems, and asked the Commissioners for their suggestions on how to reduce the Library's budget. After a lengthy discussion on branch library locations, hours, usage, size, circulation, staffing, and programs, Ms. Barrow thanked the commissioners for their input.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Deborah L. Barrow

DEBORAH L. BARROW
Library Director

CT