



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

## Members

Katie Sullivan, Chair

Susan Atkins • Salvatore Giametta • Matthew Hervey • Abby Silverman Weiss • Sarah White • Alan Ziegus

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

### SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, October 06, 2010

## ATTENDANCE

### Commissioners:

**Present:** Katie Sullivan, Susan Atkins, Abby Silverman Weiss Matthew Hervey, Sarah White

**Absent:** Salvatore Giametta, Alan Ziegus

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

**Public:** Brenda Mason, Virginia Conway

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 12:37 p.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 2010 minutes were approved unanimously.

## NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Virginia Conway inquired about the Library's policy on accepting donations of DVDs and CDs. Staff will check into the DVD/CD acceptance policy.

## REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

## REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

None.

**SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD:** Brenda Mason

The Serra Cooperative Library system organized two *Stress Management for Library Staff* workshops in September. The *Librarians for Diverse Communities* scholarship program has 27 grantees this year. The Oak Park Library book sale will be held on October 30.

**FOUNDATION UPDATE:** Jay Hill

The Summer Reading Program had another record setting year.

A gift from Qualcomm of \$40,000 was received for literacy services, online homework help, after school science programs, and student resources.

Information on Proposition D was sent out by the Friends Advocacy Network.

The Foundation's Annual Retreat was held on September 21, and facilitated by Terry Collings, who led the successful campaign for the Seattle Public Library.

Mr. Hill gave an informative presentation on the fundraising program for the new Central Library, and distributed a handout that described the private support needed. Naming opportunities for the New Central Library were also discussed.

**CHAIR'S UPDATE:** Katie Sullivan

After a brief discussion, the commissioners agreed to move the date for the November meeting to Tuesday, November 2, at 12:30 pm.

The charter petition document for the New Central Library was well-received at the San Diego Unified School District Board meeting on October 5.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**10.a Library System Update:** Darren Greenhalgh

Mr. Greenhalgh gave an update on the New Central Library. Current construction activities include utility work, site grading, and steel pile drilling. The Library Department is revisiting and updating the furniture program requirements with the project design team for current staffing needs.

Ms. Barrow reported the City has received official notification from the State Library extending the grant for the project to August 2014.

On September 12, Ms. Barrow attended the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Historic Teachers Training Building Annex. At that event community members expressed an interest in fund raising for a new University Heights Branch Library.

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:** Deborah Barrow

- The Summer Reading Program was again a huge success this year. Results: 33,023 participants, 17,024 finishers, 1,135 programs and 43,747 attendees.
- Volunteer hours increased this past year. Although there were approximately 160 fewer volunteers, there was a substantial increase in the number of volunteer hours - from 127,895 to 156,793 hours, which is calculated to be a savings of over \$3.2 million!
- The Library's Annual Report, which covers the last two years, is nearly complete. It is tentatively scheduled to be issued online in November.
- Staff has been meeting with the Library's consultant on the staffing and location of spaces in the New Central Library. There is now a link on the Library's website to the live webcam feed from the construction site of the new Central Library.
- The book selected for *One Book, One San Diego* is, *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*, by thi diem thuy le. This author is very tied to our library system, and programs are being developed where she will speak.
- Volunteer San Diego's Serve-a-thon for the San Diego Public Library Scavenger Hunt on Oct. 8 will assist with library inventory at Central. This will help prepare for converting the collection to RFID and for the Central Library's new Automated Materials Handling System.
- The volunteer proposal to UCSD is moving forward. The first program is next January – *Mythology Talk – The Trung Sisters* (1<sup>st</sup> Century Vietnamese heroes turned mythical legends).
- Ms. Barrow announced that Susan Hildreth, former State Librarian and Director of Seattle Public Library, is President Obama's nominee for Director of the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS).
- The Library is making every effort to stay relevant to users with current programs and services. Some of these programs are:
  - Online payment of fines and fees just established on the library's website. Users have already found it and made payments!
  - Text a Librarian – a Serra Cooperative Library grant program – Available Monday through Friday, 12 noon to 5 pm
  - Homeowners' Workshop – Options to Save Your Home – October 27
  - Career Fair – October 7
- Commissioner Sullivan suggested that a one page printed summary of highlights from the Annual Report be created and put on display at all libraries as a promotion of the good work being done. Staff will check into this for production when the report is released.

**AGENDA ITEMS (cont):**

**10.b Budget Update:** Deborah Barrow

Ms. Barrow gave an update on the budget memo distributed to staff and commissioners. The Library was asked to prepare a proposal for the reduction of \$5.1 million, which is approximately 24% of the Library's General Fund budget, excluding nondiscretionary items. The Mayor's proposed budget is due to come out in April 2011, and proposed cuts could result in the closing of libraries and/or further reductions in hours.

**10.c Legislative Update:**

None.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Branch Libraries Deputy Director Kathleen Wheatley is retiring next month and will be greatly missed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

***Deborah L. Barrow***

DEBORAH L. BARROW  
Library Director

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