



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

Tuesday, November 02, 2010

## ATTENDANCE

### Commissioners:

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

**Absent:** 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, Anne Fristrom, Punky Fristrom

## 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 October 2010 minutes were approved unanimously.

## NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

**REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:** Punky Fristrom

Mr. Fristrom read a quote from Charles Dickens, “*It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...*” The Friends are aware that the Library is going through a difficult time budget-wise, and have five priorities for the Library System:

1. Do not close any branch library.
2. Maintain the Matching Funds Program.
3. Staffing and Programs – focus on the young.
4. Keep the Friends informed and ask their opinion.
5. Take good care of the Library staff.

**SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD:** Brenda Mason

The *Librarians for Diverse Communities* program is in its second year. San Diego Public Library has six students and four mentors in this year’s program. Students had a chance to meet each other and prospective mentors last month at the Escondido Library. The *Text a Librarian Program* is currently underway in San Diego Public, Escondido and Carlsbad libraries. The Oak Park Library book sale was held on October 30.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

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

Mr. Greenhalgh gave an update on the New Central Library. Excavation and soil remediation are almost complete and work will begin on installing building footings, structural concrete and two tower cranes. A webcam to view the construction site can be accessed through the Library, the Library Foundation, and CCDC websites. A picture of the construction site, taken from the webcam, was passed around for the commissioners to view.

**CHAIR’S UPDATE:** Katie Sullivan

The commissioners will hold their regularly scheduled meeting on December 1, 2010. The January 5, 2011 meeting has been cancelled.

The Downtown San Diego Partnership is awarding the Library Foundation an *Alonzo Award* for best civic event of the year for the New Central Library groundbreaking ceremony. Mr. Jim Dawe, former Library Commission Chair and Founding Chair of the Library Foundation, is receiving the *Alonzo Lifetime Achievement Award*.

A meeting will be held later today to further discuss criteria and guidelines for naming opportunities for the New Central Library.

Commissioner Hervey has agreed to serve on a committee to select appropriate quotes that will be placed permanently in concrete in several locations at the New Central Library.

**LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE: Jay Hill**

Mr. Hill acknowledged Commissioner Sullivan for her contribution of free printing of posters and bookmarks for the *Tell Us Your Story* campaign that launched last summer. These stories are featured in the Library Foundation's acquisition campaign for new contributors.

Updates on the New Central Library project can be viewed on the Library Foundation's website.

The Planned Giving Program received a bequest of \$102,000 for the Allied Gardens/Benjamin Library.

Ms. Judith Harris, immediate past Chair of the Library Foundation Board, received the *Women Who Mean Business Award* on October 28.

Mr. Hill acknowledged Commissioner Hervey who is hosting a table at *National Philanthropy Day* on November 3.

The FY 2010 audit for the Library Foundation has been completed and the financial statements are posted on their website.

The Friends Advocacy Network sent out updates on Proposition D.

The Charter School for the New Central Library is on the agenda for the School Board meeting tonight.

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Deborah Barrow**

- In response to an inquiry by a member of the public from last month's meeting, staff investigated the Library's policy and the practice of accepting donations of DVDs/CDs at the Ocean Beach Branch Library. Staff follows standard policy by first determining if the materials will be added to the collection. If the materials are not added to the collection, they are given to the Friends of the Library to sell. If the Friends don't sell them, they are left out as "freebies" for the public to take. However, if the materials are badly damaged, they are discarded.
- The Logan Heights Branch Library has been nominated for an *Onion Award*. Many staff and community members believe the project should receive an *Orchid Award*. Ms. Barrow and Mr. Greenhalgh will attend the awards ceremony on November 4 and if library is selected for an *Onion Award*, will speak on behalf of the project.
- Ten volunteers participated in the Volunteer Serve-a-thon on Oct. 8. The volunteers assisted staff in reconciling inventory at Central. Several volunteers committed to volunteering at Central on a regular basis. Pictures of the volunteers who participated were distributed. Ms. Barrow thanked Dan Mottola, Senior Human Resources Analyst, Christine Siegel, Deputy Director of Central, and other staff members who helped make this event happen.

- The City is soliciting applications for a soon to be vacant public Audit Committee member. Copies of the application were provided at the meeting.
- The Library is planning to gather quotes that will be placed in concrete in a few locations around the New Central Library. A committee is being formed to review and select quotes with themes related to achieving goals or dreams, aspirations, learning, wisdom and knowledge. Ms. Barrow will solicit quotes on her Blog and on the Library's webpage. Selection of the quotes should take place within the next few weeks.
- On Saturday, October 30, Barnes and Noble had a book fair and donated 20% of the proceeds to the North Park Library. It is estimated that the library will receive \$500, which will go toward materials for the branch.
- The sixth and final program in the Central Library fall concert series will be held on Sunday, November 7.
- The Wangenheim Room has a display of rare pulp fiction titles which will be on exhibit for several more weeks. A flyer highlighting the exhibit was handed out.
- A film screening of *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers* will be held at the Central Library auditorium on Wednesday, November 10 at 6:30 pm.
- On Wednesday, November 3 at 6:45 pm, at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Library, Marilyn McPhie, storyteller, and Hei-ock Kim, pianist, will regale audiences with an enriched form of storytelling: folktales told against the backdrop of great classical music.
- *The Beauty Project and Related Works* exhibit of artist Lynn Schuette is currently on display at the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library through January 15, 2011.
- Commissioner Sullivan asked about the status of the Library's Annual Report. Staff is working on the final draft of the report which should be completed in a few days.
- Marion Moss Hubbard distributed a handout and gave a presentation on San Diego Public Library's (SDPL) participation in the California Library Association's (CLA) *Snapshot Day*. This event was a statewide Library Day across the state, asking all California libraries to collect usage data, photos and patron testimonials for a single day. SDPL participated on Wednesday, October 6. Below are statistics collected system-wide that will be used in outreach materials for the Library and Library Foundation:
  - 25,887 people visited their library
  - 28,481 items were checked out or renewed
  - 6,701 people used a library computer
  - 1,064 adults, teens and children attended programs

**AGENDA ITEMS (cont):**

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

For the past two weeks Ms. Barrow has participated Budget Town Hall meetings where preliminary budget proposals from various departments were presented to the public. The Library was asked to prepare a proposal for the reduction of \$5.1 million from its budget for FY 2012. The Library's proposal at this time includes:

- Permanent closure of two library facilities
- Pairing libraries with one set of staff so that libraries may be open 2 to 3 days per week per facility
- Library hours would be 16-24 hours per week per facility
- Reduction of approximately 83 FTE
- Libraries with private donations for Sunday hours would maintain Sunday hours.

The Mayor's proposed budget is due to come out by April 15, 2011.

**10.c Legislative Update:**

The State budget was passed on October 8. The level of support for libraries is anticipated to stay the same.

Commissioner Sullivan asked for a volunteer to attend Legislative Day in April 2011 with Ms. Barrow.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Several Commissioners and staff members expressed how much they appreciate and will miss working with Branch Libraries Deputy Director Kathleen Wheatley, who is retiring at the end of this month.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 1:44 p.m.

***Deborah L. Barrow***

DEBORAH L. BARROW  
Library Director

CT