



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 Ziegau

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

### SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, February 02, 2011

## ATTENDANCE

### Commissioners:

**Present:** Katie Sullivan, Matthew Hervey, Sarah White, Salvatore Giametta

**Absent:** Susan Atkins, Abby Silverman Weiss, Alan Ziegau

**Staff:** Deborah Barrow, Library Director; Christine Siegel, Deputy Director; Jay Hill, Chief Executive Officer, San Diego Public Library Foundation; Steve Hawkesworth, Chief Financial and Chief Operating 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 12:30 p.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

### CHAIR'S UPDATE: Katie Sullivan

Commissioner Sullivan reported the *Local Authors* event held on Friday, January 28 at the Central Library was a huge success. Pulitzer Prize-winner Rae Armantrout was awarded the *Local Author Lifetime Achievement Award (LOLA)*.

A *One Book, One San Diego* reception and book signing event with lê thi diem thúy, author of *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*, was held on February 1 at the La Jolla Day Country School. The author talked about how important the library is to her, and what an impact it has made on her life.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The November 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 thanked Ms. Barrow and the Commission for including him on the Quotations Committee for the New Central Library. Mr. Fristrom read a quote from T.S. Elliot, "The Hollow Men." The Friends are waiting to see what happens with potential budget cuts to the Library.

## **SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD:** Brenda Mason

Governor Brown's budget proposal would totally eliminate statewide support for public libraries. These proposed cuts would seriously impact SERRA members' ability to share materials and cooperate across jurisdictional lines. The State Legislature is due to vote on the proposal in early March. The *Librarians for Diverse Communities* students and mentors participated in the American Library Association's (ALA) Midwinter conference held in San Diego in early January.

## **LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:** Jay Hill

Mr. Hill introduced Steve Hawkesworth, the new Chief Financial and Chief Operating Officer for the Library Foundation.

On January 14, a New Central Library Fundraising Update was sent to the Mayor and Council. A copy of this report was distributed to the commissioners.

Information on Naming Opportunities for the New Central Library was handed out. The Padres donated \$50,000 to the New Central Library. In honor of the gift, the new library will feature a prominent *San Diego Padres Home Plate Book Return* in the main lobby. The commission room in the new library will be named the *Katie and Dan Sullivan Commission Room*.

Monthly construction updates on the New Central Library can be viewed on the Library Foundation's website.

Mr. Hill passed out bookmarks for the successful *Tell Us Your Story* campaign that launched last summer.

The Library Foundation and the San Diego Public Library are both on *Facebook*.

Commissioner Hervey is hosting the Carnegie Tea on May 10 at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library. Mr. Hill handed out copies of the letter and brochure that were mailed to potential prospects for the Carnegie Planned Giving Society.

Mr. Fristrom announced that the Pt. Loma Chapter of the Friends of the Library donated \$10,000 to the Library in memory of Deni Down, a longtime member who passed away last December.

## AGENDA ITEMS

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

Mr. Greenhalgh gave an update on the New Central Library. The two project cranes were erected in December 2010. The project is on schedule and work continues on installing the perimeter foundation walls, footings, and structural concrete at the P2 level. A picture of the construction site was passed around for the commissioners to view. Ms. Barrow thanked Mr. Greenhalgh, the project team, and Library staff members for their hard work on the project.

San Ysidro Community Plan Update: Ms. Barrow reported that the City's Redevelopment Agency is working on the Community Plan Update for San Ysidro and discussions have ensued regarding potential locations for the library should funding become available.

### DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Deborah Barrow

- Literacy Administrator Valerie Hardie distributed handouts and gave a comprehensive presentation on the nationally acclaimed READ/SAN DIEGO Adult Literacy Program. The Governor's proposed budget cuts would severely impact literacy programs throughout California and San Diego. The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Recognition Dinner for adult learners and tutors will be held on Friday, February 4, at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom.
- Copies of the Library's Annual Report were distributed. The report was developed to be viewed online on the Library and Foundation websites. From the Library's website the report has had more than 2,500 visits so far.
- Discussions with staff were held last November on brainstorming, *What would your ideal library system be if starting today?* Some of the ideas discussed were technology, operations, customer service, branding and marketing, facilities, hours, staffing and partnerships.
- The Labor Management Committee has been re-established. This committee consists of staff and management to identify, discuss and resolve issues of mutual concern before problems arise.
- The American Library Association (ALA) Midwinter Conference was held in San Diego in early January. ALA President Roberta Stevens was interviewed by KPBS about budget cuts, the state of libraries today, and building new central libraries.
  - San Diego Public Library (SDPL) was the host library and had a free booth at the conference. SDPL's booth was decorated with materials promoting the new Central Library and branch libraries. Staff members created buttons and postcards to give away at the conference, and these items were a big hit.
  - SDPL hosted several ALA related events, including the Urban Library Council (ULC) Youth Services Coordinators Group meeting, Central Heads and Branch Coordinators meeting, and the Asian Pacific American Library Association Annual Retreat.

- Two tours of the new Central Library site were conducted with Central Heads and Branch Coordinators, and Youth Services Coordinators.
- Monday, January 10 was *MegaMonday* in honor of ALA, and the Central Library hosted three events:
  - Classical Persian music with teen musician Kourosh.
  - A reading by Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Rae Armantrout.
  - A film forum screening of the 1950s Japanese classic *Scandal*.
- KUSI morning show aired five segments on January 10 about *MegaMonday*, the new Central Library, and *One Book, One San Diego* and *Local Authors* events.
- An article on the Logan Heights Branch Library was featured in the January issue of *School Library Journal*. During the ALA conference, the editors of the *Journal* toured the branch with Youth Services Librarian (YSL) Ady Huertas. The article highlighted the Library's *Centro Cultural* area, and the upcoming exhibition *Young Art 2011*, which will feature student artwork.
- In the February issue *School Library Journal*, YLS Ady Huertas will have a featured article about the Logan Heights Branch Library teen music program, *Project Unknown*.
- The Logan Heights Friends are working with UCSD for an online and in person tutoring program.
- A list of events for *One Book, One San Diego* was distributed. On January 11 a Council Resolution was passed proclaiming January 2011 to be *One Book, One San Diego Month*. Lê thi diem thúy, author of *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*, will be at the Central Auditorium tonight at 6:30 pm.
- May 14, 2011 – Stanford University and Price Charities are working together on a worldwide day of service. The City Heights/Weingart Branch Library and Performance Annex was selected as a location for this event. Some of the services they will be providing are legal advice, computer instruction, medical screenings, and games and crafts for children.

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

There has been no indication of change to the proposed reduction of \$5.1 million for the Library's proposed FY 2012 budget. The current budget proposal would close two facilities; reduce hours by pairing or rolling brownouts; and eliminate approximately 80 FTE. The City's *FY 2012-2016 Five Year Financial Outlook Report* has projected a decrease in the City's budget deficit. There is no indication yet as to how this might affect the Library. The Mayor's proposed budget is due to come out by April 15, 2011.

**10.c Legislative Update:**

The Library receives approximately \$500,000 in PLF funds from the State, and \$92,000 for literacy programs. The State's current budget proposal would eliminate these funds statewide, including support for the Cooperative Library Systems, such as SERRA, throughout California.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

***Deborah L. Barrow***

DEBORAH L. BARROW  
Library Director

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