



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Salvatore Giametta, Chair

Susan Atkins • Matthew Hervey • Katie Sullivan • Abby Silverman Weiss • Sarah White • Alan Ziegau

### MINUTES

#### BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

#### SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, May 04, 2011

#### ATTENDANCE

##### Commissioners:

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

**Absent:** Katie Sullivan, Alan Ziegau

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

**Public:** Brenda Mason, Lou Cumming

#### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 2011 minutes were approved unanimously.

#### NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

#### REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

**REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:** None

**SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD:** Brenda Mason

Applications for the third (and last) year of the *Librarians for Diverse Community Program* are being reviewed by the Selection Committee. This year Library volunteers, in addition to Library personnel, are allowed to participate in the program, which assists with tuition reimbursement, technology, travel stipends, and mentoring.

**DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:** Deborah Barrow

- FY 2012 proposed budget for the Library Department is scheduled to be heard at the City Council Budget Committee meeting on Thursday, May 5, at 10:30 am.
- Staff is working on an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Computers 2 SD Kids, an organization that has partnered with the San Diego Public Library to provide computers to kids and families in need.
- The Central Library is hosting a Civil War Sesquicentennial Exhibit organized by the combined Civil War lineage societies of San Diego to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War. The exhibit will be on display through May 27.
- May 12 – Best Jobs magazine is hosting a Job Fair at the Valencia Park/Malcolm X Branch Library. The event will cover how to search for a job in challenging times and how to present oneself to an employer.
- May 5 – Logan Heights Branch Library is hosting the SDSU Chicano Archive Project Exhibit – Unidos Por La Causa: The Chicano Experience in San Diego. This bilingual exhibit displays photos, art and historic documents highlighting the early years of the Chicano movement for social justice and civil rights in San Diego.
- *After the Fire, a Still Small Voice* by author Evie Wyld, has been shortlisted for the 2011 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. The book was nominated by La Jolla/Riford Branch Manager Catherine Greene. Previous nominations by Catherine have also been acknowledged.
- Ms. Barrow conducted meetings with staff regarding possible reductions to the Library's proposed FY 2012 budget.
- Ms. Barrow recently attended training meetings with Library Assistants and Library Clerks.
- April 30 – KPBS has broadcast some of Ms. Barrow's readings from the 2011 One Book, One San Diego book, *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*, by lê thi diem thúy.
- Pending changes to employee benefits may result in employees deciding to retire sooner than they anticipated, and result in more vacancies for the Library.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

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

Waterproofing, site grading, and the Parking Garage levels P1 and P2 are complete. Level 1 is scheduled to be completed this month. The project continues to be on schedule.

Ms. Barrow reported application changes to staff and space requirements for the new Central Library have been approved by the State Library.

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

Ms. Barrow gave an update on the FY 2012 proposed budget for the Library Department and discussed City-wide shared costs and Library specific reductions; the concept of paired and “express libraries” and/or alternate scheduling; and the Library’s use of volunteers.

**10.c Legislative Update:**

The State budget has not been passed yet. Ms. Barrow and Commissioner Atkins are attending Legislative Day on May 18. Ms. Barrow asked if there were additional volunteers who wished to attend.

**CHAIR’S UPDATE:** Sal Giametta

Commissioner Giametta gave an update on the Commissioners’ visits to the Council Offices to discuss the proposed cuts to the Library’s budget. The Council Members had questions regarding the Library’s use of volunteers, computer usage by the Branch Libraries, and circulation statistics.

**LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:** Jay Hill

Commissioner Hervey is hosting the Carnegie Tea on May 10 at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library.

The Library Foundation is continuing with its advocacy efforts.

After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Atkins proposed the following statement be read by Commissioner Giametta, on behalf of the Library Commissioners, at the Library’s Budget Hearing meeting on Thursday, May 5, 2011:

We, the Library Commissioners, wish to strongly urge this Council to stop cutting the Library budget. Libraries are not discretionary. They are basic to the needs of a community and were specifically named in our City Charter as a basic service to be provided by the City government.

No other City service would be cut as severely as our Libraries in the proposal before you, and we wish to urge you to vote against these cuts to the Library budget.

**Motion:**

It was moved and seconded to adopt Commissioner Atkins’ statement as written.

The motion passed unanimously.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Giametta adjourned the meeting at 1:37 p.m.

***Deborah L. Barrow***

DEBORAH L. BARROW

Library Director

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