



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Katie Sullivan, Chair

Matthew Hervey • Susan Atkins • Judy McCarty • Mel Katz • Salvatore Giametta

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Katie Sullivan, Susan Atkins, Matthew Hervey, Mel Katz, Judy McCarty, Salvatore Giametta

Absent: None

Staff: Deborah Barrow, Library Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Director; Jay Hill, San Diego Public Library Foundation Executive Director; Megan Lim, San Diego Public Library Foundation Development Director; Cynthia Meinhardt, Project Officer II; Carol Tellez, Executive Secretary

Public: Brenda Mason, Shelia Padgett

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

Commissioner Sullivan introduced Sal Giametta as the newest Library Commissioner. Commissioner Sullivan stated Mr. Giametta is currently Vice President of Public Relations and Communications for CONVIS, and he will be a wonderful asset to the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 2008 minutes were approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Shelia Padgett

Ms. Padgett thanked Ms. Barrow for speaking at the Friends Annual Meeting and handed out Friends of the Library bags to the Commissioners. The Friends had approximately 481 people volunteer last year for a total of 19,359 hours. Philanthropy Day is November 12, and the Friends are receiving a special award.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Brenda Mason

Serra received an LSTA grant to fund a conference dealing with bi-lingual issues entitled "Border Library Issues: Exploring Common Interests/Expanding Opportunities." It will be held on March 3, 2009, at the Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch Library. Commissioner Sullivan suggested notifying Isabel Schon of the conference because of Ms. Schon's role in bringing Spanish language children's books to the Library. The book fair held on October 24 in Oceanside was very successful, and 3 scholarships were given out.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Katie Sullivan

Commissioner Sullivan reported she recently visited the Central Library in Indianapolis. The front of the library consisted of old, Grecian style pillars. The interior was quite modern and breathtaking, and the library was full of patrons on a Sunday afternoon.

DEPUTY CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER: Elmer Heap

None.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Deborah Barrow

- Ms. Barrow welcomed new Commissioner Sal Giametta.
- The San Diego Public Library received a California Library Association 2008 PRExcellence Award for the Children's Book Festival. The Library placed second in its category of \$10 million plus library budget. The Library will be presented with this award at the California Library Association Conference in San Jose. The Conference is November 14-17, 2008.
- On October 18, the Ocean Beach Library celebrated its 80th anniversary, and on that same date, the Clairemont Mesa Library celebrated its 50th anniversary. Both events were well attended, and staff did a great job.
- On November 1, the City Heights Library celebrated its 10th anniversary. This event was also well attended.
- One Book, One San Diego is coming, and the title of the book is, *The Zookeeper's Wife*.

- There is approximately \$10,000 donation money left to finish the art at North University Community. A committee is being formed to look at the Bio Tech/High Tech theme and best determine the type of art needed. The Library Commission had previously voted on this theme last year. Mr. Hill explained that \$10,000 is what is left from the \$100,000 donation from Biogen Idec, and commended Commissioner Atkins for her efforts in obtaining this gift. The money is being used for programs, materials and equipment.
- All libraries will be closed on Tuesday, November 11 for Veteran's Day. All libraries will be on a furlough schedule for Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, with ten libraries remaining open during this time. The closure schedule will be e-mailed to the Commissioners.

AGENDA ITEMS

10.a Library System Update

Cynthia Meinhardt reviewed the written Capital Improvement Project Update report. Final plan approvals for the New Central Library were received from the Division of the State Architect and the City's Building Department. Those plans were submitted to the Office of the State Library on October 31. Final approval could be received by November 10.

Construction on the Logan Branch Library is about 50% complete. Construction on the roof will begin in November. Completion date is expected to be fall 2009.

Engineering staff, the architect, and Library staff met to discuss the plans for the Skyline Hills Library. At their last meeting the community chose scheme C as their architectural choice.

Engineering staff gave a presentation to Ms. Barrow and Library staff regarding the Mission Hills Library. At a community meeting in September, a small group of the Friends of the Mission Hills Library reviewed the architect's plans. The plan will be presented to a larger community meeting in November or December.

Engineering staff also gave a presentation to Ms. Barrow and Library staff regarding the San Carlos Library. There is a commitment with BP Oil to lock in the price of the land that was negotiated many years ago. The purchase agreement still needs to go to City Council.

Library staff attended a meeting for the North Park Library. The meeting was held by the North Park Redevelopment Project Area Committee on October 14. They are still looking for a new site for that library. The group approved moving forward to do a study to determine if the former Big Lots building, located at 28th and University, would be a suitable site.

10.b Budget Update

Ms. Barrow reported the Library was asked to submit proposals for a 10% budget cut, which is about \$3.5 million. In order to reach this significant cut, it was proposed to close seven libraries, one library per Council District. The exception would be Council District 8, which only has three libraries. The libraries that are proposed to be closed are: University Community, Ocean Beach, University Heights, Mountain View/Beckwourth, Carmel Mountain Ranch, Clairemont, and Allied Gardens/Benjamin. Some of the criteria used for selecting these libraries was proximity to other, and in some cases larger libraries, (between 2-4 miles apart); usage statistics and building condition/attributes. After a lengthy discussion by the Commissioners and staff, the following motion was made:

Motion:

Commissioner McCarty moved to accept Commissioner Katz's recommendation to write a letter to the Mayor and Council stating that the Commission does not believe libraries should be cut, especially at this time.

Motion was seconded by Commissioner Katz and passed unanimously.

10.c Legislative Update

None.

10.d Foundation Update

Mr. Hill introduced his newest staff member Megan Lim, Development Director, San Diego Public Library Foundation.

Mr. Hill thanked Ms. Barrow for continuing to participate in the donor lunches. Commissioner Sullivan requested that Commissioner Giametta be included in the next donor lunch.

Mr. Hill received a \$32,000 grant from the Legler Benbough Foundation. This is a unique program that will provide health materials and fitness programs for the libraries. Mr. Hill also received a \$50,000 challenge grant from the Parker Foundation.

Mr. Hill reported that their new website launched and they have started receiving gifts on-line. The website is: supportmylibrary.org

Mr. Hill passed out a handout regarding upcoming events for the One Book selection, *The Zookeepers Wife*, and a new Foundation brochure. A newsletter will be coming out in the next couple of weeks explaining how donor contributions assist the library.

Mr. Hill mentioned that due to conservative investments, the Foundation's assets are in good shape.

Commissioner Hervey asked if there would be vendor tables at the Philanthropy Day Lunch where library issues could be showcased. Ms. Lim replied no, but contact with potential donors could be made during the social hour prior to the lunch.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Barrow reminded the Commissioners that their next meeting is scheduled for December 3. After a short discussion, the Commissioners agreed to meet in December, and cancel the January meeting.

Ms. Barrow stated that Day in the District dates are January 30 and February 6, 2009. This is an opportunity for community members to visit legislators and discuss library issues. These meetings are in San Diego. Legislative Day is April 15, 2009 in Sacramento.

Commissioner Katz commented that Prop S, the school bond issue, passed. Superintendent Terry Grier and the School Board have expressed interest in leasing the two vacant floors of the New Main Library for a high school that specializes in journalism. The school district has \$20 million available for this project. The Commissioners discussed whether or not that money could be used for capital or operational purposes for the New Main Library. Commissioner Katz stated the New Main Library project is scheduled to go to Council on December 3, and they have one month to raise \$15 million.

Ms. Barrow mentioned that Deputy Director Meryl Balko is retiring from the City sometime in January, and she will be greatly missed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Deborah Barrow

DEBORAH BARROW
Library Director

CT