

**MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2004**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Matthew Hervey, Mel Katz, Judy McCarty, Natalie Rencher, Katie Sullivan

Absent: Susan Lew, MaryAnne Pintar

Staff: Anna Tatár, Library Director; Meryl Balko, Deputy Library Director; Margaret Kazmer, Deputy Director; Carol Young, Senior Management Analyst

Public: Thomas Jamieson, Robert Magness, Catherine Montgomery, Mel Shapiro, Edward Teyssier, Alberta Waggoner

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. in the Commission Room of the Central Library.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 2004 minutes were approved.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

Edward Teyssier commented that he is against the downtown location for the Main Library. He stated that the branches operate autonomously from the Main Library, so the argument that it is the heart of the system does not work, nor does the argument that it is for the children. He recommended that more money be put into the branches, and that the Main Library location be put on the ballot.

Mr. Magness commented that Deputy City Manager Herring should attend the Commission meetings.

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Alberta Waggoner

The annual meeting of the Friends of the Library will be at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library on September 11.

The Friends are proud that they have helped the Library reach the \$1 million goal for the matching funds for the first time.

SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD: Tom Jamieson

No report.

CHAIR'S UPDATE: Mel Katz

Commissioner Katz noted that exciting things are happening related to the progress of the branch capital improvement projects.

The unveiling of the new Main Library design will take place on September 9 at Symphony Hall. Turner Construction has been selected as the construction manager for the project.

Commissioner Sullivan will be receiving the Outstanding Organizational Volunteer of the Year award at Philanthropy Day on November 9.

Ground breakings have been scheduled for the North University City and Serra Mesa branch library facilities in October. Commissioner Katz requested that a list of upcoming events be sent to the Commission.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE: Anna Tatár

- Ms. Tatár reported that 220 attended the Volunteer Recognition Event, including Commissioners Rencher and Hervey.
- Ms. Tatár thanked Commissioner Pintar for serving on the Main Library Construction Manager at Risk selection committee.
- Ms. Tatár met with the head of the Petco Foundation to discuss partnership opportunities.
- Commissioner Rencher will be attending the State Library event for Trustees at the Cerritos Library.
- Jeff Weber will be the speaker at the upcoming Wangenheim Room fund raiser on September 19. His topic will be the history of fore-edge paintings.
- The annual fund raiser for the Pacific Beach/Taylor Branch Library will be held on

September 26 at the Catamaran Resort Hotel. All proceeds benefit the Taylor Library resources and programs.

- September is library card campaign month, and Mel Katz will announce the campaign at the City Council meeting on September 14.

Mr. Magness asked if the Main Library project budget include the auxiliary costs including the cost of moving the Police garage. Ms. Tatár responded that staff will check with Engineering staff and get back to Mr. Magness.

MANAGER'S UPDATE

No report.

AGENDA ITEMS

10.a Library System Update

Ms. Tatár provided a summary of the written Library CIP Update. A map was passed around showing the Pacific Highlands service area. The future branch library will be funded by developers' fees.

There has been concern in the Skyline Hills community about the project location and placement on site of the expanded library facility. A modification of the design and its location on the library site was presented at a meeting with concerned community members, City staff, and a representative from the Mayor's Office. Another meeting is scheduled with the Skyline Hills Planning Committee to present the modifications.

Commissioner Rencher stated that the location, which is by a liquor store and a smog station, is not ideal, and would not be accepted in other communities. Commissioner Hervey agreed that the location was not currently ideal, but took into consideration the location of other nearby City and County libraries and the availability of a site large enough to accommodate a library.

Motion

Motion made by Commissioner McCarty that the Board of Library Commissioners recommends that steps be taken to remove the smog station adjoining the library property and create a park in its place, and to work on removal of the liquor store behind the library site prior to opening of the new branch library.

Seconded by Commissioner Rencher.

Mr. Shapiro asked how the new Main Library was funded. He will be sent a copy of the Manager's Report on the financing of the Library Improvements Program.

Mr. Magness also requested financing information.

Mr. Teyssier expressed concern about the impact of inflation, and asked that the Main Library construction manager provide a detailed project budget. Commissioner McCarty noted that the true construction cost will not be known until the project is bid out.

Commissioner Katz brought up the motion on the floor concerning the Skyline Hills Branch Library.

Commissioner Sullivan asked that it be noted that the Commissioners do not take lightly advocating the closure or moving of businesses, but that it is in the best interest of the library that this be done in this instance.

The Chair called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Tatár reported that Library staff has worked with architects and artists in the past to develop themes for branch libraries. Successful examples are the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library and the Mission Valley Branch Library.

Staff from the Public Arts Commission will make a presentation at the November Commission meeting on the new public art selection process and how it relates to the design process and the concept of themes.

Commissioner Katz asked what role the Commission should play in the community meeting process. He suggested that a report on this process be provided at the October Commission meeting, and that Afshin Oskoui of the Engineering and Capital Projects be asked to attend.

Commissioner Hervey stated the importance of having a good working relationship between the architect and the artist. Incorporating art into the building design is an issue.

Commissioner Rencher distributed a summary of notes taken during visits she made to some branch libraries. She noted that the Oak Park community expressed concern that their facility was not included in the Library Improvements Program. It was requested that Mr. Herring address at the October meeting how other library projects may be added to the Library Improvements Program.

Commissioner Rencher asked what can be done to get the ADA improvements completed at the Beckwourth Branch Library. Staff noted that there have been problems with the contractor hired to do the job, and that Engineering staff is taking action to get the project completed as quickly as possible. This issue will be addressed further at the October meeting.

Also mentioned was an issue of communicating with the Friends of the Library about the

status of the new facility at Logan Heights. Ms. Waggoner noted that it has been difficult to organize an active Friends chapter in the Logan Heights community.

10.b Budget Update

No report.

10.c Legislative Update

Letters were sent from the Library Director to legislators in support of a bill reinstating funding for libraries under the California Teleconnect Fund.

SB 1161, the library construction bond legislation, was approved by the Assembly and awaits the Governor's signature. The Governor is expected to veto the bill unless he is convinced otherwise by the public. The Mayor will be sending a letter of support to the Governor, and a letter will be drafted for the Commission, per the motion of support passed in July.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Katz adjourned the meeting in memory of Helen Copley at 11:05 a.m.

ANNA TATÁR
Library Director

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