



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Salvatore Giametta, Chair

Susan Atkins • Ann Haddad • Katie Sullivan • Abby Silverman Weiss • Sarah White • Alan Ziegau

## MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, April 4, 2012

### ATTENDANCE

#### Commissioners:

**Present:** Salvatore Giametta, Ann Haddad, Abby Silverman Weiss, Katie Sullivan,

**Absent:** Susan Atkins, Sarah White, Alan Ziegau

**Staff:** Deborah Barrow, Library Director; Diane Bednarski, Deputy Director; Steve Hawkesworth, Chief Financial and Chief Operating Officer, San Diego Public Library Foundation; Darren Greenhalgh, Deputy Director, Engineering and Capital Projects; Carol Tellez, Executive Secretary

**Public:** Punky and Anne Fristrom, Ann McDonald, Anna Daniels

### 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 February 2012 minutes were approved unanimously.

### REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

**NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT:** Anna Daniels

Ms. Daniels gave a brief overview of the mission of the *Library Organizing Project* group and stressed the need to reinstate the Library Ordinance and restore library hours and staffing. Ms. Daniels also provided a handout with library questions she has posed to candidates for city offices.

**REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:** Ann McDonald

Ms. McDonald was officially elected President of the Friends at their March board meeting. The Friends are thrilled about the planned restoration of library hours and reopening of branches on Mondays.

The Friends are in the process of implementing a five part program in honor of John McAllister:

1. Offer staff development scholarship of up to \$500 a year for library staff working on their master's degrees; and staff reimbursement up to \$500 a year for conference attendance. This is a five year program, \$1,000 a year for a total of \$5,000.
2. \$2,000 scholarship for development of children's programming with special emphasis in the Linda Vista and North Clairemont areas.
3. Further develop Friends website and provide links to pertinent information.
4. Virtual recognition of library heroes who donate \$1,000 through their Friends group or volunteer 1,000 hours.
5. Donate \$1,000 to the capital campaign for the new Central Library in memory of John McAllister.

It was sadly reported that Tom Goad and Elli Lorch, longtime members of the Pt. Loma Friends, have recently passed away.

The Friends Annual Essay Contest celebration will be held on Thursday, May 3 at the Balboa Park Club.

**SERRA SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD:** Deborah Barrow

Serra is administering two grant programs that assist member library staff with furthering their educations: the *Public Library Staff Education Program* that is run by the California State Library and the *Librarians for Diverse Communities Program*, a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington DC. Thirty-five Master of Library Science students are taking advantage of one or both programs to complete their master's degrees.

Serra member libraries are continuing to work to develop a new model to provide services, such as delivery and reference services, to all member libraries.

The *Librarians for Diverse Communities Program* held a Career Fair workshop on Friday, March 24 at the Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch Library. Over 60 participants from all over Southern California took part in the workshop.

**LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:** Steve Hawkesworth

The Foundation has received an anonymous \$2 million gift to be used for the capital campaign for the new Central Library.

The Library, Library Foundation and KPBS had a successful kick-off event for the One Book, One San Diego program. Nearly 500 people attended the presentations by the three authors participating in the program. The authors and entertainment provided for a wonderful night!

A handout was distributed telling the story of how Juan Campos utilized the staff and resources at the San Ysidro branch library to obtain a job.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

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

Mr. Greenhalgh gave an update on the New Central Library. The project is on schedule and work continues on installing the dome, special events room roof, drywall framing, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire sprinklers and windows. All levels of structural concrete pours are complete.

The Mayor has proposed that \$5 million be allocated to the Skyline Hills branch library and staff is working on obtaining the remaining funding needed for this project.

The San Ysidro School District and City are still interested in a potential co-location for a new San Ysidro branch library on the new Beyer Elementary School site.

### **10.b Budget Update**

The Mayor announced at a press conference on February 23 that branch library hours will be extended in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of Fiscal Year 2012. The Library plans to reopen branches on Mondays, bringing branch libraries to a base of 41 hours per week. In addition, libraries with Sunday hours will continue. These additions are made possible as a result of the City's projected surplus over the approved budget for the fiscal year ending June 30. The Library plans to implement these changes on May 26.

The Mayor will release his proposed budget on April 13. The Library's proposed budget goes before the Budget Review Committee at 2:00 pm on Wednesday, May 2.

Ms. Barrow gave an overview of the Library's FY 2013 Proposed User Fees. A decrease is proposed for non-resident library cards from \$30 to \$28 based on cost recovery. A few outdated fees are proposed to be discontinued. The Board of Library Commissioners reviewed and accepted the proposed revisions to the Library's Fee Schedule.

The Commissioners would like to discuss some key items with Council Members prior to the Library's proposed budget going before the Budget Review Committee on May 2 and will set up meetings.

### **10.c Legislative Update**

In response to the commissioners' request, Director Barrow spoke with Jane Light, the chair of the California Library Association (CLA) Legislative Committee about reinstating Legislative Day in Sacramento. Ms. Light stated that Legislative Day has been moved to every other year; however, constituents are encouraged to set up meetings with their local legislators in April or May.

CLA is requesting letters be faxed to the Senate and Assembly Budget Subcommittees advocating the restoration of \$15.2 million for the California Library Services Act, the State Literacy Program and the Public Library Fund that Governor Brown cut from his proposed FY13 budget.

### **Motion**

It was moved that the Library Commissioners send a letter to the appropriate legislators requesting the reinstatement of \$15.2 million for the California Library Services Act, the State Literacy Program and the Public Library Fund.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

### **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:** Deborah Barrow

- The kickoff for the One Book, One San Diego program was Wednesday, February 29 at the Joe and Vi Jacobs Center. The event featured the 2012 *One Book* authors Alan Brennert, author of *Moloka'i*; Zohreh Ghahremani, author of *Sky of Red Poppies*; and Luis Alberto Urrea, author of *Into the Beautiful North*. Approximately 500 people attended an exciting evening including cultural performances, author panel discussion with Maureen Cavanaugh and book signings.
- March 29 – The One Book One San Diego author launch for Zohreh Ghahremani, *Sky of Red Poppies*, at the San Diego Museum of Art in Balboa Park also was a huge success with approximately 400 attendees. A highlight was the connection of art to the literature experience as Ms. Ghahremani and Sonya Quintanilla, Ph.D, curator of Asian Art at the San Diego Museum of Art, discussed the book and its link to Persian poetry and art.
- On March 6 at KPBS, Ms. Barrow did two reading excerpts from Zohreh Ghahremani's book, *Sky of Red Poppies*, which have been aired several times over the past month.
- READ/San Diego's 24th Annual Recognition Dinner for adult learners and tutors was held Friday, February 2, at the Balboa Park Club Ballroom. Approximately 350 people attended this exciting event, including Congressman Bob Filner and Council Members Marti Emerald and Todd Gloria.
- The San Diego Council on Literacy held their second annual spelling bee contest on Thursday, February 23. READ/San Diego's *The Bee Sharps*, the reigning champs of 2011, advanced admirably to the fifth round. A fun time was had by all!
- Plans for the 2012 Summer Reading Programs have begun. The programs will start on June 15 and end on August 15. The theme for children is *Dream Big – READ!* The teen theme is *Own the Night!* Some of the confirmed sponsors at this time are: San Diego Padres; Reuben H. Fleet Science Center; San Diego Air and Space Museum; and Legoland California.
- Friday, March 2 was Dr. Seuss' birthday. The Children's Room at Central and many of the branch libraries had special events to celebrate this occasion.

- Vacancies: The library has recently filled a number of Librarian III/IV positions in Central and Branch Libraries. Interviews have been conducted and the process has begun for filling Librarian I/II positions. Library Assistant and Library Clerk positions have been filled in the Business Office.
- Several personnel retired as of March 31: Christine Siegel, Deputy Director, Central Division; Brian Ruark, Technology Services Program Manager; Mark Saunders, Senior Management Analyst; and Mark Lugo, Librarian II, Curator for Visual Arts Program.
- Ms. Barrow attended PLA in Philadelphia March 14-19 and distributed recruitment flyers for Deputy Director of Central (Christine Siegel) and Technology Resources Program Manager (Brian Ruark).
- KPBS Radio interviewed our local expert librarians Vanassa Goodman and Rina Perez about the movie frenzy, *The Hunger Games*, and the book series that started the wave.
- UT article 4/3/12 *A Hit: library's collection is major league* talked about how the library's extensive collection of baseball books, magazines, movies, musical recordings and microfilm is considered one of the best west of the Mississippi. Library staff interviewed for this article were Pete Miesner and Vic Cardell.
- National Volunteer Week is April 15-21, 2012. Volunteer passes for the museums in Balboa Park have been provided for each commissioner and sent to volunteers at the branch libraries. Volunteers will be honored at the Council meeting on April 17.
- American Library Association (ALA) is being held June 22-26, 2012 at the Anaheim Convention Center. Tickets for "Exhibits Supreme" are \$75 and allow access to the exhibits floor; Opening General Session; President's Program; Auditorium Speakers Series; Closing General Session; and Wrap Up/Rev Up. Early bird registration is through May 13. Commissioners are encouraged to attend.
- Staff Development Day will be held on April 19 and all libraries will be closed so that staff may attend. The keynote speaker will be Jennifer James, leading Anthropologist and Change Management Leader.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Giametta adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

***Deborah L. Barrow***

DEBORAH L. BARROW  
Library Director

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