

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Wendy Urushima-Conn, Chair

Marshall Anderson • Elizabeth Hansen • Shawna Hook-Held • Ben Moraga • Linda Sotelo

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, May 4, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Wendy Urushima-Conn, Elizabeth Hansen, Ben Moraga, Marshall Anderson, Linda Sotelo, Shawna Hook-Held

Absent:

Staff: Misty Jones, Director – Library, Raul Gudiño, Deputy Director – Library; Bob Cronk, Deputy Director – Library; Jennifer Jenkins, Deputy Director – Library; Tricia Nool, Executive Assistant – Library; William Curtis, Program Manager – Library; Oscar Gittemeier, Program Manager – Library; Francesca de Vera, Robert Surratt – SDPL Staff

Public:

Jan Hintzman, Joan Reese, Ann McDonald – FSDPL, Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF, Charlie Goldberg, Steve Hermes, Chida Warren-Darby, Kim L., Melissa Sopheap, Rachel Esguerra

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Urushima-Conn at 12:30 pm via Zoom. Their last meeting was on April 6, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 6, 2022 minutes was approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

College-Rolando Library Parking Issue – Jan Hintzman, President of the Friends of College-Rolando Library presented to the commissioners requesting for support for a budget item to restore College-Rolando library parking

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

Joan Reese
President, Friends of the San Diego Public Library

The Friends of the San Diego Public Library continues to be involved in library advocacy efforts during these final weeks leading up the approval of the budget for the next fiscal year in collaboration with the Foundation, Commission, and the LibrariesTransformSD coalition. These include postcards, meetings with councilmembers, public comment at budget hearings, emails, etc.

Online book sales continue to bring in some income for the “greater” FSDPL and several of our chapters. Friends chapters continue to hold both outdoor and indoor book sales, and Friends’ used bookstores are open at many branch libraries—most still on curtailed schedules relative to pre-pandemic times due to limited volunteer availability. A number of chapters have book sales planned during May through early June; the schedule is posted on the FSDPL website. The greater FSDPL is continuing a monthly weekend sale on Saturday and Sunday. Last month we had volunteers concurrently on Sunday at both our University Heights location and in Balboa Park at the Earth Day Festival where we had been invited to share SDPL’s booth. We appreciated having this opportunity to be out in the community. Book sales will be held monthly on the weekend of the 3rd Saturday/Sunday; the next sale is planned for May 21 and 22.

FSDPL is pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2022 John McAllister Memorial Library Scholarship is Linda Dami, who is currently a Library Assistant III in the Denny Sanford Children's Library at the Central Library.

FSDPL has established a new program, the ET Perry Centennial Chapter Grants Program, to assist affiliate chapters facing organizational challenges. This will include some financial support as well as possible technical assistance. The official announcement of the availability of these grants will be made in conjunction with our upcoming Annual Meeting, and the application period will open soon.

Our collaboration with the LEAD San Diego Impact Program to develop DEI strategies for our organization is going well with only about a month remaining before we receive their final report.

The 43rd Annual Meeting of FSDPL will be held on the morning Saturday, May 14. We had hoped to be able to have a hybrid event, which didn’t work out; this will be our second virtual annual meeting. Opportunities for attendees to participate from two library locations have been arranged for those who don’t have access to the needed technology at home or would prefer to be in a group setting. The featured speakers will be Mary Logue, Branch Manager of the Clairemont Library, and Cathy Jackson, the President of the Friends of the Clairemont Library, who will be giving a joint presentation on their collaborative efforts to provide some much needed refurbishment of their library during its prolonged closure. We are looking forward once again to having Library Director Misty Jones, Patrick Stewart, Foundation CEO,

and Scott Ehrig-Burgess, Library Shop Manager, provide updates. The meeting will include election of a number of new board members. Most of the current officers will be terming out. This will be my last Commission meeting as the President of FSDPL. I believe that we have attracted an excellent slate of nominees for Officer and Directors who will bring needed skills, engagement, and increased diversity to the board. I would like to invite Commissioners—especially those of you who are Friends members—to attend the meeting a week from Saturday. Perhaps Tricia would be willing to forward the meeting invitation.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:

Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF

I wanted to share a couple of quick statements that we received from the Councilmembers. Councilmember Joe Lacava commented on what an excellent job the coalition has done in the last few years increasing library visibility and emphasizing its value. No one underestimates the value of libraries.

I want to give a quick shout out to my colleague Jerry Tomaszewicz who puts all of the postcards together and sends them all to you. This year he sent out over 400 and then there is another packet of postcards that are going out to library supporters this week and the bulk of the library supporters who asked for a packet of postcards to send to their Councilmembers. Councilmember Chris Cate made a comment about them and said the postcards just keep coming and coming, and so it prompted me to ask, is this something that we should sunset and find a different way for people to connect with? He said, absolutely not! He loves getting them, love seeing the personal notes that are on them and leaves them in his office as a physical reminder of how important the library is. So, he said, keep them coming.

When we asked Councilmember Raul Campillo what kind of things we can do to help you, to help support you in your efforts to support the library. He said well what I'm gonna do is, I'm going to challenge every one of you to be friends of your library, every one of you. And so I told him that I would bring this message to any opportunity that I had in speaking with library supporters and so just a reminder if you're not a friend of your branch library to please do so, it is very cost effective to become an annual Member or a lifetime Member, and these are great ways to be able to continue your relationship with your local branch library, and of course with elected officials.

<https://libraryfoundationsd.org/take-action/send-a-postcard>

When the mayor's proposed budget came out, it was favorable to the library, in large part. We are going to continue a message of gratitude, but also this is what we hope is the first step in a long line of needed investments that haven't been happening in the library. Budget hearing tomorrow is just a reminder, many of you understand that are familiar with the library ordinance City Council several years ago put into the books that recommended that the library budget be 6% of the general fund and it hasn't been. This year it's 3.2 or something along those lines.

<https://libraryfoundationsd.org/take-action/speak-before-council>

Charlie Goldberg did an exercise on what has been left on the table to use our former IBA's language when it comes to understanding the importance of that ordinance and had ordinance been met in the amount of time that it was supposed to have been met, the library would have received an additional \$587 million. So, again to use our former IBA's phrase, half a billion dollars has been left on the table. So, while it is encouraging to see these investments that the city council is proposing, and that the mayor is proposing in this budget, we're still not there yet, and so that is going to continue to be our message, and thank you all for your support in that area.

Our philanthropy side, one of the things that the library foundation does is create connections with the corporate community. Our partners at SDG&E have new leaders in their Community Outreach Program and we were able to invite two of them over to the library just recently, probably a week, maybe two weeks ago and Catherine Hoang gave them a tour of the consolidated IDEA lab and Innovation Center at Central and we spent an hour in there having them make things they took back with them, they engaged with her on sort of like all of the various engineering levels of everything that's in it. It was just so incredible to see people connect with programs that they hadn't known of before and they made their own connections about things like how the IDEA labs can serve as launch pads for entrepreneurship and everything from arts and designs and ideas and everything else. They also wanted me to share with library supporters what a great asset this is and they're excited to be a supporter again this year.

Library Masterplan: We are getting ready to embark on our second phase of the library master plan and there'll be a lot of opportunities again for input, not only from other Community members, but from the Commission itself, so I will keep you updated on that.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

a. Report on Library Construction Projects

The Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library:

ECC-Soltek Joint Venture bid was the lowest, the City is working with them on receiving their responsible documents and sign the contract. On our end, we are working on issuing the Purchase Order through routing a Mayoral Action. The lowest bid came at \$20,184,623, that is significantly high, possibly due to construction cost increases, supply chain shortages, and inflation, and the project will require an additional \$1.5 Million in funding by July of 2022.

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Parking Lot Expansion:

The design consultant is working with the City DSD towards the Building Permit, and with the City StormWater Department towards their clearance. The Engineering Contract process is in progress.

San Carlos Branch Library:

Continuing to move forward. The Real Estate Assets Department is still looking to acquire the land. Engineering is working extensively with the architects on that part of the contract.

Library team and Engineering, as well as the design consultant met a couple of weeks ago. We provided final input on the layout and some of the items on the bridging documents, just to make sure we covered everything there.

Ocean Beach Library Expansion:

The Engineering and Capital Projects Department - Architectural Division is working on a Community meeting to be proposed currently for Tuesday May 31st. This will show design boards that will be presented to the public, some design concepts and a survey for public input. More to come on that.

University Community Library:

In the fiscal year 22 budget, there was a \$40,000 budget for a study for the expansion of the University Community library. We were able to get a preliminary project number set up so instead of this item going out to a consultant for the study it's going to be done in-house by engineering staff. This is a project that was proposed in 2002-2005. It was still an active project and there has been interest from the Councilmember and the Community to take another look at that.

Oak Park Branch Library:

This is for the for the new Oak Park library. We received a grant \$300,000 and we're working with engineering on that to continue design. There's going to be an action taken to City Council to accept those funds to deposit them and we're trying to figure out what that balance is that will get us to the completion of design.

Old Logan Heights Branch Library:

It's a historical site and it's not active. There was a grant that State, I believe it was Senator Hueso who initiated interest in restoring that site and making it available for the public, not as a library. But there is a joint Community meeting being put on by the Mayor's office and Council District 8 for community input that's happening on Thursday, May 12th. It will be held at the existing Logan Heights branch library, so we'll see we'll see what comes of that survey and what other uses could come out of the Old Logan heights.

b. Update from Library Director

Budget Hearing: May 5 at 9:00 AM. We are the first on the agenda. We have been doing budget briefings for all of the Councilmembers. It's a good budget with lots of great additions. We did not receive the funding for the Do Your Homework at the Library to convert those hourly positions into benefited positions in this budget, but we are putting that in the May revise to make sure that we can continue that Program.

Library Openings/Hiring: Beckwourth open from Monday through Thursday, they opened this past Monday. Ocean Beach and Clairemont will open Monday through Thursday starting May 16, 2022. As soon as we get additional staff on boarded and trained, then we will open them to full Monday through Saturday. **We're having a little bit of a slowdown in onboarding.** The Justice Department has a backlog of background checks, and so they have about a 30-day wait so it's taking a little bit longer to onboard those new employees, but we did finish our last hiring process. We had 164 vacancies and we're going to probably fill about 130 of them. So, of the 275 vacancies we started with the beginning of the fiscal year

we have 68 that did not get filled. To give you context, in a normal budget year we held between 90 and 130 vacancies just in the hourly pool so changing those to benefitted is really making a significant difference, and then we're going to be able to start adding Sundays back this summer.

Security Report: We were not fully open in March and April of 2021, so those numbers are going to look a little drastic when you see a 300% increase in incidents. that is because we were just doing curbside in many of our locations. We are working on an amendment for this to be able to give you each month, a month to month change in incidents so that you can see that reflected on a monthly and be able to compare it with the previous month. Disorderly conduct is one that we have the most incidents by category. That is a very wide variety of things, so it can be anything from someone bathing in the restrooms to someone having an outburst so it's really wide, so we are working on trying to kind of narrow down what makes up that disorderly conduct and are working on some refinements.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Princess Project Program – Francesca de Vera
A program that provides free prom dresses and accessories to high school teens who cannot otherwise afford them. Their effort is made possible through invaluable volunteer, donor and community support
More information and donation drop off can be donated at the Princess Project San Diego at Westfield Mission Valley mall. www.princessprojectsd.org
- b. Listener's Advisory – Robert Surratt
The San Diego Public Library Podcast
www.sandiego.gov/publiclibrary/podcast

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

OTHER BUSINESS

The next Board of Library Commissioners meeting will take place June 15 at 12:30 PM via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wendy Urushima-Conn adjourned the meeting at 1:56 PM.



Misty Jones
Director, Library Department

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