

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Wendy Urushima-Conn, Chair

Marshall Anderson • Elizabeth Fitzsimons • Elizabeth Hansen • Cindy Marten • Ben Moraga • Linda Sotelo

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Wendy Urushima-Conn, Cindy Marten, Elizabeth Fitzsimons, Ben Moraga, Linda Sotelo, Marshall Anderson

Absent: Elizabeth Hansen

Staff: Misty Jones, Director – Library, Raul Gudiño, Interim Deputy Director – Library; Bob Cronk, Deputy Director – Library; Tricia Nool, Executive Assistant – Library; William Curtis, Program Manager – Library; Charlie Goldberg, Director of Marketing – SDPLF

Public:

Ann McDonald – FSDPL; Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Urushima-Conn at 12:31 pm via Zoom. Their last meeting was on December 2, 2020.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 2, 2020 minutes was approved unanimously.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

Joan Reese
President, Friends of the San Diego Public Library

Online book sales continue to bring in some income while all in-person book sales and used bookstores operated by Friends groups have been on hold for the past 10 months.

FSDPL is pleased to participate next week in the virtual watch party for the State of the City address, an adaptation in lieu of what had become a traditional pre-reception, which FSDPL shared in hosting with the Foundation and Commission members the past several years.

FSDPL is looking forward to continuing our collaboration on library advocacy with the Foundation and Commission as we head into the new budget season.

FSDPL will again offer John McAllister Memorial Library Scholarships for Library staff members who are enrolled in degree or certificate programs. The official announcement will be coming soon.

The FSDPL Board met virtually this past Saturday—our first meeting of 2021, and the combined meeting of the President's Advisory council with the Board will take place on Saturday, January 9. At our February meeting, FSDPL will host a presentation on the Library Master Plan for our board and chapter leaders, marking the beginning of the community engagement process.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:

Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF

The budget priority letters have reached our City Councilmembers outlining broad and high-level hopeful support for the Library budget for resources and materials to ensure that we keep pre-pandemic hours once we are able to open and preserve programming and to ignite a conversation around budget priorities as the budget priority memos are being put together by the councilmembers themselves. All of those letters have been distributed to our Councilmembers.

Library Masterplan – We are about ready to enter to the survey community feedback phase. That survey will be translated into 6 additional languages. We are standing by our commitment to try to reach as many community members. It should be ready for distribution around the 3rd week of January. We will present that to Friends at their February meeting.

Our friends at Mixte Communications is working really hard with our group to develop a really broad-based community wide distribution template so this community survey reaches every corner of the community.

State of the City Address – January 13, 2021, Wednesday and it starts at 6:00 PM. Watch Party will be held at 5:45 PM and will be hosted by Patrick, Wendy and Joan. As of date, there are 90 RSVPs received.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

a. Report on Library Construction Projects

Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library

In the month of December, the design team had met with the public art artist and Commission for Arts & Culture to review artwork layout and technical artwork details. The contract document had been finalized by project manager and contract team. Bid open date is pending on Contract Specialist's review. Advertising and bidding process are estimated to initiate first week of January 2021.

b. Update from the Library Director

Operational Changes – Sheila Burnett, Deputy Director – Support Services retired in December 30, 2020. Raul Gudiño stepped in as the Interim Deputy Director – Support Services.

We are still on purple tier so we're still at the limited capacity of 20%. We had a discussion with the Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Chief Operating Officer on realistic expectations on when we can reopen. We're going to revisit that conversation and hopefully to be able to bring in the Mayor's office to get some guidance on what we need to do. I don't think that we're going to have any kind of reopening of any significance this fiscal year. We may add some services, we may add some additional pick up locations or open up some libraries with some additional limited services, but I don't see us getting back to programming or any kind of real substantial traditional library services like before Covid. We're really hoping to be able to have a timeline that we can look at and we can plan towards.

We were in the news recently about our Matching Fund Policy. We are presenting next Tuesday to Council. David Garrick from Union Tribune saw it in the agenda and read the staff report. He called and asked some more questions. It was a great article, it highlighted how the Library is on the forefront of the social equity initiative that the City is moving towards. It was not only this change in the Matching Fund Policy that we did to create the Pool Distribution but also in the elimination of the overdue fines and all that we've done. Mayor Todd Gloria sent Misty an email saying how happy he was and to keep up the great work.

City Heights Performance Annex – We have hired a consultant through the Commission of Arts and Culture, Victoria Sanders and she is doing a business plan for the City Heights Performance Annex and the revitalization of the theater. She's looking at how we can take that space that's been under-utilized for so many years and make it a community asset that it was intended to be.

We are also trying to navigate on how to get the Friends back into the buildings so they can resume some of the things that they've been doing before. The Branch Managers are working with the Friends group to at least get those online sales back up and running. Trying to think of some create and safe ways to reengage the Friends.

Excel Cards – Misty sent an email to Cindy Marten. This was the project that we were doing with the school district to issue every San Diego Unified school district student a library card that would require them to go through the typical application process with the parent's signature. We have met with Cindy's team and they are very cognizant of the workload that the teachers have right now and don't want to add anything to that. What we have decided to

do is revamp and this year do maybe a digital only access card for them so that they can access those online resources and then when we get back to more normal operations, we can get them those physical cards in their hands so they can check out physical materials.

AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Budget – 12% budget cut. Last year we went through the same exercise last year. It was 4% then came back another 10%. We ended up not having any of that taken because of the unbelievable advocacy work of the Friends, the Foundation and the Commission. Raul is still running the numbers. Misty and team are looking for ways work around the 12% budget cut but this kind of reduction will mean a significant reduction in hours and programs.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

OTHER BUSINESS

The next Board of Library Commissioners meeting will take place on February 3, 2021 at 12:30 PM via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wendy Urushima-Conn adjourned the meeting at 1:23 PM.



Misty Jones
Director, Library Department

/tn