

# 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, April 7, 2021

## ATTENDANCE

### Commissioners:

**Present:** Wendy Urushima-Conn, Elizabeth Fitzsimons, Ben Moraga, Elizabeth Hansen, Cindy Marten, Marshall Anderson

**Absent:** Linda Sotelo

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

### Public:

Joan Reese, Ann McDonald – FSDPL; Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Urushima-Conn at 12:32 pm via Zoom. Their last meeting was on March 3, 2021.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The March 3, 2021 minutes was approved unanimously.

## REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None

## **NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **REPORT FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:**

Joan Reese

President, Friends of the San Diego Public Library

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Friends of the San Diego Public Library (FSDPL) took place on Saturday, March 13. Library Director Misty Jones, our featured speaker, provided a well-received presentation on the numerous ways the Library has pivoted to provide services. Brief updates were also provided by SDPL Foundation CEO Patrick Stewart, who encouraged participation in the community survey for the updated Library Master Plan, and Library Shop Manager Scott Ehrig-Burgess, who highlighted some of the creative programs the Shop has been engaged in. Three new board members were elected, and two were reelected to second terms.

The FSDPL board met several days ago and approved a \$35,000 donation to Matching Funds directed toward the area(s) of greatest need. We very much appreciate the financial challenges our organization and individual chapters are facing related to greatly reduced income during the past year plus. Nonetheless, in view of the significant shortfall in Matching Funds donations so far, this fiscal year, we are encouraging Friends' chapters to also consider donations to support their individual associated branch libraries.

The FSDPL board also approved a donation to the SDPL Foundation to help support our joint library advocacy efforts.

The Friends of the San Diego Public Library (FSDPL) is pleased to announce the John McAllister Memorial Library Scholarship award winners. Claudia Apodaca, Library Assistant III at San Ysidro, and Anya Kuzma, Library Assistant II at College-Rolando, have each been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship offered to a staff member enrolled in a college Certificate Program or a Degree Program in Library Science, Information Management, or a related field. They are both working toward an M.L.I.S from San José State University. As there were no applicants for the conference scholarships offered to staff for registration at the virtual ALA June conference plus a one-year ALA membership, the funds allocated for this purpose were reallocated to support a second educational scholarship. Thanks again to Bob Cronk for his assistance in getting the word out to staff and to Misty Jones and Raul Gudiño for their help in working out logistics for providing conference scholarships for staff.

There is finally news to report on the book sale front! After a 14-month hiatus in Friends' book sales/used bookstores because of the pandemic, several chapters are now planning in-person book sales during the next few weeks which will be held outdoors following well-defined safety procedures. Online book sales continue to bring in some income for the "greater" FSDPL and several of our chapters.

The next monthly meeting of the combined meeting of FSDPL board with chapter presidents/representatives is scheduled for Saturday, April 10, 2021.

**LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:**

Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF

Community Survey – we have about 6,400 responses and this is significant. The group that we're working with, Group 4 that we've been working in developing this Master Plan who you all met at the Dec 2019 meeting, they have extensive experience in this area working with other large municipalities with development of their Master Plans, community engagement phases and working with other cities and planning departments. The community survey will be open until April 17. Patrick and Misty have made about a dozen of presentations to communities. Patrick thanked librarians Kathryn Johnson, Jennifer Geran, and Ady Huertas. We've already started with the focus groups. So far, we have 15 in total that we are going to conduct and 2 of those focus groups are designed to specifically engage younger people. That's already starting to provide some deeper insight.

Advocacy Efforts – We have been requested to send 280 advocacy toolkits. This year's advocacy toolkits include 10 pre-stamped postcards that will go to councilmembers and the Mayor's office. We're looking forward to sharing all the outcomes from the community engagement phase. Phase 1 draft will be presented before it goes any further.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Report on Library Construction Projects

**The Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library**

The project continues in the advertising and bidding phase. The contract was advertised on January 7, 2021, Addendum 3 and 4 were posted in February and March, they extended the bid opening to early April. These addendums were issued to respond to bidders' questions.

**The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Parking Lot Expansion**

The project is in 100% Design Phase, that entails City Plan Check, Constructability Reviews and Permits Approvals. The design consultant is working toward the Final Design Phase.

- b. Update from the Library Director

San Carlos – the remediation of that piece of land they're recommending that they close the case on that and deemed that piece of property is clean. It will take about 6 months for them to remove all of the buried equipment and finalize all the paperwork before the City can purchase that piece of land.

College Rolando Parking Lot – we have a development next door. The owner of that piece of property is originally going to build a hotel. The developer is going back to Planning Commission to ask for an initiation process to rezone it to high-density housing. The community is concerned as well as the Friends that a high-density housing development will mean that residents will use those parking spaces due to lack of parking in the development. We are working with the Mayor's office and Council District 9 on just alternatives or ways that can work with the developer and his team to work on a more permanent solution to protect the parking at the library. We'll keep you posted and updated on that.

Library National Week – There’s a lot of really cool things going on. One of them is Odi the Coyote. San Diego Public Library has officially published it’s very first children’s book! It’s called Odi’s Library Day/El Dia de la Biblioteca de Odi! The book was illustrated by Library Assistant, Anisi Baigude, written by Hunter Hackett, and made possible by San Diego Public Library Admin Staff. Odi’s Library Day is a bilingual board book perfect for parents and their emerging little readers to build a lifelong connection to libraries and books. In the story, ODI (Opportunity, Discovery, Inspiration) the Coyote visits Central Library for the first time with their parent. During Odi’s visit they receive their first library card, attend a story time where they learn all about kites, discover the Innovation Lab and create their own kite, and finally, Odi is seen flying their kite with their story time friends with the iconic Coronado bridge in the background. Odi’s Library Day will be launched during Library week, [April 4th -10th](#). I will announce it in a video on social media [April 5th](#) and the Mayor will do a reading online [on April 8th](#) in collaboration with the Union Tribune for the Festival of Books. We will share those videos with you when they become available.

Pacific Beach Library Park Curfew – Has been approved by Council yesterday.

Budget – will be released by the Mayor next week. The proposal that we put forward is going to be included in the budget. Elimination of the Sunday and Monday hours, adding the materials budget, training, programming budget, piloting the open+ project. The Open+ quote came back a little cheaper than we thought so we have the opportunity to do more than 3 locations. We’ll start with 3 locations and see how that works and expand out. The Foundation will help out so we can possibly have 1 in each council district. The budget hearing is tentatively on May 6 via Zoom.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Introduction of Oscar Gittemeier, Program Manager – meet and greet with the Library Commissioners.
- b. City Heights Performance Annex Plan – We are finishing up with the business plan. The business plan was due to Price Charities last week. We just had our closeout meeting for the first phase. The 2 pieces that the Library is heavily involved in is the Performance Annex which consist of the Black Box Theater and an office space that sits behind the theater that has been empty. Previously, the Library Department has never had the capacity to really see this asset to its full potential so we wanted to bring someone in that would do focus groups and talk to other communities and really help us out the way that we can rethink how we can operate this space, and let it be the asset that the community deserves.
- c. Matchbook – Steve Roman  
MatchBook – Ignite Your Love of Reading! We believe that part of the San Diego Public Library’s mission is to foster and build communities around the love of reading. Just as our San Diego Public Library staff provides reading recommendations to library users in person and over the phone, MatchBook is our way of extending that service online. You will receive a personalized list of authors and titles recommended just for you. Your recommended list will be prepared by people and not by machine algorithms.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

Marshall Anderson – Thank you for supporting the PB Curfew. Public safety continues to be a huge concern for me not only for the District 2 branches. Whenever we can, we need to make these libraries inviting and especially safe for our youth.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The next Board of Library Commissioners meeting will take place on May 5, 2021 at 12:30 PM via Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Misty Jones', is written over the printed name.

Misty Jones  
Director, Library Department

/tn