

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, May 5, 2021

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

Present: Wendy Urushima-Conn, Elizabeth Hansen, Marshall Anderson, Linda Sotelo

Absent: Cindy Marten, Ben Moraga, Elizabeth Fitzsimons

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

Public:

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

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Urushima-Conn at 12:33 pm via Zoom. Their last meeting was on April 7, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The April 7, 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 FSDPL board met several days ago and considered several requests from library staff to support planned programs. These include: 1) Summer Reading Program (SRP) – funding for prizes to be awarded in a drawing of SRP finishers at five age levels from tots to adults (prizes include iPads); 2) funding for a virtual Juneteenth storytime to be presented by the SD Black Artist Collective; and 3) funding for \$100 Library Shop gift certificates for the three winners (child, teen, adult) of the 2nd annual special edition Pride library card design contest.

FSDPL and our chapters are rising to the challenge of meeting the \$1 million match and have made or are considering donations to matching funds despite the financial challenges our organization and individual chapters have faced related to greatly reduced income during the past year-plus of library closures.

As reported last month, some Friends' chapters have begun to hold outdoor book sales following well defined safety procedures. The enthusiasm for this is high among volunteers and customers alike. In addition, one chapter has been able to reopen its used bookstore on a very limited basis with strict safety protocol in place. Online book sales continue to bring in some income for the "greater" FSDPL and several of our chapters.

Of course, at this time of year, library advocacy is foremost on our minds. FSDPL and our network of Friends are participating in advocacy efforts in various ways, and we expect to have a presence at the upcoming City Council Budget Committee hearings.

The next monthly meeting of the combined meeting of FSDPL board with chapter presidents/representatives is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, and will be held virtually.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:

Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF

There is lots happening, but we've been really focused on advocacy in the last few months. Thank you to Wendy and Joan for giving us the opportunity as a coalition to make the full court press with regards to advocacy this year. There's been a lot of communication around the budget process, the effect that the budget might have on the library and we're hearing a lot from community members and we're hearing a lot from the media. People are very concerned, and people love their library and people want to help.

With organizing and really mobilizing the Friends, I really feel we have a strong presence going into the Council meetings, both tonight, tomorrow, and then communication around the May revise. We're going to continue being an aggressive active voice as a coalition and we'll be monitoring the outcomes of the budget hearings over the course of the next week or so and then we'll make adjustments as needed. When we get the May revise and if our message needs to be adjusted our tactics and whatnot, then we will be able to do so.

Library Masterplan and Community Survey updates – We ended up with close to 7,300 respondents and this says to me that San Diegans are really concerned about their library. They want to contribute their voice, they're looking forward to our library, not just reopening, but what that looks like and what that means for years to come.

We haven't analyzed all of the results yet our friends at Group 4 and Carson Block technology are focused on that. Carson did share a little bit of insight again his focus is technology and the way that we intersect with the library on the digital side. Notice that that was one of the one of the highest answered group of questions was around technology. Again, the bulk of the respondents answered the survey online. So, we know that there may be access that they have, but considerable enough for him to point out a considerable amount of respondents mentioned their lack of comfort with the use of technology, the use of accessing the digital space and I think a lot of times we turn to the library to learn and access those opportunities and those resources. So, I have a feeling a good chunk of what we'll be talking about in the next coming months will be about technology and the way that we use technology in the library.

Joan has done a really great job of communicating the value of the match to branch members. We got a nice donation from the Friends in San Carlos and University Heights and we've received money from Pacific Beach, and everybody is really stepping up. I think that the community sees a lot of value, especially on the advocacy side to be able to say that we do meet the match every year and we understand the value of that contribution and leveraging that contribution with a the city's funds and so I am feeling more and more confident that we're going to be able to say at the end of this year, we have yet again met the match. And so, thank you for all of your support and letting people know, and for your support with the master plan.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

a. Report on Library Construction Projects

The Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library:

The project's bid due date was on 4/8/21, and the City is currently in process of formally awarding the project to the lowest most responsible bidder. The current bid awarding process review and approval is with the City EOCP.

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Parking Lot Expansion:

The project is in its 100% Design Phase, and currently is with the DSD's plan check review, for the building permit issuance and environmental review and approval.

b. Update from the Library Director

The one thing I do have to add is that San Carlos, the remediation is complete. We have cleared the site so; it will still take about a year or so to go through the process of removing all of the equipment from underground, purchasing the land and all of that. But that is a major step in the right direction for that project. And now we only need you know \$22 million to build the library. I've talked to council member Campillo from District 7 and that is his number one priority. And he wanted to make sure that we understood that it's not his number one infrastructure priority, his absolute number one priority is to get that branch built and he is willing to help in any way possible to get that going. The Friends of San Carlos are ecstatic and

we're moving to try to make sure that the design that we have is updated, so when we've identified the funding, we're ready to go with that project.

Ocean Beach is moving along as well. We are moving some CIP funds around to finish the design for that this next year so that we can move forward with construction. We have a commitment for a donation, but it's still going to be shy about \$6 million that will need to identify in upcoming years to do that expansion.

AGENDA ITEMS

Budget - Our budget hearing is tomorrow at nine. The library department goes first, and as you know it's been there's been a lot of media attention to it. And there's been a lot of back and forth with the Department of Finance and the Mayor's office.

When we put together our budget reduction proposal in the January-February timeframe the budget was estimated to be really, really bad. Everyone was getting a 12% cut across the board. There was no talk about any additional stimulus money. And you know what we've cut the last few years, and all we have left or hours and staff.

They came back with some adds that would lessen the impact of reducing hours and then when the budget was released, we realized that we were the only one who got any cuts and everyone else's budget was made whole with the stimulus money. Our reduction remained and, in part, it was for a good reason because they did realize that we needed to make those operational changes of changing the hourly structure and move to a benefited staff. I've been working with the City Executive team, the Mayor's office and Department of Finance on a strategy for how we can move this along quicker. We can still realize the what we're trying to do staffing wise and get hours back as quickly as possible. And so, they are committed to accelerating those efforts. It will come back in the May revise with the plan for restoring library hours as quickly as possible while still realizing those efficiencies and restoring budget. So, it's really good news for us. We've briefed every Council office about the strategy behind this and how it came about and what the initial intention was, and every Council office said, they get these big stacks of postcards so the postcards work.

The advocacy is just off the charts it's so nice to have such a community that is so supportive of libraries.

It will be reduced hours, but we'll be able to get a six day a week service. And then we're going to slowly start to transition these hourly positions into benefited positions and add Sundays back to communities of concern first and then get back to a pre-Covid level of hours by the end of the fiscal year. It's going to take us a while to get back to regular service hours, regardless of our budget.

We're committed to working as diligently as we can to get those hours back, knowing that it's really important for the community. We'll get the increase in the materials budget and the programming budget and the training budget, which are absolutely needed so we're going to come out good. It's going to be some work on our end to get there, but it's going to be good.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

None

OTHER BUSINESS

The next Board of Library Commissioners meeting will take place on June 2, 2021 at 12:30 PM via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wendy Urushima-Conn adjourned the meeting at 1:01 PM.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Misty Jones".

Misty Jones
Director, Library Department

/tn