

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

Members

Wendy Urushima-Conn, Chair

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

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS

SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

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

Absent: Linda Sotelo

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; Emily Derry – SDPL;

Guests: Cameron Quevedo, Larry Da Silveira, Diego Lynch – Media Arts Center

Public:

Joan Reese, Ann McDonald – FSDPL, Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF, Steve Hermes, Adrienne, Corrine Wilson-MEA, Ady Huertas; Charlie Goldberg, Director of Marketing – SDPLF

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Urushima-Conn at 12:30 pm via Zoom. Their last meeting was on January 5, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The January 5, 2022 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 Friends of the San Diego Public Library is gearing up for the season of advocacy before us. We're encouraged by some of the early news, including the recently released budget priority memos, and we're looking forward to working to achieve positive budget outcomes for our libraries.

Following up on the good news shared in our report last month, in honor of the 100th birthday of E. T. Perry, one of our longtime volunteers, recognition included special proclamations from both the District 9 councilmember and the full City Council, which proclaimed January 13, 2022, E. T. Perry Day in the City of San Diego. In addition, the FSDPL board has voted to establish the E. T. Perry Centennial Chapter Award to honor E. T.'s passion for helping out so many smaller Friends' chapters over the years with his treasurer expertise. This will be a grant awarded annually to assist Friends' chapters which are in transition or otherwise facing challenges serving their libraries.

Online book sales continue to bring in some income for the "greater" FSDPL and several of our chapters.

Friends chapters have continued 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. Unfortunately, the greater FSDPL has not yet been able resume monthly book sales due to a cascade of seemingly never-ending challenges in our space on the lower level of the University Heights Library—most recently yet another episode of significant flooding. Estimated loss of income from the almost two years without the weekend long sales is in excess of \$100,000.

The FSDPL board and the Presidents' Advisory Council will meet next on February 12th. We are looking forward to welcoming Jennifer Jenkins, newly appointed Deputy Director for Customer Experience.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:

Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF

A couple of updates. First, I wanted to mention that we did have a very strong year and fundraising season. I just wanted to extend a Thank you and gratitude for each of you for all of your support, and then I also wanted to thank you also for your support for our State of the City address hosted watch party, thank you, Joan and Wendy for joining me. We had a lot of folks come and join us at the top, for our remarks and stuck with us during the mayor's remarks and

got a lot of really good feedback from that leading to our advocacy efforts, which has just started now.

Budget priority memos were released by the IBA office last Thursday or Friday. For the first time unanimously, all 9 City Council members have included the library in their budget priority memos, this really speaks volumes to your advocacy lending your voice and your support to our library system. We're excited to begin having conversations with each of our individual Council members and sharing with them how important the library is and what this means to them.

Postcard campaign - We have mailed out 410 packets of postcards advocacy tool kits which includes 10 postcards one for each of the nine Council members and one for the mayor's office, so that means pretty soon there will be 4,000 postcards out there in circulation at City Hall from volunteers exclaiming their support for the library.

Ballot Initiative Update - I've had an opportunity to evaluate our current landscape with resources and timelines. We've determined that a measure like this deserves as much Community input and approval knowing that a general election turns out significantly more voters than a midterm. We are moving our efforts to the 2024 election. This measure of course, is tied to both the Parks and the Library master plans and creating more time to ensure that each community in San Diego understands what those priorities are and how they affect their community and how this measure will support this is very important. For too long, as most of you know, many communities in San Diego have been waiting for these kinds of investments and ensuring that their voices are heard, engaged in the direction of this is going to be key to successful passage of this measure.

Libraries and Parks are the answer to much of our quality of life issues and our ability to ensure that these neighborhood assets have the tools, the resources to operate efficiently, is very important. Looking at this from a long-term perspective, our goal is to create a 30-year sustainable funding source for parks and libraries, so taking a little extra time to ensure that San Diegans have the information they need to make an informed choice for their communities is in the long run, we feel, very beneficial.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

a. Report on Library Construction Projects

The Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library:

This project is in re-advertisement, and its new bid opening date is extended to February 2nd of 2022, some of the bidders were unable to access all advertised contract documents.

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Parking Lot Expansion:

The design consultant is about to obtain the Building Permit and we are working with the City ADA and Storm Water toward their clearances. The E Contract process is in progress. b.

b. Update from Library Director

Hiring- We are in the process of onboarding all newly hired positions on the Librarian and Library Assistant III classifications. We were able to fill all but 2 HT Librarian, 1 FT Library Assistant 3 and 6 HT Library Assistant 3. We just concluded Library Assistant 1 and 2

interviews and are currently conducting reference checks. We had 205 interviews and have 165 vacancies. Many of these candidates interviewed for both positions. We will be presenting a hiring update at the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee in March.

Budget- The Department will be presenting their Executive Budget Review on February 9. Since the last presentation we did for Council, we have removed the areas that we recommended for reduction. We will continue to look for operational efficiencies throughout the fiscal year.

Library Masterplan- We will be presenting the final report of Phase 1 at the Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee on February 9, 2022. In this presentation, we will focus on the overall principles of the plan and the strategy for Phase 2.

Commissioner Urushima-Conn: Entertained a motion to move Library Master Plan forward to Phase 2

Commissioner Hansen: Motion to move Library Master Plan to Phase 2

Commissioner Anderson: Second

Unanimous Vote to move Library Master Plan to Phase 2.

Special Events- After consulting with the Director for Special Events of the Boston Public Library and Director of Event Services for San Diego Convention Center, I will be making a recommendation to retain special event services in house but revamp the business model. I will bring this proposal to the Commission in March.

Reopening- Skyline Hills and Oak Park branches reopened fully on January 31, 2022. This leaves three locations, Ocean Beach, Clairemont and Beckwourth, completely closed. North Clairemont is offering pick up service only and Serra Mesa/Kearny Mesa is open 2 days per week and offering pick up service the remainder of days.

Security – Misty will meet with Homeless Strategies and with SDPD, Central Division regarding incidents within, outside and around the library. Commissioner Anderson will reach out to the Committee on Downtown Homelessness to extend an invitation to Misty to attend their next meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

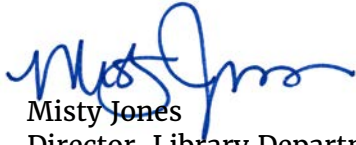
- a. My First Library Card – Emily Derry presented to the Commissioners
- b. Neil Morgan Auditorium Improvements – Curtis Williams
- c. City Heights Performance Annex Update – Oscar Gittemeier and Media Arts Center

OTHER BUSINESS

The next Board of Library Commissioners meeting will take place on March 2, 2022 at 12:30 PM via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wendy Urushima-Conn adjourned the meeting at 1:35 PM.



Misty Jones
Director, Library Department

/tn