

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, October 6, 2021

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners:

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

Absent: Ben Moraga

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, Bonnie Domingos, Jeff Davies – Library Staff

Public:

Joan Reese - FSDPL; Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF, Steve Hermes, Corinne Wilson, Vivian

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Commissioner Urushima-Conn at 12:31 pm via Zoom. Their last meeting was on September 1, 2021.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 1, 2021 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

The Friends of the San Diego Public Library doesn't have much to report again this month, although we've been extremely busy.

Friends chapters have continued to hold both outdoor and indoor book sales, and additional Friends' used bookstores have reopened with enthusiastic reception from customers and those volunteers who have felt comfortable being in public spaces. Most chapters have experienced reluctance of many of their volunteers to return thus far. Despite the relaxation of masking requirements this week by the Library Department, FSDPL strongly supports those chapters which continue to require masks for all volunteers and customers in their indoor spaces in line with current CDC, California Health Department, and County Public Health recommendations that everyone wear masks in indoor public settings regardless of vaccination status. Online book sales continue to bring in some income for the "greater" FSDPL and several of our chapters.

We are looking forward to welcoming Misty Jones and Raul Gudiño to our meeting of chapter leaders with our board this Saturday for an update on Matching Funds. Meetings for both the FSDPL board and the monthly meetings continue to be held virtually.

LIBRARY FOUNDATION UPDATE:

Patrick Stewart, CEO – SDPLF

Library Master Plan Update: Patrick thanked Tricia Nool for all her assistance. They had listening session with some real good helpful input that lasted about an hour each and about 100 participants. They also presented the draft plan as informational item to the Public Safety Livable Neighborhood Committee and all was very positively received and positive feedback from the committee members. Patrick also thanked Catherine Hoang and the team for their support for the online public comments. Next step is presentation of the phase one plan to the next library Commission meeting on November 3 for approval. And they're also talking with consultants' group and Carson Block about the next phase of the master plan process which will contain much more branch specific recommendations.

Advocacy: Advocacy coalition kicked off yesterday with their advocacy committee meeting. Discussions began about the budget priorities that they will collectively be advocating for in the coming budget approval process and added another new activity for the advocacy committee, committee members to serve as liaisons with City Council offices. This is an opportunity to keep them and their staff up to date on what's happening in their libraries and these liaisons will be sending bi-monthly email updates on what's happening in the system and in the branches in their districts. Patrick thanked Elizabeth Hansen and Marshall Anderson who have agreed to serve as two of the Committee Council liaisons.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

a. Report on Library Construction Projects

The Pacific Highlands Ranch Branch Library:

This project's E Contract process started, toward re-advertisement, and all contract documents (including addendums) were consolidated. Concurrently, we are working with the City DSD on updating this project's permit approval from paper to digital, and to include all addendums, the City Library added (Audio Visual Systems), during last advertisement.

The Scripps Miramar Ranch Library Parking Lot Expansion:

The project is in its Final Design Phase, and currently is with the City DSD's plan check review, for the building permit issuance. The environmental NOE (Notice of Exemption) was issued on 9/14/2021. Update from the Library Director

b. Update from Library Director

Funding: Received two and a half million dollars and it was allocated to the old Logan Heights Branch Library to renovate that space for potential community use. More details to follow. The State Library is coordinating the State allocation for library infrastructure which is funded at 430 million. Funding will be done through grant process and the application process just opened. We will be submitting 2 projects. City Heights Performance Annex for 5 million and the Linda Vista patio expansion and renovation for \$500,000.

I want to give out to give a shout out to Linda Sotelo because she spoke at the World Design Capital on Sunday evening.

Reopening Updates: As far as opening more locations, we plan to open at least one or two days a week at Oak Park, Skyline and Serra Mesa. We will also open two days a week at the Legler Benbough Teen IDEA Lab. Hopefully we can do this next week.

Hiring: We still have over 200 vacancies. The Library Assistant III interviews will start October 11 and Librarian I/II on October 25. The Deputy Director for Customer Experience position was posted today.

The City is mandating vaccinations for all city staff to be vaccinated by December 1, 2021 and that is going to be a condition of employment moving forward for any new hire. They are going to accept religious and medical exemptions and that is currently being negotiated.

Clara Breed Exhibit: The project is going exceptionally well. There was a program on Saturday, and it was a full house. We are filming everything and posting it on the website.

Mask Mandate: Lifted on October 4, Monday. If you are vaccinated, you are not required to wear a mask in the building, unvaccinated are still required to wear a mask.

Misty shared that there's an increase in opioid overdoses in San Diego particularly at the Central Library. We've increased the security force and do bathroom checks every 15 minutes to try and disrupt potential behavior because restrooms tend to be the place where that happens. The Executive Team will have Narcan on hand to potentially distribute if necessary and we're also going to do a series of harm reduction programs to raise awareness in the community. We're working with NAMI to get them back in the building and also working with the Housing Commission to essentially have public health, maybe a public health nurse in the building. We're looking at installing sharps containers in the restrooms at Central.

Unfortunately, people flush the needles down the toilet which causes an enormous amount of damage to our plumbing system and or they leave them laying around where people can potentially get stuck or custodian that puts our custodians and editorial staff in danger, as well as any other potential patrons, and so we are looking at that.

AGENDA ITEMS

a. Discover and Go Museum Passes – Jeff Davies and Bonnie Domingos

The library will be launching a new, user-friendly service that will offer more opportunities to engage with the arts and culture sectors of San Diego. Our new, cloud-based platform will allow patrons access to ticketing in real time, eliminate long wait times, and provide convenience and predictability.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Anderson expressed his concern on the whole issue around public safety. This will be added to the future agenda for further discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wendy Urushima-Conn adjourned the meeting at 1:28 PM.



Misty Jones
Director, Library Department

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