



City of Santa Barbara Public Library

LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of June 25, 2013 held at the Central Library

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Eric Friedman; Jonathan Glasoe; Susette Naylor
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:	Dianne Duva; Christine Roberts
COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:	None
STAFF PRESENT:	Irene Macias, Library Director; Scott Love, Library Services Manager; Jace Turner, Senior Librarian
CALL TO ORDER:	The meeting was brought to order in the Faulkner Gallery at 12:05 p.m. on June 25, 2013.
CHANGES TO AGENDA:	None
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:	Minutes of April 25, 2013 were approved.
PUBLIC COMMENTS:	None
ANNOUNCEMENTS:	The next meeting will be on July 23, 2013 at 12:00 p.m. in the Faulkner Gallery West at the Central Library, 40 East Anapamu Street.

Old Business

1. Library Plaza Project Update

Library Director Macias reported that the design process will resume on July 1 with Campbell & Campbell resuming the work that was halted when the RDA agency was dissolved. City staff is in discussion with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art regarding the development of a collaborative relationship in the redevelopment of the areas surrounding the Library and the Museum. The aim is to arrive at a mutually agreed upon plan that reflects common goals.

Responding to a question from Susette about boundary lines, Irene replied that the City and County own various parts of the site and are in discussion about the project. An MOU will likely be developed, where the architects Campbell and Campbell take the lead in designing the Library Lane area and the paseo from Anapamu St. to the La Arcada entrance. The City's review will include technical issues, such as sustainability. Doug Campbell has agreed to incorporate these areas of the site under his current contract. Susette raised the concern about possible piecemeal expansion of the scope of the plan, which needs to recognize the separate review processes of the HLC for the City and the HLAC for the County. The contracted plan to go to HLC will remain dedicated to development of the front plaza. A joint HLC/HLAC meeting may occur in the future to take into account any increased scope and current discussions continue to involve museum staff.

2. Children's Library Project Update

Irene reported that Peter MacDougall and Anne Towbes have graciously agreed to serve on the campaign's honorary committee. They have sent a letter to other community members asking them to join them in supporting this worthy project. To date more than a dozen have agreed to serve. Later this summer the City Council will consider providing funding for the Children's Library Project at a meeting that considers how to spend monies available for capital projects.

3. Budget Update

At its budget deliberations meeting, the City Council voted to increase the City Libraries' materials budget by \$43,000 and to convert an hourly librarian position to full time. The County Board of Supervisors also voted to increase funding to the public libraries that it supports by increasing the per capita distribution from \$5.87 to \$6.90. This will result in an additional \$203,000 for the Santa Barbara Public Library System. Irene responded to a question from Susette about the counter effect of inflation that the impact is felt more by the County libraries; unlike the City the County does not offer a provision to counter increases in salary costs. Board members agreed that the special public meeting to review the proposed budget had proven very helpful in eliciting support from Council Members.

New Business

4. eServices Presentation

Jace Turner, Senior Librarian, gave an overview of the Library's work in building a remote access collection. As a "virtual branch library," a digital collection has low maintenance requirements, but time is needed to train staff and patrons. Most patron training is now done by volunteers during drop-in sessions. The launch of e-book provision led to a boost in new patrons, most of whom use the library only remotely. Answering a question from Susette about the diversity of these patrons, Scott let attendees know that they were mainly "baby boomers" from all walks of life.

Jace answered Susette's question about e-readers, informing attendees that the Library does not lend out them out, risk of non-return considered too high. The focus stays mainly on providing content. The wide range of vendors and e-products produces a wide range of methods of provision. Staff's integration of digital materials with the online catalogue is helping to make content easier to access and use.

Vendors offer many different pricing schedules, many of them much more expensive for library vs. standard consumer purchases and some requiring a fresh purchase of an item after a set number of downloads. In order to offer what patrons want, libraries need to buy from the major six vendors, including Amazon. Libraries are using their leverage as big customers to lobby for changes in the pricing models. Scott Love noted another lobbying issue in that some publishers set artificial limitations, for example, excluding sales to consortiums. First call, first use for libraries no longer stands. The American Library Association is in direct meetings with publishers.

Meanwhile, librarians face matters like publishers allowing e-book check out for one patron at a time instead of multiple simultaneous patron use. Choices exist sometimes for special purchases at high prices for exemptions to limitations for specific, high demand titles. Different patron models exist, e.g., pay as you go access to entire catalogues with advantages such as multiple patron access, ease of access, no shelf space, no need for media players. Discussion followed about essential choices regarding librarian selected collections, cost, services and options. Eric requested staff to provide information about these matters such as a list of services, their cost and options in order to allow the Board to supply feedback and recommend action, for example, on budget priorities for e-service collections. Irene stated that research would continue and noted that the Library makes decisions within Black Gold based on the direction chosen by the majority of library directors. The Santa Barbara Library is willing, though, to make some subscription decisions apart from Black Gold.

Susette asked if the Library consulted with technology expert Kenley Neufeld of City College. Jace replied that he has talked with Mr. Neufeld, but that the Library deals with technology at a less specialized level. Digital purchases have taken an increasingly large proportion of the materials budget. Susette expressed concern that this supported the lending of e-readers. Discussion followed about the increasing ownership of smart devices in all sectors of the population and the wide availability of wi-fi access. Irene explained that a major budgetary burden arose with the need to purchase titles in multiple formats. Eric asked that these issues, the selection of relevant content, and multiple checkout become the subject of a full Board discussion in the Fall, following Black Gold discussions. Susette added that it is important at least once a year to hold a philosophical discussion about the direction of the Library to guide decisions, for example, about the proportion of e-books. Jace reminded the Board that input needs to be in by February to account for fiscal year budget setting. Jace agreed to meet Eric's request for a reading list with articles to help board members get up to date on e-services and be able to provide Board feedback on related issues.

Susette asked about improvements to the Library's support for the hard of hearing. Scott let the Board know this is under discussion, costs to be investigated.

5. Library Director's Report

Library Activities: The Library received an NEA Big Read Grant and has selected *The Things they Carried* by Tim O'Brien as the title that the community will be encouraged to read and discuss. The author will give a lecture at the Marjorie Luke Theater on October 23. The Library continues to offer many programs and classes to the public. News-Press had a big article on one of them. Summer Reading Program is in full swing. Results for sign-ups as of the end of the first week, June 11-17.

<u>Branch</u>	<u>Kids</u>	<u>Teens</u>
Carpinteria	502	24
Central	551	55
Eastside	228	16
Goleta	805	15
Montecito	93	7
Solvang & SY	<u>163</u>	<u>28</u>
TOTAL	2,342	145 = 2,487

Extra programming has included the very popular Stuffed Animal Sleepover and will see Lunchtime Stories for Grown-ups and a Where's Waldo hunt beginning in July. These programs have generated lots of favorable publicity and show how the Library still focuses on the physical book and reaches across the continuum of our community.

Work continues on the contract with the county with two items remaining to be resolved before finalization of the 2013/2014 contract.

Fire alarm incident: This occurred without any fire, which revealed the need to replace the 30 plus year old system. Irene will ask the City again about fire suppression systems. So far, the City has advised that only a water-based system will be permitted, which could cause major damage to parts of the collection. Infrastructure for a new system is planned for inclusion with conversion work for the new Children's Library: the system would be installed in the new library and in upper levels during phase two construction work.

Personnel: The Library is currently recruiting for a full-time Library Assistant I at Goleta Library and a Librarian II at Central Library. Rima Villarreal resigned as Executive Assistant at the end of May. We are in the process of hiring her replacement. You will meet the new assistant at the next meeting.

Board/Staff Communications

Staff agreed to continue to update the Board on the activities of various Library Departments. The Director encouraged the Board to see the website for the high number and range of activities occurring and mentioned how much support for libraries was evident when she attended a recent leadership conference in Ontario sponsored by an association of public library support groups. In line with the desire expressed for the Library to report its activities to the City, the Chair reminded everyone that the Library is obliged by Charter to report to the City annually within 60 days of passing the budget.

Future Agenda Items

None

Announcements

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 1 p.m.

Susette Naylor proposed a motion for the next meeting to be in July rather than August. The motion was seconded and passed, with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, 2013 at 12 noon in the Faulkner Gallery West, 40 East Anapamu Street.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Maria Gordon.