



# Santa Barbara Public Library System

## LIBRARY BOARD

### Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 22, 2015 held at the Central Library

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Jonathan Glasoe; Milt Hess; Susette Naylor; Christine Roberts, Will Tomlinson
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:	None
COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:	None
STAFF PRESENT:	Irene Macias, Library Director; Jessica Cadiente, Library Services Manager; Maria Gordon, Executive Assistant
CALL TO ORDER:	The meeting was brought to order in Faulkner West at 12 noon on September 22, 2015.
CHANGES TO AGENDA:	None
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:	Minutes of August 25, 2015 were approved.
PUBLIC COMMENTS:	None
ANNOUNCEMENTS:	

### Old Business

#### **1. Library Plaza Project**

Library Director Irene Macias reported that the HLC final conditions review relating to a ramp handrail, lights, and pavers would occur the following day, scheduled for 2:02pm; a 9/29 City Council Meeting presentation was also scheduled as an update on planned Plaza construction in phases, including the opportunity soon to begin mandated ADA work on the South Entrance in parallel with installation of the Museum of Art Transformer, the approx. \$350,000 cost of this initial work could be funded from bequests.

#### **2. Children's Library Project Update**

Macias reported that the project was completed; the Campaign had raised over \$4.6 million to date, more gifts sent in since the Grand Opening, and more expected. Macias responded to Roberts that funds for the endowment would all be earmarked for Children's Library items.

#### **3. Budget Update**

Macias informed the Board that no items arose for report on the Budget.

### New Business

#### **4. Library Director's Report**

Macias reported that the City's current recruitment of board and commission representatives included a Santa Barbara representative to the countywide **County Library Advisory Committee (CLAC)**, appointments confirmed ultimately by the County Board of Supervisors; the CLAC is currently chaired by Supervisor Farr, and includes representatives from all the County Districts and from each City. Macias responded to Naylor that a contributing reason why there had been no past member from Santa Barbara was because the Committee's quarterly meetings had been held at 10am in Solvang; current location, Cachuma, is nearer; Macias confirmed for Jonathan Glasoe that Library Board members would be free to attend CLAC meetings; significant matters currently

under deliberation include operational support funding apportionment between cities and Friends of Library groups. Alignment of administrative charges is likely to be preferred by the County; “charge back” to the branches arises for overhead costs for City provided services such as payroll and human resources and for library specific operations and administration by the Santa Barbara Public Library of the County libraries; all three library directors attend CLAC meetings. Brief discussion followed about CLAC’s consideration of the possible consequences of a library becoming independent, including staffing, and the possibility of a new parcel tax (through a local ballot initiative) and likely higher costs but local control of an independent library in Goleta. Macias let the Board know that the Santa Barbara Public Library System was successful in a competition to bring the **American Library Association Arbuthnot Lecture** to the community in the Spring of 2016 [www.ala.org/alsc/Arbuthnot].

### 5. Library Performance Measures (P3 Reports)

Macias reported achievement of goals at one per cent higher than for the previous year, with highlights including: Children’s Library Campaign goal exceeded by 6%; digitization of and public access created for 324 photos from a unique and valuable collection; completion of the Children’s Library; final approval granted for the Library Plaza design. Macias described how the creation of goals annually in the Fall was part of the budget process. Macias confirmed Roberts’ observation that the fall in revenue due to removal of the holds fee had led to an increase in holds. Macias reported that Jessica Cadiente [Library Services Manager – Central] would become Acting Director from Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, and that Library Services Manager [Branches and budget liaison] Margaret Esther would retire [on October 15<sup>th</sup>]; Macias had recruited Ruth Barefoot, [recently retired Manager of Innovations and Special Projects at the *San José* Public Library] to step in to the Library Services Manager position on an hourly basis from the beginning of October.

*[Discussion of items 6 & 7 was combined]* **6. Changing Library Board Meeting Duration and Location**

### 7. The Future: The Library Board, the Friends of the Library, the Santa Barbara Public Library Foundation and a Plan for the Library Going Forward

Glaseo described how the present time of transition presented an opportunity for the Library itself, the Santa Barbara Public Library Foundation (SBPLF) and the Friends of the Library (FoL) to carry out a community service impact assessment, looking at the Library five to ten years ahead. Glaseo proposed that the **duration of Library Board meetings** may need to extend to one and a half hours due to the depth of the topics involved, possibly meeting at a different time. Hess and Glaseo had met with Cathy Murrillo to discuss the Library Board’s role in helping the Library do strategic planning with the FoL and SBPLF also involved. Glaseo confirmed for Roberts that one of the issues was to clarify the respective roles of the SBPLF and the FoL, with the distinction that the FoL provided more programmatic, grassroots support and the SBPLF more capital and endowment support. Glaseo informed the Board that he, the respective presidents of the SBPLF and FoL and [Council Member] Cathy Murrillo were planning at Murrillo’s suggestion to meet with Paul Casey for direction on supporting the Library and avoiding a conflict of roles. In answer to Naylor, Glaseo explained that the reason for talking to the Administrator was to make the next Library Director aware of the Library’s support groups and the need for a strategic review with community feedback of the Library’s role; this partly in response to the City’s upcoming annual meeting where the City’s boards and commissions report to the Administrator. Roberts raised the concern that the Board is an advisory body, one which does not drive change, and that there was a need to allow the transition of Directors and managers to occur before changes. Glaseo responded that the Board could help in the process of deciding the future direction of the Library. Roberts pointed out that the move to hold an annual meeting in Council Chambers had not increased public input and feedback about recent changes at the Library may not signal a shift to increased input; a past well attended meeting in the Faulkner Gallery that invited the public to identify goals and projects had been very successful. Discussion followed about the possibility of televising a similar future meeting in the Faulkner Gallery as more inviting than Council Chambers for gathering public input; meeting to be advertised in the same way. In regard to the upcoming meeting with the Mayor and City Administrator, Glaseo suggested it brought an opportunity to request a City grant to finish the current Campaign. Macias clarified that remaining Children’s Library fundraising would go to the Foundation for the endowment, and that it was unlikely that the City would give a grant to the Foundation. Discussion followed about the need to consider the role of public figures in any campaign and the

respective roles of the Board and Library Management in defining the direction of the Library and the current opportunity to decide this direction as a new Library Director is recruited. Macias outlined the recruitment process and how the Administrator would make a recommendation to the Council for their approval of the appointment of this Department Head position. Discussion followed about the Board's role possibly in soliciting public input and possibly on an institutionalized basis, televised or not, about ensuring the Library is included in the City's overall goals. Glasoe invited other Board members to join him and Hess at the meeting with the Administrator at 11am on 10/21. Glasoe confirmed that part of the aim was to encourage greater budget allocations for the Library, and mentioned the achievements of Santa Monica Library as an example to consider. Glasoe requested the **time, duration and location of Board meetings** be placed on the next agenda as an item on which the Board could vote. Maria Gordon was tasked with gathering information from the Board members about their potential availability for meetings, taking into account standing items on the Library Director's calendar.

**Board /Staff Communications**

Maria Gordon informed the Board that the City Clerk had confirmed that because the time and venue arrangements of the Library Board were not codified, the Board was free to change them.

**Future Agenda Items**

Library mission statement review; report (in December) on progress on Youth Services literacy research.

**Next Meeting:** October 27, Faulkner Gallery West, Central Library

Meeting adjourned 1:05pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Maria Gordon.