

Santa Barbara Public Library System
Library Board

Minutes of the Board Meeting of May 12, 2011 held at Central Library

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Eric Friedman; Christine Roberts; Dorothy Brilliant,
Catherine Radecki-Bush, Dianne Duva

TRUSTEES ABSENT: None

COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Irene Macias, Library Director
Roger Hiles, Library Services Manager

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was brought to order in the Townley Room
at 3:00 p.m. on May 12, 2011

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: April 14, 2011 minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next regular meeting will be June 9, 2011 at 3:00 pm in
the Faulkner Gallery, East.

Library Plaza Project

Peggy Burbank, from the Redevelopment Agency has been assigned Project Manager for the Library Plaza Project. The kick-off meeting will be on Thursday, May 19, with the main topic of conversation Public Outreach. The Stakeholders Meetings will be scheduled as well.

Budget Update

The Library Department budget hearing was on May 2nd. Director Macias shared the presentation with the Board. The General Fund allocation (Central and Eastside libraries) for salaries and benefits has decreased from 70 percent to 62 percent, reflecting the reduction in staffing that ultimately resulted in Monday closure. The book budget is significantly less than last year. The Library is also anticipating a 6.2 percent reduction in revenue from the Santa Barbara County and the State of California

Director Macias discussed a fee increase recommendation. Because the State of California has proposed the elimination of the funding that supports the Black Gold delivery system, the Black Gold libraries are recommending that the fee for requesting items be increased to offset the loss of the funding. The board voted unanimously to recommend an increase in the cost of placing a hold from the current amount of fifty cents to one dollar.

City Administrator, Jim Armstrong has asked the Library Department for a list of potential options if there is a need to reduce the proposed general fund subsidy to the Library Department. The options include reduced open hours and further reductions to the materials budget.

On June 21, 2011 the City will adopt a new budget.

Approval of Letter to Council on Proposed Legislation AB438

State Assembly Member, Das Williams has sponsored the proposed legislation AB438. AB 438 would require that if the board of trustees, common council, or other legislative body of a city or the board of trustees of a library district intends to operate the city's or the district's library or libraries, with the help of a private contractor that will employ library staff, it must publish notice of the contemplated action, submit the question for voter approval, and, if the withdrawal is approved by the voters, notify the county board of supervisors, as specified.

The Board composed and unanimously agreed upon a letter of recommendation regarding Assembly Bill AB438. The letter will be sent on this day of May 12, 2011 to Mayor Helene Schneider and Council Members.

Library Director's Report

The Public Works Department has begun maintenance projects at the Central Library. Currently, the three Faulkner Galleries are being renovated. The project includes paint, re-staining of the wood and new wall carpet to facilitate the hanging of artwork. In June, the upper level will be painted and new carpeting installed. Later in the summer a new air-conditioning system will be installed and the roof will be replaced.

The Friends of the Library have hired a fundraising consultant to do a feasibility study for a campaign to raise money for building improvements to the Central Library and an endowment for the Central and Eastside libraries.

The Library is in need of more volunteers to provide one-on-one coaching with the computers. There has been an increase in requests and interest.

Library Activities for April

The Eastside Library had an unveiling of the new patio. The design and greenery planted were donated by the local community members. The staff unveiled a plaque honoring Rose Karat for the bequest that funded the renovation of the main reading room at the library.