

Santa Barbara Public Library System
Library Board

Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 27, 2012 held at the Central Library

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Eric Friedman; Christine Roberts; Dianne Duva

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Catherine Radecki-Bush

COUNCIL LIAISON PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Irene Macias, Library Director and Jace Turner, Senior Reference Librarian

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was brought to order in the West Faulkner Gallery at 12:00 p.m. on March 27, 2012.

CHANGES TO AGENDA: None.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: February 28, 2012 minutes were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Jon Glasoe introduced himself and stated that he is interested in applying to serve on the Library Board. He commented on the Library Plaza Renovation Project, Children's Library Project, Amended Rules of Conduct, and Library Director's Report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next regular meeting will be April 24, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. in the West Faulkner Gallery.

Old Business

Library Director Irene Macias reiterated that the Library Plaza Renovation Project is on hold due to the dissolution of RDAs (Redevelopment Agencies) statewide. She commented on design conversations she has held with the architect, and previous feedback regarding the design from the Historic Landmarks Commission. Irene stated that several individuals have approached her with ideas for transforming the Library Plaza space. She described the proposals.

Board Member Dianne Duva commented on the absence of RDA funds and the importance of prioritizing current Library staff time, programs, and core mission values.

Irene stated that at today's City Council meeting, the City Council will be asked to approve the appointment of City Administrator Jim Armstrong and Assistant City Administrator Paul Casey to the oversight board that is being created. Irene stated that the City of Santa Barbara is the successor agency to the RDA, and there must be an oversight board. Dianne clarified that this is to distribute the RDA monies that have already been received but not spent.

Library Board Chair Eric Friedman commented that he has spoken to the architect in relation to the design of the Library Plaza Renovation Project and inquired on the possibility of advocating that funds from the Library's budget be appropriated to complete the design.

Eric asked when the proposed Library budget is submitted. Irene stated that the Library has submitted a proposed budget to Finance and had a budget review meeting with the City Administrator and Finance Department staff.

The Board discussed funding, the budget process, fundraising efforts, the Library Plaza Project design, and the Children's Library Project.

Eric requested that the following information be provided at the next Library Board meeting: a review of the proposed Library budget, the cost to complete the Library Plaza Renovation Project design, the total cost of the Children's Library Project, and the cost to re-open the Library on Mondays.

Irene announced that in relation to the Children's Library Project, the Library has met with the fundraising consultant and have several meetings scheduled with local organizations and foundations to discuss the project. She stated that the Library continues to seek leadership for the campaign and will be pressing forward.

New Business

Senior Reference Librarian Jace Turner provided an overview of the Amended Rules of Conduct and specific restrictions proposed since the last Board approval of the Rules of Conduct. He provided information regarding enforcement of the Rules to the Board. Dianne moved to approve the Rules of Conduct, Eric seconded the motion, and the approval passed unanimously by the Board.

Library Director's Report

Irene stated that the Library has a status quo budget. She stated that the Library is developing the dollar amounts for the Central and Eastside Libraries being open full days on Mondays. She informed the Board that the Library's budget presentation before City Council will be on May 16, 2012.

Irene announced that the County Library Advisory Committee has been interested in the possibility of added revenues for libraries throughout the County. She stated that at the last meeting, Terri Maus-Nisich of the County of Santa Barbara presented the Committee with information regarding proposal of a parcel tax, including a timeline, what the process is, what the County's responsibilities were, and what citizens' groups would need to do.

Eric requested the timelines for the proposal of a parcel tax be emailed to the Board Members.

Irene stated that the County Library Advisory Committee is interested in seeing a parcel tax for libraries on the November ballot. The Board discussed the possibility of a parcel tax measure.

Irene stated that the Library has increased its programming efforts, having received grants to pay for staffing and supplies. She credited Beverly Schwartzberg, the Library's grant writer for being creative and industrious in applying for grants and enabling the Library to continue to put on specific programs.

Dianne and Christine commented on the resignation of former Library Services Manager Roger Hiles.

The Board discussed the possibility of the Central Library re-opening on Mondays, the impact of the bed tax on the Library's budget, community support of the Library, and fundraising presentations and missions.

Irene distributed a handout to the Board that included data on circulation rates and usage/service statistics at the Central Library. The Board discussed the data and its significance.

Eric requested that in relation to the Agenda, the 'Announcements' item be renamed 'Board/Staff Communications,' a 'Future Agenda Items' item be added, and that the Library Budget be added as a third item under the 'Old Business' section.

Eric requested that the majority of the next Library Board meeting be dedicated to the budget, and asked if the Board could receive the budget document that will be presented at the meeting with the line items several days in advance of the meeting for review. Eric also asked that the Capital Plan be sent to the Board. Irene stated that she would also bring balances for the gift and trust accounts that the Library has.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 24th, 2012, at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rima Villarreal.