

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes of the SPECIAL Meeting of July 18, 2002 To Be Approved

A SPECIAL meeting of the Library Board was called to order by Chairperson, Gene Oppenheim, at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, July 18, 2002 at the Main Library in the Children's Story Room, 1343 Sixth Street, Santa Monica.

Call to Order

PRESENT: Boardmember Breisch, Vice Chair Edwards, Boardmember Field and Chairperson Oppenheim

Roll Call

ALSO PRESENT: Councilmember Richard Bloom; Councilmember Pam O'Connor; Wini Allard, City Librarian; Greg Mullen, Assistant City Librarian; Carl Cheng, Project Artist; John Ruble, Principal Architect, Moore Ruble Yudell; Gordon Anderson, Assistant City Manager

Members of the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library, Board of Directors were also present for the joint meeting and discussion. Friends Boardmembers who were in attendance: Vice Chair of the Friends of the Library Board, Sherrill Kushner; Alisa Beaton, Friends of the Library Liaison to the Library Board; Harriet Cutler, Friends of the Library Treasurer; Sara van Dyck, Friends of the Library Newsletter Editor.

Joint Meeting and Discussion – Friends of Santa Monica Public Library

Ms. Allard shared a communication from the public with the Board. The communication was from a patron who had a complaint regarding other patrons who use the word processing computers to stare at colors or play games when others want to use the computers for work. The patron would like the Library to monitor the use of the word processing computers.

Communications from the Public

The Library cannot instruct patrons or monitor for what the computers are used. Patrons can use computers for any number of activities.

Boardmember Breisch made a motion to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of June 6, 2002. Vice Chair Edwards seconded the motion. The minutes were approved in a unanimous voice vote.

Approval of the Library Board Minutes

Ms. Allard introduced Gordon Anderson, Assistant City Manager; John Ruble, Principal Architect, Moore Ruble Yudell and Carl Cheng, Project Artist.

Presentation of the latest plan for the Main Library

Mr. Anderson thanked the Board for their input over the past months. He reported that at the July 23 City Council meeting Council will be asked to give approval of the 100% schematic design. Carl Cheng, Project Artist, will not make a presentation of his ideas for public art in the new Library to Council on

July 23. He is required to give a presentation first to the Public Arts Committee on August 6 and a presentation to the Arts Commission on August 19. The Arts Commission will then make its recommendation to Council.

Once the schematic design is approved by Council the project team will move into the design development phase and complete the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The next step will be final approval, by the end of this year, of design development by Council and the Architectural Review Board. The Main Library will be turned over to the contractor on January 1 for demolition and construction. The current construction timeline calls for approximately 18 to 24 months for construction of the new library.

Mr. Anderson reported to the Board that negotiations are being finalized for a temporary library site on 5th Street and Arizona. The building is just over 25,000 square feet. The City will take possession of the building on September 1 and the contractor will begin improvements to make the building suitable to house staff and a portion of the collection. The Library staff plans to move into the temporary facility in December 2002.

John Ruble, Principal Architect, Moore Ruble Yudell (MRY), gave a Powerpoint presentation of the latest plan for the Main Library expansion. He reported to the Board that this design is near the end of the schematic design phase and that the project team has been developing the design with technical input from consultants. The goal of the design is to integrate the building, art and landscaping. Mr. Ruble pointed out that most areas within the Library have views into the courtyard or a garden.

Mr. Ruble explained that the building diagram is the same basic organization as the Board has seen before. He presented a general overview of the plan. The Library building has several different entrances, a principal entrance on Santa Monica Blvd; a pedestrian court entrance off of 6th Street; a parking entrance off of 7th Street and an entrance into a paseo off of 7th Street.

The first floor of the building contains the popular media area, fiction area, grand reading room, Children's and Young Adult areas, Circulation, Public Services workroom, the auditorium, a Friends store and sorting area, a courtyard and cafe. The second floor layout includes the Reference desk, Reference library, Periodicals area, Administration, Information Management, Special Collections, Reference workroom, group study rooms, community meeting rooms, computer commons area, staff break room and electronic classroom.

MRY has been working on refinement of the plan based on comments from City Council at the May 15 meeting. The flow and circulation of the parking garage have been improved. Traffic circulation allows for drop off and pick up of passengers.

The Stanton Macdonald-Wright mural is principally located on the walls in the Reference Library. High ceilings allow the mural panels to be placed in a location out of the reach of the patrons.

The design team has worked on developing the design around sustainable issues and features in the building that will make this a sustainable building. By incorporating sustainable features in the building the team hopes to obtain a Silver Leed Rating. The Leed Rating is a national program that awards the building a certification for sustainable energy efficient features in architecture.

Some sustainable issues that have been addressed and features that have been incorporated into the design for the building are:

- Decreased water run off to storm drains
- Reduced heat islands through the use of landscaping and the use of a roofing material that keeps the building from absorbing heat
- Use of water efficiently for irrigation/plumbing. Located in the garage are cisterns to collect rainwater to water the landscape.
- Improved use of energy - AC/lighting - Controlled use of daylight. The spaces between the stacks are not very deep. Daylight can reach into the stacks.
- Improved indoor air quality through fresh air and recirculated air through a raised floor system
- Management of construction waste
- Harvest local materials - recycled, reuse, renew
- Use of healthy materials in the building

Mr. Ruble highlighted some of the new features of the building. The floor level of building has been raised above street level to give enticing views into the main reading room from Santa Monica Blvd. The windows along Santa Monica Blvd. are set back from sidewalk and there will be some landscaping in insets under the windows. A screen and landscaping create filtered light for a grand entry court from 6th Street and Santa Monica Blvd. The interior garden courtyard contains landscaped seating, grassy pillows for reclining, a café and a large area around the café that would allow a variety of different functions and sustainable paving to allow water to circulate.

Mr. Ruble gave a brief description of the concepts for public art in the new building. One concept is to use the cutouts of the word, “word” in 80 international languages. The cutouts would be mounted onto a screen of stainless steel mesh above the entrance garden off of Santa Monica Blvd. Patrons would be able to read the words as they entered the library by reading the shadows on the ground. The other concept is a canopy for the café that will mimic an underwater feeling through the use of light, water, imagery and shadows.

Questions and discussion from the Board followed.

Since the last Board meeting work has begun on the Fairview Branch.

The new roof has been completed at Montana. The construction at Montana is a week or two behind due to issues with the roof drains.

Report already given.

Secretary’s Report

Branch Expansion – Update

Temporary Library

The Board received information on the summer reading program and current adult programs.

Chair Oppenheim gave an update on the meeting of the teen photography contest committee.

**Library Board Contest for
Young Adults - Report**

Chair Oppenheim reported that Catherine Ronan, Young Adult Librarian, spoke to David Wood, photography instructor at Santa Monica High School, about the idea of a photography contest. Mr. Wood tries to get exposure for his students' work and feels that this contest is exactly the type in which his students should participate. Santa Monica High has a sequence of 4 semesters of photography so students' experience ranges from beginner to advanced. Mr. Wood will be available in September to help with putting together rules for the contest.

Boardmember Breisch reported to the board that he spoke with his wife, Judy Keller who is the Associate Curator of Photography at the Getty and she offered her assistance in judging the contest. Ms. Keller recommended Rose Shoshona and Joanne Callas for jurors as well. Rose Shoshona owns the Rose Gallery of Contemporary Photography at Bergamont Station and Joanne is an accomplished LA photographer and teaches at the Art Center.

The Board decided not to make distinctions between color and b&w or any other "photographic" medium. They also agreed that cost would limit size of the entries and that there is probably no need to require that the work be mounted. Unmounted prints could just be pinned to the wall. Some distinction will be made in age groups. The contest will be open to children who live or go to school in Santa Monica.

The Board discussed the timeline, ways of publicizing the contest and how to display the submissions.

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in next Library Board agenda: theme for the garden; update on Citywide Reads Program; update on the library expansion; and discussion of a Main Library farewell fundraiser – Boardmember Dan Stern.

Agenda Building

The Board discussed a Mystery Theatre farewell for the staff to be held at the Main Library.

The Board heard public comment from member of the public Michele Wittig, Chair of the Martin Luther King Jr. Westside Coalition. Ms. Wittig spoke about the public naming opportunity in Santa Monica. The Coalition circulated a petition asking City Council to consider some major portion of the library to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ernestine Cleaver, Santa Monica Social Services Commission, also made comments to the Board in support of the Martin Luther King Jr. Westside Coalition's position of naming some major portion of the library in honor of Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr.

The Board thanked Michele Wittig and Ernestine Cleaver for their comments. Since the item was not agendized the Board could not comment.

Adjournment

Boardmember Breisch moved not to hold an August meeting for lack of agenda items due to holding a special Library Board meeting on July 18. Boardmember Field seconded the motion. Motion passed in an unanimous voice vote. The next meeting Board meeting will be September 5.

Vice Chair Edwards moved to adjourn the meeting. Boardmember Field seconded the motion. The motion was approved in a unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.

Attest:

Approved:

Winona Allard
Secretary

Gene Oppenheim
Library Board Chair

F:\Library\Admin\Libboard\BDMIN-