

# SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD



## Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of February 6, 2014 To Be Approved

- Call to Order** A REGULAR meeting of the Library Board was called to order by Chair Kathie Sheldon, at 7:00p.m. Thursday, February 6, 2014 at the Main Library, Administrative Conference Room, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.
- Roll Call**
- PRESENT:** Boardmember Ken Breisch, Boardmember Gene Oppenheim, Chair Kathie Sheldon and Boardmember Bryce Snell
- ABSENT:** Vice Chair Ken Blackwell
- ALSO PRESENT:** Sherrill Kushner, Santa Monica resident; Lucien Plauzoles, Santa Monica resident; Diane Bednarski, Principal Librarian for Information Management; Rachel Foyt, Administrative Analyst; Denise Nunez, Librarian I, Public Services and Wright Rix, Acting City Librarian
- Public Input** Sherrill Kushner, Santa Monica resident, spoke about the need for a Santa Monica Public Library Director. She urged the Board to speak to City Manager, Rod Gould about what steps are being taken for recruitment.
- Report on The Big Read Community Reading Program** Denise Nunez, Librarian I in Public Services, reported on The Big Read and the 12th year of citywide reading in Santa Monica. The Big Read is a community reading initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, designed to celebrate literature by encouraging people to read and discuss the same book at the same time throughout their community. Santa Monica Public Library was awarded a Big Read grant for the 2014 season. The Big Read will take the place of Santa Monica Reads in 2014.
- This year's book is *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea. A contemporary novel set in the U.S. and Mexico; *Into the Beautiful North* features strong characters and universal themes.
- Book discussions and free public events are being held throughout the city beginning March 29 through May 4, 2014. New this year is the opportunity to explore the book's themes in artistic workshops offered in partnership with the Santa Monica Museum of Art.
- Adjourn to the Santa Monica History Museum** At 7:20 p.m. the Library Board adjourned to the Santa Monica History Museum located at 1350 7th St, Santa Monica, on the First Floor of the Library Complex for a tour of the Museum and a demonstration of the Museum Image Archives collection. The Board met with Andrea Engstrom, Development Director and Image Archives Manager and Danielle Lewis, Volunteer Coordinator / Operations Assistant.

**Tour of the Santa Monica History Museum and Demonstration of the Museum Image Archives**

The Santa Monica History Museum began as an outgrowth of the 1975 Santa Monica Centennial. The Historical Activities Committee held an exhibition of local history that generated public interest. The Santa Monica Historical Society was formed to collect, preserve, and be the caretaker of Santa Monica history. In 1988, Louise Gabriel, one of the founders of the Historical Society, established the Santa Monica Historical Society Museum for the collections to be displayed and shared with the public. The museum has a collection of artifacts, photographs and memorabilia. In October of 2010 the Santa Monica History Museum moved into its present 5200 square foot location at 1350 7th Street in the Main Library complex.

In addition to its image Archives, collections, exhibit galleries and research library the Museum hosts lectures, concerts, programs and tours for children and adults.

The Board received a demonstration of the Image Archives collection which is accessible through image archive software called Past Perfect. The History Museum has 8000 images digitized online. The images are in five major collections; the John P. Jones Collection, the Outlook Collection, the Bill Beebe Collection, the Fred Basten Collection and the Museum Collection.

The Board toured the Museum's changing and permanent exhibitions.

**Reconvene in the Administrative Conference Room**

At 8:20 p.m. the Library Board reconvened in the Administrative Conference Room on the Second Floor of the Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

**Approval of the Library Board Minutes**

Motion by Boardmember Gene Oppenheim seconded by Boardmember Bryce Snell, to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of January 2, 2014. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Boardmember Ken Breisch, Boardmember Gene Oppenheim, Chair Kathie Sheldon and Boardmember Bryce Snell

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Vice Chair Ken Blackwell

**Report from the Friends of the Library, a Library Support Group**

Rachel Foyt, Administrative Analyst, reported on the activities of the Friends of the Library. The Friends received a letter from the Internal Revenue Service reinstating their 501 c. 3 status retroactively to the revocation date of November 15, 2011.

**Approval of Santa Monica Public Library Meeting Room Policy Revisions**

The proposed changes to the meeting room policy include the addition of the Annex at the Pico Branch Library for rental and the addition of a security staffing fee for outside of hours rentals at the Fairview and Pico Branch Libraries.

Motion by Boardmember Gene Oppenheim seconded by Boardmember Ken Breisch, to approve the revisions to the Santa Monica Public Library Meeting Room Policy. Board discussion followed. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Boardmember Ken Breisch, Boardmember Gene Oppenheim, Chair Kathie Sheldon and Boardmember Bryce Snell

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Vice Chair Ken Blackwell

**Discussion of Annual Board and Commission Video Report**

The Board discussed what to include in their video report for the Annual Board and Commission Dinner on Monday, May 5, 2014. They suggested filming and showcasing the Pico Branch Library and including information about The Big Read grant. Chair Kathie Sheldon will appear in the video.

**Nationwide Current Library Trends - Review of Library Journal Articles**

Chair Kathie Sheldon brought to the attention of the Board the article *Collection Bashing & Trashing* on collection development in the August 2013 issue of Library Journal.

**Secretary's Report**

Wright Rix, Acting City Librarian, reported on January Library programs.

**Update on Library Services and Programs**

**Update on Library Staffing**

Interviews for Library Pages and Student Workers at the Pico Branch Library have been scheduled all other Pico Branch positions have been filled.

The Montana Branch Librarian is transferring to the vacant Reference position and interviews have been scheduled to fill the vacant Librarian position at the Montana Branch and the half time Children's Librarian position at Ocean Park Branch.

The recruitment for the Santa Monica Public Library Director is ongoing. Board discussion followed. The Board stressed the need to actively pursue qualified candidates for the position and to ensure that the recruitment is reaching the widest range of candidates. The Board would like an update on the recruitment process at the March Library Board meeting.

**Update on Library Facilities and Equipment**

Mr. Rix, Acting City Librarian, reported on the construction progress at the Pico Branch Library.

- The construction trailers have been removed
- The concrete forms for the exterior benches, planters and stairs are in place
- The raised flooring is almost complete
- The first coat of interior paint has been applied
- The restrooms are tiled; porcelain coming soon
- The handoff date for the Branch is March 7
- The automated materials handling system is scheduled to be installed the last week of February
- The delivery of the collection is tentatively scheduled for the week of March 11

Environmental testing at the Fairview Branch revealed minimal amounts of asbestos in the ceiling tile and in remnants of tile around a former sink. The approval of the Fairview Branch construction costs is scheduled on the April 8 City Council consent calendar. Fairview Library construction will not start until July.

The shotgun house is on its way to the site at Ocean Park Branch.

**Update on Library Security and Safety**

Mr. Rix reported that there was a power outage at the Main Library. Staff has discussed evacuation of the public during power outages and has procedures in place.

**Library Statistics**

The Library Board reviewed the quarterly statistics for October through December 2013.

**What Are You Reading?**

No discussion.

**Agenda Building**

The Library Board asked that the following items be included in the next Library Board agenda: Pico Branch grand opening programming and an update on the recruitment for the Library Director.

**Adjournment**

Chair Kathie Sheldon adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Wright Rix  
Acting City Librarian

Kathie Sheldon  
Library Board Chair