



## MINUTES

### SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

#### SPECIAL MEETING

SANTA MONICA MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
601 SANTA MONICA BLVD  
SANTA MONICA, CA 90401  
ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE ROOM,  
SECOND FLOOR

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023**  
**6:00 P.M.**

#### Call to Order

Chair Meister called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

#### Roll Call

The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:  
List in order called during the meeting.

Present: Chair Judith Meister, Vice Chair Abby Arnold, Boardmember, Boardmember Dana Newman, Boardmember Laurel Schmidt, and Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles

Absent: None

Also present: Cecilia Tovar, Assistant City Librarian  
Priscilla Bouvet, Executive Admin. Assistant

#### 1) Special Agenda Items

- a. Presentation of RED Kits collection
  - i. Simran Khalsa, Librarian II – Collections & Technology

Postponed

b. Secretary's Report

i. Cecilia Tovar, Assistant City Librarian

The following components of the Secretary's Report were highlighted:

- RED Kits
- Black History Month celebrations, programs and book reading lists
- Human Library returns to SMPL
- Roosevelt Elementary School students learning about Santa Monica's history with Adult and Youth Services librarians
- Safety and security updates
- Pilot program: Extension of Main Library parking garage on weekends

Plauzoles questioned whether increase in security incidents means the policy to keep one main entrance open remains as is to refrain from experiencing pre-Covid incidents. Tovar noted that discussions to keep one entrance open have been ongoing. Arnold commented that entrances should be visible to the public.

Plauzoles noted that parking enforcement at the Main Library has been lax over the past few years causing potential loss income.

Schmidt recommended increasing signage at facilities to say "Yes, we are open" for more visibility.

**2) Consent Calendar**

a. Staff recommends approval of the following Library Board meeting minutes:

- i. November 10, 2023
- ii. January 12, 2023

**MOTION**

Plauzoles moved and Arnold seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the November 10, 2022 and January 12, 2023 Library Board meetings. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Meister, Arnold, Newman, Schmidt and Plauzoles

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

### 3) Staff Administrative Items

- a. Discussion and possible action to attend the annual Serving with a Purpose Conference

#### MOTION

Arnold moved and Schmidt seconded a motion to approve attendance for Chair Meister, Board members Plauzoles and Newman at the Serving with a Purpose Conference. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Meister, Arnold, Newman, Schmidt and Plauzoles

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

### 4) Written Communications

None

### 5) Library Boardmember Discussion Items

- a. Poet Laureate Program update and possible action to identify a board member liaison.

Library staff have begun to develop a proposal and budget to present to Council for the possible implementation of a Poet Laureate Program. Program would make poetry more accessible to the community.

Plauzoles questioned funding source.

Meister commented that Council should fund program due to library's limited budget, suggesting that library also apply for grants.

Plauzoles volunteered to serve as a liaison on behalf of the Library Board.

#### MOTION

Arnold moved and Schmidt seconded motion to identify Plauzoles as the Liaison to the Poet Laureate Program on behalf of the Library Board. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Meister, Arnold, Newman, Schmidt and Plauzoles

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

- b. Discussion and possible action to hold event recognizing Little Libraries in Santa Monica.
- c. Request to form an Ad Hoc Committee to identify Little Libraries in Santa Monica and plan recognition event.

Agenda items 5) a & c, were combined for discussion and action.

#### MOTION

Schmidt moved and Meister seconded motion to form an ad hoc committee to develop a plan for holding a recognition event in 2023 for little libraries in the community. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Meister, Arnold, Newman, Schmidt and Plauzoles

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

Chair Meister and Vice Chair volunteered to serve in the Little Libraries Ad Hoc Committee.

- d. Discussion and possible action to have a joint meeting with the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library to discuss its future.

Board expressed interest in having a joint Library Board and Friends meeting. City staff will inquire with the Friends President and report back.

- e. Discussion of Nationwide Current Library Trends

Board discussed recent movements to ban books, freedom to read, and history of desegregation of libraries in the south.

- f. Future Long-Term Agenda Planning

None

#### 6) Public Input

Member of the Santa Monica Coalition, John Elliott, provided public input regarding the reduced hours of operation, crime and drugs, and library front entrance (Santa Monica Blvd) full of homeless individuals.

## Adjournment

Chair Meister adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Erica Cuyugan  
*Secretary*

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Judith Meister  
*Chair*