



MINUTES

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING

FAIRVIEW BRANCH LIBRARY
2101 OCEAN PARK BLVD
SANTA MONICA, CA 90405
COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023
6:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Chair Meister called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 Newman,
Boardmember Schmidt and Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles.

Absent: None

Also present: Erica Cuyugan, City Librarian
Priscilla Bouvet, Executive Admin. Assistant

1) Special Agenda Items

- a. Walking tour of Fairview Branch Library

Robert Graves, Librarian III, led board members on a walking tour of Fairview Branch from 6:03 p.m. to 6:25 p.m.

- b. Library Biennial Budget Update
 - i. Erica Cuyugan, City Librarian

Cuyugan provided an update on the Biennial Budget proposals submitted at the request of City Council. Funding outlined in proposal focused on:

- Expanding evening hours to 8pm (open locations)
- Saturday service at Main (10am-5pm). Main will continue to be closed on Fridays
- Branch hours from 12-8pm (Mon-Thu) and 10am-5pm (Fri and Sat) at open locations
- Staffing and custodial support
- Open + system for Montana Branch in preparation of opening additional days (hybrid model) once additional funding is made available in the future
- Poet Laureate Program funding for two years

Cuyugan noted the library would continue to work towards activating spaces at the branches during days the facility is closed. Biennial Budget study sessions are scheduled for May with the adoption of the budget in June.

Meister inquired what the estimated cost would be to open additional days at the branches and cost for moving Open + locations to in-person services. Cuyugan provided an estimate of staff needed for each facility.

Cuyugan shared approval received to make one-time funds (previously requested during Midyear budget) permanent.

- c. Poet Laureate Program Update
 - i. Erica Cuyugan, City Librarian

Cuyugan reported back on the progress of the development a Poet Laureate Program at the directive of City Council. Library staff are working to finalize a timeline for its implementation. In addition, funding has been made available during the current biennial budget cycle. Next steps will include submitting a resolution to City Council, releasing a call for applications to gather a panel consisting of community members, including the Library Board and Arts Commission.

Arnold inquired whether funding would be solely from the library's budget. Cuyugan responded sharing that program would be considered a library program and therefore all available funding was requested. However, the library would collaborate with the Arts Commission.

- d. Secretary's Report
 - i. Erica Cuyugan, City Librarian

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

- Council priorities identified for FY 2023-25
- Sustainability City Plan
- Opening of Main Library 2nd floor 'workspace'
- Good Guard Security pilot showing a decrease in overnight camping in the Main Library parking structure
- CPR/AED certification and training of library staff
- Library's participation in the Arts & Literacy Festival
- Pico Branch hosting of Fierce Friday/YALLWEST with 16 authors, food trucks and games
- Return of computer classes at Main Library
- New online library card registration service

2) Library Boardmember Discussion Items

- a. Discuss City Council, April 11, 2023 agenda item # 16. C, directing the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Library Board to consider renaming the Pico Branch Library in honor of longtime resident and activist Lloyd Allen.
 - i. Judith Meister, Chair

Meister summarized the City Council April 11, 2023 meeting (agenda item #16.C) discussion. Sharing that no information, discussion or recommendation was brought forward. Noting comments made by Councilmember De La Torre asking Virginia Avenue Park to be considered for renaming while also raising possible community concerns should Pico Branch be asked to be renamed.

Meister communicated that a resolution outlining the process for renaming public facilities was already in place, specifying 5 years should elapse before considering naming a public facility after an individual. Cuyugan noted previous exemption made with Goose Egg Park when it was renamed Bob Holbrook Park in honor of the former mayor.

Plauzoles expressed that it would not be appropriate to begin renaming library facilities after individuals.

Newman inquired to whether Mr. Allen had a connection to the library or its programs.

Arnold expressed Ocean Park Branch being a better fit as Mr. Allen's store was located in the area for many years and had a large Black community. Arnold also suggested renaming the Civic Center as so many Black families were marginalized with the building of the Civic Center. Arnold strongly expressed that the Library Board should not be the one to take the lead in saying no to renaming a facility or park but rather direct staff to inquire with the City Attorney's Office whether the request was consistent with city policy.

Schmidt stated that the council discussion on the agenda item seemed unclear and did not specify whether they recommended renaming Virginia Avenue Park or Pico Branch, expressing concerns that the request potentially created a conflict with standing city policy and required more direction.

Meister expressed that they board could explore setting a policy indicating that branch building names remain as is, reflecting the neighborhoods they sit in, however, allowing a consideration for renaming its meeting rooms.

MOTION

Meister moved, Arnold seconded motion to direct staff to inquire with the City Attorney's Office to review whether request is permitted and consistent with current policy. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Meister, Arnold, Newman, Schmidt and Plauzoles

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

Meister inquired to possibility of meeting with the Recreation and Parks Commission, an exp expressed wanting to hear from neighborhood groups such as the Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board and Pico Neighborhood. Cuyugan shared information about upcoming board meeting and the opportunity for board members to attend and hear discussions.

- b. Friends volunteer recruitment efforts update
 - i. Priscilla Bouvet, Exec. Admin. Assistant

Bouvet provided an update on recruitment efforts for the Friends Board beginning during National Volunteer Week, April 16-22. Marketing efforts

include scheduling social media posts, updating the Friends website, City blog and library website. Board members were asked to share information with colleagues, neighborhood groups and community.

- c. Little Libraries Project update
 - i. Judith Meister, Chair
 - ii. Priscilla Bouvet, Exec. Admin. Assistant

Bouvet provided an update on the Board's little library project sharing the number of surveys received; marketing efforts in the library newsletter, SamoNews, City blog, library website, and scheduling of social media posts. In addition, an SMPL sticker has been created for little library recipients to place on their displays.

- d. Discuss opportunities for Board support at library events for the month of April and National Library Week
 - i. Erica Cuyugan, Chair

Meister and Cuyugan encouraged participation at upcoming library events such as the Arts and Literacy Festival, Fierce Friday/YALLWEST, and Locals Night: Poetry on the Pier.

Arnold announced resignation to the Board due to move to Northern California.

- e. Discussion of nationwide current library trends

Arnold discussed library trend for providing library cards to individuals that live in areas where states are threatening to close its libraries due to having banned books available.

- f. Future long-term agenda planning

3) Public Input

None

Adjournment

MOTION

Arnold moved and Plauzoles seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. The motion was approved unanimously 5-0.

Attest:

Approved:

Erica Cuyugan
Secretary

Judith Meister
Chair