

CITY OF SANTA MONICA LIBRARY BOARD



Minutes of the REGULAR Meeting of January 5, 2017 To Be Approved

- Call to Order** A REGULAR meeting of the Santa Monica Library Board was called to order by Vice Chair, Bryce Snell, at 7:01 p.m., Thursday, January 5, 2017 at the Main Library, Administration Conference Room, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.
- Roll Call**
- PRESENT:** Boardmember Victor Davich, Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles, Boardmember Kathleen Sheldon, and Vice Chair Bryce Snell
- ABSENT:** Chair Marc Morgenstern
- ALSO PRESENT:** Ashley Kagan, Fairview Branch Manager; Erica Cuyugan, Acting City Librarian; Rachel Foyt, Senior Administrative Analyst
- Public Input** None.
- Approval of the Library Board Minutes**
- Motion by Boardmember Victor Davich, seconded by Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of November 3, 2016. The motion was approved by the following vote:
- AYES: Boardmember Victor Davich, Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles, Boardmember Kathleen Sheldon, and Vice Chair Bryce Snell
- NOES: None
- ABSTAINING: None
- ABSENT: Chairperson Marc Morgenstern
- Motion by Boardmember Kathleen Sheldon, seconded by Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of December 8, 2016. The motion was approved by the following vote:
- AYES: Boardmember Victor Davich, Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles, Boardmember Kathleen Sheldon, and Vice Chair Bryce Snell
- NOES: None
- ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: Chairperson Marc Morgenstern

**Discussion of
Friends Bookstore
and Friends Board
Updates with
Edward Edwards,
Friends of the
Santa Monica
Public Library**

Edward Edwards Past President of the Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library reported that after 27 years he stepped down from the Friends of the Library Board and as the Chair of the Friends.

Over the past year the Friends Board has been working with the City of Santa Monica to come to an agreement about the operation of the Friends Bookstore on Library property. Mr. Edwards reported that the agreement is in the final processes of being approved. In addition to the agreement the Friends Board needs to purchase Directors and Officers insurance and liability insurance for the Bookstore.

The Friends of the Library Board is in the process of rebuilding. Three people who are interested in being on the Friends Board have been added to the committees of membership, communications and events. The new President of the Friends of the Library is Rachel Ginnerty. The Vice President is Kent Lewis.

Mr. Edwards stated that the Bookstore is doing well. Prices of books in the Bookstore were raised from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per item in December. More volunteers are needed to work in the Bookstore.

Board discussion followed.

Secretary's Report

**Update on Library
Services and
Programs**

Erica Cuyugan, Acting City Librarian reported that the Main Library staff received a "We Do The Right Thing Right" acknowledgement from a member of the community.

Ms. Cuyugan reported to the Board on the activities of the Library's Teen Council. The Teen Council participated in the Holiday Angels Volunteer Project with community partners: Connections for Children & Hi De-Ho Comics Store.

Connections for Children is a childcare resource and referral agency for low-income families that partners with the City on initiatives such as the Building Blocks for Kindergarten Readiness campaign.

Hi De Ho Comics helped to remedy a lack of gifts for tweens and teens this year by setting up a table of graphic novels for teens and tweens. Each book on the table was discounted 20 percent, and any book purchased from that table was donated to Holiday Angels via the Teen Council.

During Holiday Angels, Teen Council members helped parents "shop" for books and gifts, wrapped gifts, unpacked cartons of donations, and entertained the kids with arts and crafts while the parents shopped.

Over the two day program the Teen Council helped about 300 families.

A Pop Up Santa Monica Public Library at the Farmers Market was held on Sunday, December 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Library staff connected with 165 people, 64 kids made a craft, 5 books were checked out, and 1 library card was created. Future dates for Library Pop Ups at the Main Street Farmers Market are January 22, February 26, and March 26, 2017.

Ms. Cuyugan invited the Board to attend the Pop Up Library at the Farmer's Market to connect with the community.

The Soundwaves December 22, 2016 program was a public participation concert and after rehearsing for an hour they performed.

Performers ranged in age from 20s to 70s and included students and faculty from Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Fullerton, and Wesleyan, members of the Pacific Youth Symphony, Long Beach Symphony, Santa Monica, and Palisades Symphonies, full-time players, a film composer, a mechanic, and three librarians. The video is here: <https://youtu.be/bgxPkFAHat8>.

The Library hosted a series of Tech programs this week for youth in the areas of technology, digital citizenship, and learning how to create movies, sounds and images online. The programs are designed to be fun, educational and aimed at teaching young children how to use digital resources responsibly, while being aware of issues like copyright.

Update on Library Staffing

Ann Wagner was promoted to Librarian II in Youth Services. A Librarian I position in Youth Services is currently vacant. The search for Library Director continues. No selection yet.

Update on Library Facilities and Equipment

The technology in the Multipurpose Room, Community Room and Computer Training Room at the Main Library is being upgraded in the next few months. The improvements to the rooms include replacement projectors, new display screens, and streaming capabilities.

Update on Library Security and Safety

Ms. Cuyugan reported that currently there are 5 active library suspensions.

Library staff continues to evaluate Library Service Officer patrols and ways to ensure more visibility of the Library Service Officers.

Report on the City of Santa Monica's Team Meeting Addressing Homelessness

Ms. Cuyugan reported that she was invited to meet with the City of Santa Monica's team working on addressing homelessness. The team includes members from Human Services, Police, Fire, and the City Manager's Office.

This meeting was the beginning of Library involvement with the team. It will be beneficial to share information from the Library and be part of a collective effort to address homelessness in the City.

The December meeting focused on the impact of homelessness on the City's open spaces which, includes the Library. The team is beginning to gather data from different Departments and share information across the City.

The annual Homeless Count in the City of Santa Monica is scheduled for January 25, 2017 from 10:30pm to 2:00 am. In order to volunteer to participate

**The Harwood
Institute for Public
Innovation Ask and
Aspirations
Exercise**

in the count sign up at <http://www.santamonicahomelesscount.com/>.

Ms. Cuyugan led the Board in a Harwood Institute for Public Innovation Ask and Aspirations Exercise. The Harwood Institute teaches, coaches and inspires people and organizations to solve pressing problems and change how communities work together. Library staff attended a training on the Harwood Model for community engagement and turning outward.

The Library plans to pilot community conversations at the Fairview Branch that will discuss community aspirations. Once the information is gathered and themes emerge staff will see ways in which the Library can help connect the community to their aspirations.

The Board discussed the type of community in which they want to live - uncrowded, friendly, civil and civilized, and a community with a common goal.

Ms. Cuyugan asked the Board to think about the type of community in which they want to live and answer the question why are those things important? The Board commented that safety, maintaining a level of friendliness and civility, quality of life, and finding things that connect the community were important.

The Board then discussed how the community they want is different from the community that they have. On the whole the Board felt that they were living in the community that they wanted. Issues such as development, traffic, and homelessness impinge on the sense of personal space and safety.

The final question discussed was - what are some of the things they feel need to happen to create a change? The Board felt that the City was on the right track especially with the Wellbeing initiative. Civic participation by residents is key.

**Continuation of the
Library Board's
Discussion of New
Focuses for 2017**

The Board continued a discussion of Library Board priorities for 2017.

The Board discussed attending community meetings and neighborhood organization meetings to talk about the Library Board.

Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles explained that he received an initial response to the Board's request to increase the number of Library Boardmembers. The request would need to be a ballot initiative because an amendment to the City Charter would be needed.

The Library Board intends to meet quarterly at the Library Branches in March, June, September, and December.

The next Library Board meeting on February 2, 2017 will include a tour of the back of house operations at the Main Library to give the Board a better understanding of the way the Library works.

**Board Discussion
of Nationwide
Current Library
Trends and Review
of Library Journal
Articles**

Boardmember Kathleen Sheldon discussed an article from *Library Journal* about training for Librarians on awareness of sex trafficking.

**What Are You
Reading?**

The Boardmembers discussed the books they are reading.

**Agenda Building
for the Next
Meeting**

The Board would like to include in the next agenda a tour of the back of house areas of the Main Library; continuing discussion of the Library Board's priorities for 2017 – invite and promote more attendance for the Library Board meetings, and generate a list of neighborhood organization meeting dates.

Adjournment

On the order of the Vice Chair, Bryce Snell, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Erica Cuyugan
Acting City Librarian

Bryce Snell
Library Board Vice Chair

This document is available in alternate format upon request. The Santa Monica Public Library is wheelchair accessible. For special disability accommodations contact Library Administration at (310) 458-8606 at least 3 days prior to the scheduled meeting.