



**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020  
4:00PM**

**SPECIAL MEETING VIA  
TELECONFERENCE PURSUANT TO  
EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20 ISSUED BY,  
GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM**

**Call to Order**

Chair Lucien Plauzoles called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

**Roll Call**

The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:

**Present:** Chair Lucien Plauzoles, Vice Chair Arlene Hopkins (arrived at 4:09pm), Boardmember Marcia Ferreira, and Boardmember Michael Klein.

**Absent:** Boardmember John Hart

Also present: Director of Library Services, Patty Wong; Priscilla Bouvet, Executive Administrative Assistant; Rachel Foyt, Senior Administrative Analyst; Erica Cuyugan, Assistant City Librarian; Greco Venegas, Principal Librarian; Lane Dilg, Interim City Manager; Cecilia Tovar, Principal Librarian; Susan Lamb, Principal Librarian

(This is a special Library Board meeting. Public comment is restricted to only items listed on the agenda.)

**1. Special Agenda Item:**

A. Swearing in and oath of office of Library Board member Lucien Plauzoles

**2. New Business:**

A. Discussion and request for information from Interim City Manager Lane Dilg identifying how budget reductions through the City's Restructuring Plan as a result of the COVID-19 Health Emergency were

determined – *How were the budget cuts determined in relation to other departments?*

- B. Discussion and request for support from Interim City Manager Lane Dilg for a Library Restoration Plan re-envisioning a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Library
- C. Discussion and request for support from Interim City Manager Lane Dilg for an advanced and progressive funded process that will provide the Library with additional resources over the next two years to address youth services

Interim City Manager, Lane Dilg spoke about budget reductions made to the Library as a result of the COVID-19 Health Emergency.

Chair Plauzoles inquired how budget reductions to the Library were determined in relation to other City departments, noting that no cuts to PD were identified. Ms. Dilg shared the City's position during the beginning stages of the health emergency and the closing of City facilities as COVID-19 hit the city in a rapid pace. The City followed State and County health guidelines in closing in order to promote public health and not be a contributor of the spread of the virus. Ms. Dilg spoke about Santa Monica's impact on its revenue streams due to closures and no longer having the ability to continue business as usual.

Ms. Dilg reported that in the beginning stages of COVID-19, the City continued to pay its full-time, part-time and as-needed employees whether they were working or not, as it felt it could weather the storm. With facilities closed and limited ability to provide services, it soon determined that the City could no longer fund as-needed staff not working. As-needed positions were identified as easily being able to be restored should the City obtain additional funding in the future. This resulted in the Library greatly being impacted, as the Library's staffing model was dependent heavily on as-needed staff.

The City acknowledged and considered the following, which ultimately led to deeper cuts to the Library in comparison to other departments.

- Library and other in-person services were going to be highly uncertain for 2020-2021
- Opening its five public libraries would require more resources from other departments than it previously did. Public Works being one of them. Due to the increase in cleaning protocols, additional PPE and cleaning supply needs that would meet the public health standards during the pandemic.
- The HVAC system at Ocean Park Branch was in need of being replaced resulting in an additional expense
- Library staffing structure
- Number of libraries in a city of 90,000. City compared information from a survey gathered of 45 major cities in the world that reported 12 similar libraries per capita, however, none of them were in the United States. The per capita expense was considered.

Ms. Dilg shared that the City was able to identify approximately \$200,000 for Council priorities for the areas of food security, keeping people in their homes, resources for outdoor health, mobility and sustainability, and youth related programs. In relation to the Library, the youth related programs priority supported the desire to fund youth services librarians. However, due to the staffing structure, expense of restoring youth services librarians and bumping procedures under the Municipal Code, the costs exceeded the budget available.

Ms. Dilg expressed that a confluence of factors led to a heavier impact on the Library in the midst of the pandemic, and the City would continue to advocate for additional funding. In an effort to acquire additional funding, City staff recommended to Council the adding of Measure SM to the ballot, which would include partial funding for the Library.

Ms. Dilg shared the City's understanding that the Library is important and a priority for the community, however, it did not know when they would be in the position to rebuild.

Chair Plauzoles inquired about the staff budget recommendation process and best method for obtaining support for the Library. Ms. Dilg acknowledged the Library's position is below the level where it should be and shared the need to identify the Library's priorities, and think creatively in order to focus its resources to services the community wants and needs.

Ms. Dilg shared the City's use of the Bloomberg Philanthropies framework to respond to the economic crisis, stabilize the government and look to rebuilding. Board member Hopkins questioned how Santa Monica being a progressive city decided to follow a conventional approach and decision to use the Bloomberg model as other models were available with regenerative strategies.

Board member Ferreira inquired of the City's plans for dividing funding should Measure SM pass. Ms. Dilg noted that funding would be allocated later but was unable to discuss the measure in detail as it was on the ballot.

Ms. Dilg shared that Department Heads have been notified that no new funding would be granted but that the focus would be on community needs, and equity in terms of funding would be considered.

Board member Klein inquired to the best way that the Board could impact the process and ensure its voice is heard. Ms. Dilg encouraged the Library to identify its priorities and think creatively.

Board member Ferreira inquired about the upcoming budget process and the City's approach not knowing where COVID-19 would be. Ms. Dilg reported that more information regarding the budget process would be available during the mid-year

budget process in January. Nothing the focus would be on the services the community cares about.

Board member Klein inquired to the next steps for the Interim City Manager.

Chair Plauzoles shared the Board's strong interest in expanding broadband in Santa Monica in a library of the 21st Century and desire to partner with other boards and commissions.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Lucien Plauzoles adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Patricia Wong  
Director of Library Services

Lucien Plauzoles  
Library Board Chair

## **STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR THAT PROMOTE CIVILITY AT ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS:**

- Treat everyone courteously;
- Listen to others respectfully;
- Exercise self-control;
- Give open-minded consideration to all viewpoints;
- Focus on the issues and avoid personalizing debate;
- Embrace respectful disagreement and dissent as democratic rights, inherent components of an inclusive public process, and tools for forging sound decisions

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Any person wishing to speak to the Library Board may do so under "Public Input," or to address an agenda item by first presenting their name, address and/or affiliation with an organization if any. All remarks shall be addressed to the Library Board as a body, and not to any one member thereof. All persons shall be given three minutes to make a presentation.

**This agenda is subject to change up to 72 hours prior to a regular meeting and 24 hours prior to a special. Please check the agenda for prior to the meeting for changes.**

Administration Office, Santa Monica Public Library  
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