



**MINUTES**  
**SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**SPECIAL MEETING VIA**  
**TELECONFERENCE PURSUANT TO**  
**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 361 SIGNED BY,**  
**GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM**

**LIVE STREAM:**  
<https://primetime.bluejeans.com/a2m/live-event/jzypurbz>

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order**

Chair Plauzoles called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**Roll Call**

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

**Present:** Chair Plauzoles, Vice Chair Ferreira, incoming Boardmember Schmidt,  
incoming Boardmember Meister and Boardmember Arnold

**Absent:** None

**Also present:** Erica Cuyugan, Interim City Librarian  
Priscilla Bouvet, Executive Admin. Assistant  
Greco Venegas, Principal Librarian  
Cecilia Tovar, Principal Librarian  
Susan Lamb, Principal Librarian

## 1. Special Agenda Items

- a. Swearing-In and Oath of Office of new Library board members
  - i. Judith Meister
  - ii. Laurel Schmidt

Judith Meister and Laurel Schmidt were sworn-in and welcomed as board members to the Library Board.

- b. Introduction of library board members

Board members introduced themselves and briefly spoke about their backgrounds.

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

Cuyugan highlighted the following components of the Secretary's Report:

- Santa Monica Homeless Count took place on February 24th
- as part of the Greater LA Homeless Count where teams of volunteers count people experiencing homelessness throughout the city.
- Montana Branch reopened on March 1st welcoming back its patrons for in-person services.
- On February 8, 2022 City Council approved Fine Free for All as part of the Library's midyear budget proposals (FY 21-22). As of March 1st, the Santa Monica Public Library is Fine Free.
- March library programming included: Storypalooza Story Tour, collaboration to curate and distribute RED kits to seniors and Black History Month celebrations and activities.
- Library staff provided referrals and shared resources with students conducting interviews of local residents for the Santa Monica Right to Return project
- February safety and security incidents

Ferreira inquired about the Library Parcel Tax noted in the Secretary's Report, asking for additional information on the tax collected through Measure SM. Commenting that the City had asked voters to support noting that partial funding would go to the Library and is now looking to introduce another tax to residents. Cuyugan clarified that Measure SM funding is going directly to the General Fund and being allocated based on need. Departments were not allocated a specific amount. Ferreira expressed concerns that the City was not finding available funding within its pot, noting Library was one of the departments who experienced the most reductions and has not been able to restore a lot of funding.

Arnold shared an observation at a recent City Council meeting where funding was allocated to law enforcement for security of the Pier without an issue. Property owners will have to face a complicated moment where in order to keep libraries and schools open it will have to make the difficult decision to pay more in taxes making it difficult for current and future property owners.

Cuyugan encouraged and shared the Library's task to do their best and try and help the community understand how vital it is.

- d. Presentation: Rebuilding Santa Monica Public Library
  - i. Erica Cuyugan, Interim City Librarian
  - ii. Norma Angel, Sr. Administrative Analyst

Senior Administrative Analyst gave an overview of the Library's overall budget and staffing pre-pandemic to experiencing budget reductions and its current status.

Cuyugan gave a review of the Library's priorities and upcoming restoration of services:

- Expanding hours of operation
- Reopening of Ocean Park, Pico and Montana Branch
- Future reopening of Fairview Branch
- Reopening of Santa Monica History Museum
- Reopening of study and meeting rooms

Board members were encouraged to attend library events and continue to show support and connect with community.

## 2. Consent Calendar -

- a. Staff recommends approval of the following Special Library Board meeting minutes:
  - i. November 4, 2021
  - ii. January 6, 2022

### MOTION

Arnold moved and Ferreira seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the November 4, 2022 Special Library Board meeting as amended. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Ferreira , Plauzoles and Arnold

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: Schmidt and Meister

ABSENT: None

#### MOTION

Arnold moved and Plauzoles seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the January 6, 2022 Special Library Board meeting. The motion failed by the following vote:

AYES: Plauzoles and Arnold

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: Ferreira, Schmidt and Meister

ABSENT: None

Motion failed and minutes were not approved. Chair Plauzoles asked for clarification if motion required approval from the majority of the current

### 3. Staff Administrative Items

- a. Discuss staff recommendation to change regular meeting dates, from first Thursday to the second Thursday of the month.
  - i. Erica Cuyugan, Interim City Librarian

#### MOTION

Meister moved and Plauzoles seconded a motion to change the regular meeting day to the second Thursday of the month, beginning September 2022. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Staff recommendation to change the regular meeting start time to 6:00 p.m. once in-person meetings commence.
  - i. Erica Cuyugan, Interim City Librarian

#### MOTION

Plauzoles moved and Meister seconded a motion to change regular meeting start time from 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m. when in person meetings commence. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. Review and adopt revised Library Board Rules of Order and Procedure in compliance of the June 8, 2021 City Council adoption of revised resolution of bylaws for boards, commissions, and task forces in Santa Monica.
  - i. Erica Cuyugan, Interim City Librarian

Board will review the revised bylaws implemented for boards, commissions, and task forces included those items from its Standing Rules of Order at the next meeting. Plauzoles expressed interest in obtaining public comment for the Library Board's revised Bylaws. Recommending posting of at least 10 days before the meeting. City staff will obtain additional clarification by the next meeting.

## Adjournment

Chair Plauzoles adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

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Erica Cuyugan

Secretary

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Lucien Plauzoles

Chair