



DRAFT 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, NOVEMBER 9, 2023
MEETING BEGINS AT 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Chair Meister called the meeting to order at 6:33 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 Dana Newman, Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles, and Boardmember Antonio Spears.

Absent: Boardmember Jason Lin

Also present: Erica Cuyugan, City Librarian
Jennifer Ullrich, Principal Librarian

1. Special Agenda Items

- a. Poet Laureate Program: Discussion of role of Board Liaison/s to Committee
 - i. Jennifer Ullrich, Principal Librarian

Ms. Ullrich gave an update of the library's work to implement the Poet Laureate program in Santa Monica. Applicants will be required to apply and submit all documents online, and will need to be Santa Monica residents.

Ms. Ullrich shared recent feedback received from an applicant encouraging that the selection criteria be inclusive. In addition, someone wrote to staff sharing the possibility that Santa Monica may have had a Poet Laureate in the past. Staff did some fact checking and were not able to confirm that information. Lastly, staff are working to gather members for the review panel which will include a librarian, teen leadership council member and a representative from the Arts Commission and Cultural Affairs Division.

A meeting will be held to review selection criteria. Plauzoles will be serving on the Poet Laureate Review Committee on behalf of the Library Board.

- b. FY 22-23 Library Annual Report and Priorities
 - i. Erica Cuyugan, City Librarian

Ms. Cuyugan presented the Library's Annual Report for fiscal year 2022-2023, and highlighted the following:

- Library's focus on restoration and providing access to facilities, and programs
- Enhanced hours and Saturday branch hours: Hours open, new library cards issued/renewed, visits, and Open + users,
- Increase in checkouts: Items checked out, holds, materials added to collection, RED Kits created, and most requested titles
- Technology and learning spaces: computer sessions, workspace usage and technology programs
- Programs and partnerships

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

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

- City Manager's Office appointments to Department of Transportation, and Recreation and Arts Departments
- Top 5 Circulating Adult Nonfiction Titles by checkouts
- Youth and family programs
- Participation in 18th Annual L.A. Archives Bazaar at USC
- Partnerships update

- d. Little Libraries Recognition Event
 - i. Judith Meister, Chair

Boardmembers debriefed on the event and shared positive feedback gathered from attendees.

Meister shared interest in creating a map to display the locations for little libraries in Santa Monica for reference.

2. Library Board Member Discussion Items

- a. Report back from liaison to the Friends Board
 - i. Antonio Spears, Boardmember

Spears shared his thoughts on the tour of the Friends Bookstore that he was a part of, and shared sample marketing products in the works for the Friends.

Board expressed desire to plan for a joint meeting with the Friends Board and discuss planning a fundraising event.

- b. Discussion of Nationwide Library Trends
 - i. Judith Meister, Chair

Discussion of the City of Huntington Beach move to use a community review board to vet children's books for sexual content.

Adjournment

Chair Meister adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Erica Cuyugan

Secretary

Judith Meister

Chair