



MINUTES

SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

SANTA MONICA MAIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
601 SANTA MONICA BLVD
SANTA MONICA, CA 90401
ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM,
SECOND FLOOR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11, 2024
MEETING BEGINS AT 6:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Chair Meister called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Present: Boardmember Antonio Spears, Chair Judith Meister, Vice Chair Dana Newman, and Boardmember Jason Lin

Absent: Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles

Also present: Erica Cuyugan, City Librarian
Priscilla Bouvet, Executive Admin. Assistant
Greco Venegas, Principal Librarian
Simran Khalsa, Librarian II

1. Special Agenda Items

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

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

- Establishment of Mayor's Cabinet by Mayor Phil Brock.
- Presentation of the Library's Annual Report at the December City Council meeting.
- Activation of spaces for 2024.
- Poet Laureate update: twenty applications received; finalists are expected to be invited for in person interviews once review is complete.

Spears inquired when the Main Library front door is expected to re-open. Cuyugan noted that there is no update or date identified as the team is looking at possible options and resources needed to re-open the front public entrance.

2. Staff Administrative Items-

- a. Review and Approve Statement of Concern of Library Material
 - i. Simran Khalsa, Librarian II – Collections, Technology & Patron Services
 - ii. Greco Venegas, Principal Librarian – Collections, Technology & Patron Services

Khalsa and Venegas presented the newly updated Library's Statement of Concern of Library Material. Patrons requesting the library to reclassify an item from the collection due to its content will have to complete a form, acknowledging that they have read/seen the material in its entirety and understand that the library does not accept patron requests for withdrawals of materials. The library upholds the right of the individual to access resources and does accept feedback on materials patrons have engaged with and feel that they should belong in a different area of the collection. Library staff will review all submittals. If a patron feels the submittal was not fairly considered, it may request the Santa Monica Public Library Board to review.

Staff will continue to finalize information and make the policy available on the library's website.

Newman inquired if answers submitted by patrons were being received in good faith and recommended that a disclaimer be added noting that SMPL is a public institution.

3. Library Board Member Discussion Items-

- a. February Library Board and Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library Joint Meeting
 - i. Judith Meister, Chair

Board discussed agenda items for the February 21, 2024 upcoming joint meeting with the Friends Library Board. Agenda item included: move towards selecting an event for National Library Week with a possible fundraising component.

- b. Attendance at the Mayor’s Cabinet inaugural meeting, January 9, 2024
 - i. Judith Meister, Chair

Meister attended the Mayor’s Cabinet inaugural meeting and reported back on the following discussion items: upcoming 150th City Anniversary, opportunity to request a council liaison to the board, and discussions by the Recreation and Parks Commission for turning the Ocean Park Branch front lawn into a park. Cuyugan clarified that the front lawn at Ocean Park Branch is library property.

Adjournment


Chair Meister adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Attest:



Erica Cuyugan
Secretary

Approved:



Judith Meister
Chair