



APPROVED

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
SANTA MONICA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

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

**THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024
MEETING BEGINS AT 6:30 P.M.**

Call to Order

Chair Meister called the meeting to order at 6:36 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, Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles, Chair Judith Meister, Vice Chair Dana Newman, and Boardmember Jason Lin

Absent: None

Also present: Erica Cuyugan, City Librarian
Priscilla Bouvet, Executive Admin. Assistant

2. Special Agenda Items

- a. Debrief of Friends Oscar's Trivia event
 - i. Antonio Spears, Boardmember

Spears shared feedback on the collaboration and creation of the Friends Oscar's Trivia event and hopes more programming can be planned in the future.

- b. Secretary's Report
 - i. Erica Cuyugan, Director of Library Services

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

- Review of Library's Rules of Conduct underway
- Successful Storypalooza event with a visitation by Mayor Phil Brock and City Council Member Lana Negrete
- Women's History Month Author Talk: The Women Who Made Early Disneyland
- Decoden Design teen program
- Design work of Library Café space by Margaret Sullivan Studio
- Poet Laureate Workshop, April 20
- Status of repairs for MLK Jr Auditorium

- c. Discussion of National Library Week and Proclamation
 - i. Erica Cuyugan, Director of Library Services

MOTION

Plauzoles moved and Meister seconded a motion to urge City Council to make a National Library Week proclamation. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Meister, Newman, Plauzoles, Spears and Lin

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

Meister volunteered to write a proclamation for National Library Week, scheduled to be presented at the April 9th City Council meeting.

5. Library and Friends Board Member Discussion Items

- a. Attendance of the 11th Annual Serving with a Purpose Conference
 - i. Judith Meister, Chair

Plauzoles and Meister expressed desire to attend and register for conference.

b. Discussion and possible action to ask City Council to appoint a Council Liaison to the Library Board.

i. Judith Meister, Chair

MOTION

Lin moved and Newman seconded a motion to submit a request for a Council Liaison to the Library Board. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Meister, Newman, Plauzoles, Spears and Lin

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

c. Discussion of the anticipation that California libraries will lose their free State Library Park Passes due to budget reductions. Possible action to send a letter in support of restoration of funds and allowing libraries to keep resource that provides equitable access to the outdoors.

i. Judith Meister, Chair

The Board discussed changes under Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year that would impact the free State Library Park Passes currently available for checkout at libraries.

Cuyugan shared additional impacts to libraries that would be affected such as library grants in place and database subscriptions being funded by the state.

MOTION

Meister moved and Lin seconded a motion to write a letter expressing the impact and loss that would occur if funding for the free State Parks Passes is removed. Plauzoles volunteered to write letter on behalf of Library Board. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Meister, Newman, Plauzoles, Spears and Lin

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

- d. Discussion of Santa Monica Daily Press (SMDP) Letter to the Editor: What has happened to the Santa Monica Library?
 - i. Judith Meister, Chair

Cuyugan shared her conversation with Ms. Brenner regarding the letter written to the SMDP with expressed concerns. Cuyugan shared the library's current budget status, and reduction experienced, noting that Santa Monica has 5 library facilities in a 5-mile radius that require resources. Cuyugan shared that processes are being reviewed to determine areas for improved efficiencies in processing materials.

Board members expressed a desire to communicate the library's budget reductions in order help the community have a better understanding of why the library has not restored services to pre-Covid times.

Spears highlighted the letter where Ms. Brenner says, "Is part of the problem that the budget is severely impacted by the necessary presence of several security guards at all times, given that the main library is essentially serving as a de facto homeless shelter?", and agreeing that many library users do feel that way.

Cuyugan shared that seating has been reduced to help monitor library spaces. Safety wise the library is safer than pre-Covid but number wise in terms of visitors it is not. In 2018-2019 the library had approximately 1.1 million walk-ins, in 2022-23 the library had 223,000 walk-ins.

MOTION

Plauzoles moved and Lin seconded a motion to request staff to explore communication options for responding to public letters on behalf of the Board. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Meister, Newman, Plauzoles, Spears and Lin

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

Adjournment

MOTION

Plauzoles moved and Lin seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Meister, Newman, Plauzoles, Spears and Lin

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

Attest:



Erica Cuyugan

Secretary

Approved:



Judith Meister

Chair