
MEETING MINUTES
October 20th, 2021

I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day

Roll Call

PRESENT: Chair Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo, Vice Chair Jose Magaña, Commissioners Aaron Zisser, Hilary Thorsen, Patricia Mendoza, Kenneth Kelly, Elena Jolly, and Angelica Ramos

ABSENT: Commissioners Pravir Ramtekkar, Janice Allen, Michael Melillo

STAFF: Deputy Library Director of Public Services Michelle Ornat; Library Foundation Executive Director Dr. Dawn Coppin; Division Managers Michelle Amores, Jean Herriges, Vidya Kilambi and Ann Grabowski, Senior Librarian Tiffany Bradford-Oldham, Librarian Bridget Kowalczyk, Program Manager Anh Tran, Administrative Officer Andrea Maestre, Senior Analyst My Nguyen, Senior Office Specialists Melissa Chheuy and Justin Sana; and Administrative Assistant Danika Relth

Others: City of San José District 8 Council Assistant Mariela Garcia

I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day

The Library and Education Commission convened at 7:04 P.M. via Zoom webinar. A quorum was achieved with 8 Commissioners present.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Approve the October 20th, 2021 Agenda.

B. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of August 18th, 2021.

C. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of September 15th, 2021.

On the motion of Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Jolly, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the consent calendar.

III. Public Record: There was no correspondence for the Commissioner to review.

IV. Open Forum: No individuals addressed the Commission.

V. Discussion/Action Items

A. **INFORMATIONAL:** Review Bond and Audit Questions (A. Maestre)
The Commission engaged in a verbal discussion lead by San José Public Library Administration Officer, Andrea Maestre, to gather questions for the November Oversight Committee Meetings. No action taken.

- B. **INFORMATIONAL: Bond Program Plan (J. Choi)**
The Commission will receive an informational update on the current Bond Program Plan. Item has been deferred to January 19th, 2022.
- C. **INFORMATIONAL: Program Spotlight on Speech and Debate Club (V. Kilambi)**
San José Public Library Senior Librarian Tiffany Bradford-Oldham and Librarian Bridget Kowalczyk presented to the Commission on the work and accomplishments of the club: Speech and Debate for Global Citizenship. Discussion followed.
Commissioners Kelly, Zisser, and Thorsen are interested in assisting the program.

VI. Council Liaison’s Announcements:

City of San José District 8 Council Assistant Mariela Garcia provided an updated from Councilmember Arenas’ Office. The Fall Festival has been rescheduled to 2022 due to inclement weather. Ms. Garcia will send the Commission invitations to the joint meetings between the City of San José and Santa Clara County (SCC) about gender-based violence and child sexual abuse on November 5th, 10am – 12pm and child wellbeing on a future date. The City of San José and SCC have been planning COVID-19 vaccination clinics for children ages 5-11 in anticipation of the authorization from the Food and Drug Administration.

- VII. Chair’s Announcements:** Chair Mahaney-Gurahoo attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of George Shirakawa Bridge Library and a joint meeting between the City of San José and Santa Clara County on child wellness and how to support families with children. First 5 is releasing a series of promotions on how to protect the health of children between ages of 0-5 as they are unable to be vaccinated from COVID-19.

VIII. Library Director’s Announcements:

San José Public Library Deputy Director of Public Services Michelle Ornat shared the opening of the George Shirakawa Bridge Library, the Library added 1200 new hot spots (www.sjpl.org/hotspot), and AmeriCorps VISTA recruitment has begun (www.sjpl.org/vista). Halloween activities include the Halloween Booktacular Giveaway from October 25th – October 30th at all locations, Halloween Story Time & Parade at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library on October 29th from 4:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M., and Lowrider Trunk O’ Treat at Alum Rock and Hillview Library on October 30th from 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

IX. Comments and Announcements:

- A. Youth Commission: Youth Commissioner was not present.
- B. Meetings Attended by Commissioners as Commissioners: Comm Kelly shared that the Friends of the Library groups returned to in-person volunteering.
- C. San José Public Library Foundation (SJPLF) Board: Commissioner Thorsen provided the Commission updates on SJPLF. The Foundation approved 1.1 million to support SJ Learns, all 50 Resilience Corp associates have been hired and are working with afterschool programs, and SJ Aspires has expanded to enroll all 9th graders at William Overfelt High School and 9th - 10th graders at San Jose High School which increased the total number of enrollment to 1200 students in grades 9 – 11 from low-income families. The advocacy committee asks for support to help advocate for the restoration of Sunday

hours at the Libraries.

X. Information and Upcoming Opportunities For Commission Participation

See SJPL Program Calendar at <https://www.sjpl.org/>

XI. Items for Future Commission Meeting Agendas

Would like to meet with SJPL staff to discuss how can patrons request to add books to the collection (will have collections update)

XII. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

The next regular will be held virtually on October 20th, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

XIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

WENDI MAHANEY-GURAHOO, Chair
San José Public Library
and Education Commission

ATTEST:

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION SECRETARY

DANIKA RELTH