
MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2019

I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day

Roll Call

PRESENT: Chair Michael L. Snyder, Vice Chair Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo Michael Melillo, José Magaña (7:07), Kristin N. Rivers, Ph.D., Hilary Thorsen, Janice Allen, Pat McMahon, Elena Jolly, Pravir Ramtekkar (7:30) and Christina Dunbar.

ABSENT: Thaddeus Aid, Daniel Newell, and Tiffany Uhri Chu

STAFF: City Librarian Jill Bourne, Deputy Library Director Michelle Ornat, Division Managers Jean Herriges, Michelle Amores and Vidya Kilambi, Senior Public Information Representative Elizabeth Castañeda, Public Information Representative Nancy Macias, San José Public Library Foundation Executive Director Dr. Dawn Coppin, Chief of Staff and acting Administrative Officer Ann Grabowski, interim Calabazas Branch manager Emily Lowell, and Administrative Assistant Adriana York.

Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Deputy Director Nicolle Burnham, Recreation Superintendent Laura Buzo, Recreation Program Specialist Lauren Hawkins and Division Manager Andrea Flores Shelton

Others: Council Assistant Grace Koblynski, Council District 10 – Johnny Khamis’ Office, Rich Crawley, Almaden Resident, Guest Speaker

Call to Order

The Library and Early Education Commission convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of the Calabazas Branch library.

Orders of the Day: Approval of the Agenda

Upon a motion by Commissioner Allen seconded by Commissioner Jolly and carried unanimously, the Commission approved the adoption of the January 16, 2019 agenda (9-0-6)

II. Consent Calendar

Upon a motion by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Vice Chair Mahaney-Gurahoo the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of [November 14, 2018](#) meeting were unanimously approved (10-0-5).

A. Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

IV. Public Record: There was no correspondence for the Commissioners to review.

V. Open Forum: There was no public testimony from the floor.

VI. Discussion/Action Items

A. Consideration of [Memorial at Almaden honoring Pat Dando](#) (A. Grabowski/L. Valerio): Review of the proposed memorial plans, including fundraising was presented. The presentation included guest speaker and Almaden resident Rich Crawley. Mr. Crawley spoke on the background and purpose of the proposed memorial. He touched on the funding and the physical aspects of the proposed memorial. The Commission will be presented with the final plans for the sculpture as well as the funding status possibly at the March or April meeting. A motion to follow the recommendation as set out in the Proposed Pat Dando Memorandum to the Commission dated January 9, 2019 was made by Chair Snyder; it was seconded by both Commissioners Allen and Jolly, it was accepted unanimously. (11-0-4)

B. [Early Education Update](#) (Commissioner Jolly and Vice-Chair Mahaney-Gurahoo): A review of Quality Standards and Assessments report work was presented. A motion to accept this report that will include an explanation of the acronyms contained in the report and recommend that it be presented to the Neighborhood Services and Education (NSE) committee in February was made by Commissioner Rivers and seconded by Commissioner Magaña, it was accepted unanimously. (11-0-4)

Action: Staff will advise Commission of the date, time and location of NSE when this report will be presented.

C. [Library Budget Review](#) (A. Grabowski): A high level overview, review of the budget as well of the decision making process, and Library budget priorities for the year was presented to the Commission. Staff advised the Commission that the Council members on the NSE committee, are Chair, Sylvia Arenas, Council members Carrasco, Jimenez, Foley and Esparza.

The Commission was advised that support for the Library would be best expressed in a written recommendation (letter) to the City Council that will be developed by the sub-committee made up of Commissioners Rivers, Thorsen and Ramtekkar. This draft message should be presented to the Commission at the February meeting.

Action(s): Staff will convene a meeting to guide and assist the sub-committee in developing a letter to Council.

VII. Council Liaison's Announcements: Was not present to speak; however staff noted that Council member Arena was recently appointed to serve as a liaison to the Commission.

VIII. Chair's Announcements: Chair Snyder expressed his appreciation for the Commissioners participation and support. He reminded the Commission that he has six more months to serve as a Chair.

IX. Library Director's Announcements:

– Thanked interim Calabazas Branch manager, Emily Lowell for hosting today.

- An update regarding the naming of Branch library at Robert Sanders School: The second name was approved by Council as the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Library.
- San José Public Library (SJPL) made the largest single donation of books this Holiday Season: The Library donated a total of 6,700 Spanish and English books to Sacred Heart Community Service’s annual toy program, which served 2,249 families and 6,280 children. Volunteers assisted in placing a sticker that read “A Gift from Your San José Public Library” on each of the donated books. The Library is committed to early literacy and saw this donation drive as an opportunity to meet a significant community need for at-home access to books for children in San José, and to support each child’s ability to read for the sake of enjoyment and learning. The Library is grateful to the Friends of the Almaden Branch and the Friends of the Bascom Branch for the support provided, and all of staff that assisted in making this possible.
- More than 200 people attended SJPL’s first-ever Lowrider Exhibit Panel Discussion – yesterday, the Library’s kicked-off its first-ever lowrider exhibit. The event series was made possible by the California Room that works to preserve local history. The event had more than 200 attendees which included visitors from other cities and from out of state. The panel was made up of experts on the topic of low riding, such as professors, artists, and car club members. The next panel discussion is scheduled for Saturday, February 16 at the King Library. It took more than a year to create the exhibit which consists of more than 200 pieces that were provided by nearly 100 community members. The exhibit will be available in the California Room until March 31.

X. Comments and Announcements:

A. Youth Commission: Not present.

B. Meetings Attended by Commissioners as Commissioners:

- Commissioner Allen attended the College Online High School graduation. She expressed that it was very heartwarming to see that the students turn their lives around and to have a second chance to succeed in their lives.
- Commissioner Rivers volunteers at her church which hosts an afterschool program, “Third Street Center”. The executive director shared that participating children will be taking a tour at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. library. She would like to facilitate that visit/tour with staff.

C. San José Public Library Foundation (SJPLF) Board (Executive Director Dr. Dawn Coppin):

The end of the year was great in terms of support for the Library in 2019. There is an unrestricted amount of funds in the reserve. The SJPLF will be holding a retreat in March where a discussion of priorities and in moving forward with staff and resources

will be hosted. The Foundation will be presenting at the Commission meeting in February.

XI. Information and Upcoming Opportunities For Commission Participation –

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

XII. Items for Future Commission Meeting Agendas:

- Vice Chair Mahaney Gurahoo shared the upcoming opening of the African American Community Service Agency bridge library on Saturday, February 2nd at 2:30.
- Vice Chair Mahaney Gurahoo also shared a recent Governor’s press release included budget information for Early Education specifically \$1.8 million.
- Commissioner Ramtekkar asked where he could find more information on the Education Digital Literacy Initiative.
Action: Staff will send links to the reports that were presented to Council in May.
- Commissioner McMahon requested an update on the retreat scheduling.
Action: Although staff did send out to the Commission and received three responses, it will be resent. The date that works for most of the Commission will be brought back at the February meeting for approval.

XIII. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be February 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., in SJPL Works at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

XIV. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:26 p.m.

MICHAEL L. SNYDER, Chair
San José Public Library
and Early Education Commission

ATTEST:

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION SECRETARY

ADRIANA A. YORK