
AMENDED MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2019

I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day

Roll Call

- PRESENT:** Chair Michael Melillo, Vice Chair Wendi Mahaney-Gurahoo, Thaddeus Aid, Janice Allen, Christina Dunbar, José Magaña, Patricia Mendoza- 7:21 p.m., Pravir Ramtekkar, Michael L. Snyder, Hilary Thorsen, and Tom Trudell
- ABSENT:** Elena Jolly, Kristin N. Rivers, Ph.D. and Tiffany Uhri Chu
- STAFF:** City Librarian Jill Bourne, Library Deputy Directors Michelle Ornat and Jenny Choi, Division Managers Jean Herriges, Vidya Kilambi, and Michelle Amores, San José Public Library Foundation Executive Director Dr. Dawn Coppin, Senior Public Information Representative Elizabeth Castañeda, Senior Librarian Joan Bowlby, Literacy Program Specialist Adrian McBride, and Administrative Assistant Adriana York
- Others:** City Auditor Joseph Rois and Council Member District Eight, Sylvia Arenas Representative, Monica Rodriguez

Call to Order

The Library and Early Education Commission convened at 7:20 p.m. at the Santa Teresa Branch Library. Quorum was achieved with 11 Commissioners present.

Orders of the Day: Approval of the Agenda

Upon a motion by Commissioner Allen seconded by Commissioner Aid and carried unanimously, the Commission approved the adoption of the November 20, 2019 agenda.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Upon a motion by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Commissioner Thorsen of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of October 16, 2019 and carried unanimously, the Commission approved the adoption of the October 16, 2019 Minutes.
- B. Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

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

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

V. **Discussion/Action Items**

- A. Commissioner Dunbar, Commissioner Thorsen and Commissioner Trudell volunteered to participate on Commission Budget Activities Sub-Committee Appointment to prepare Annual Budget Position Message to Council. Upon a motion by Commissioner Magaña seconded by Commissioner Allen and carried unanimously, the Commission approved. Commissioner Allen asked when the Commission Budget Activities Sub-Committee will anticipate preparing the Budget Message to City Council. City Librarian Bourne responded that her staff will follow up with the Sub-Committee and that the Budget Instructions will come out the first week of December.
- B. INFORMATION: Santa Teresa Branch Sr. Librarian Joan Bowlby provided a [Branch update](#) on current and future programs and community events. A question was asked regarding Santa Teresa Branch Library's involvement in the 2020 Census. Librarian Bowlby responded that there are a variety of activities in which the staff is involved. The County sponsored general trainings to reach out into the community and to encourage people to participate. The 0-5 population is the hardest to count with over 140,000 children in that range and is the most undercounted group. People can apply online for census jobs. Deputy Director Ornat added that the library system is working with the County and the City on census efforts so that each location the public can complete the census online. The library has WiFi, computers and trained staff. The library staff is in a great position in this role because it assists patrons daily in completing forms. The library will be partnering to expand outreach into the communities especially the hardest to count through Maker [Space]Ship, community centers and other community organizations. Division Manager Herriges is leading the census effort. The team is organized to convey information, programs and access point of view. A pilot program was set in place by Araceli Delgado-Ortiz to work with our Early Education families and the program will continue through Spring. Vice Chair Mahaney-Gurahoo commented that state is at risk of losing two federal positions in the House and Senate which will impact funding if we undercount. Commissioner Mahaney-Gurahoo applauds the strong efforts the Library is undertaking in counting the hardest to reach the 0-5 population.
- C. INFORMATION/DISCUSSION: [Education Update – SJ Aspires: College & Career Readiness](#) update was provided by A. McBride, who is working on the College and Career Readiness plank of the Education & Digital Literacy Initiative.

A question was asked, "What is the justification for a tiered distribution versus one-time payment of \$500. McBride responded that modules are setup online which could take the students two to three months to complete. A financial partner will setup accounts for the students so as they complete the modules, monies will be deposited into their accounts. The monies will be available to the students upon enrollment in college. Ideally, the program will expand to 9th grade students. The Library will be working closely with Superintendents to market the program to Title 1 schools, students with a 2.8 or lower GPA and non profit organizations that serve under resourced students who may not be targeted for scholarships.

City Librarian Bourne commented that the original concept of the program was how the City could to create a program around micro scholarships for students. SJ Aspires' goal is to encourage students as early as 9th grade that they have an opportunity for a college bound pathway. The Mayor is committed to this program and has hosted San José Promise Informational fundraiser in October. The San José Library Foundation is working to procure additional funding for SJ Aspires. The program will scale according to funding. Several Commissioners praised the program.

VI. **Council Liaison's Announcements:** Council Liaison Rodriguez announced that Council Member Sylvia Arenas is pleased that SJ Aspires program has made a positive impact on the students in her district who participated in the program and would like to continue to work with the Library. There have been some library programs at the Welch Community Center. Through the Digital Inclusion Fund, the residents around Overfelt High School will be getting WiFi access so that students could work from home.

VII. **Chair's Announcements:** Chair Melillo had no announcement.

VIII. **Library Director's Announcements:**

The Library's Marketing and Communications Team Won a Statewide PR Award – For the third consecutive year, SJPL's Marketing and Communications Team was awarded with the California Library Association's [\(CLA\) PR Excellence Award](#), which honors the highest quality efforts of California libraries in promoting and communicating their message to the public. SJPL was awarded for the Library's Coding5K Challenge Campaign during a special gala in Pasadena, CA on October 24.

We're Celebrating Biblioteca Latinoamericana's 20th Anniversary on November 23 at Biblioteca Latinoamericana! The community celebration will include remarks by City Librarian Jill Bourne, and other City officials, followed by a performance by bilingual author and musician, Jose Luis Orozco; plus, fun activities, and cake.

The 7th Annual [LocalLit](#) Author Fair is scheduled for Sunday, December 1 from 2-5:30 PM at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library in room # 225. Enjoy an afternoon of literature and inspiration with over 20 local authors as they share their work, experiences, and inspirations. This is a free annual author fair organized by the San José Public Library in partnership with San José State University.

Due to the success of the California Room's Lowrider Exhibition earlier this year, the Library is bringing back lowrider photographer, Jesus Flores, for a unique event titled "[California Crusin': A Photographic Tour of West Coast Lowriding](#)" on Saturday, December 7 from 3-5 p.m. at the King Library (room #225).

The San José Learns Program has completed the first full evaluation with the data assessment requirements that are outlined in the Education Digital Literacy Strategy. It will be presented to the Neighborhood Services Education Committee on December 12 at 1:30pm. Children that participated in the after-school program on average showed an 84% higher improvement of achieving grade level. Summer programs have been successful in improvement and preventing loss for students.

Ann Grabowski, who is unable to attend this meeting would like to make an announcement that the Education Policy is scheduled to go before Council in December. Some key features are structured around the Education Digital Literacy Strategy and address the Quality Standards.

It has been suggested to add two Commission Seats representing youth. An alternate option was suggested to work closely with the Youth Commission. It was also recommended to change the Commission name to Library Education Commission to encompass all levels of education. The Charter of this Mission will not be changing but will need to revisit it.

IX. Comments and Announcements:

- A. Youth Commission: Not present.
- B. Meetings Attended by Commissioners as Commissioners: Commissioner Aid attended Digital Inclusion Meeting. Commissioner Allen attended two events. The SJ Promise fundraising event and was excited to see large corporations interested in the program. Commissioner Allen and Melillo attended the children's redesign project involving the San José Sharks. Projected groundbreaking ceremony is tentatively scheduled Jan 31, 2020. Vice Chair Mahaney-Gurahoo attended Strong Start Coalition and Santa Clara County Local Planning Council which supports advocacy for non-traditional educational settings.
- C. San José Public Library Foundation (SJPLF) Board Commissioner Thorsen reported the budget was approved for 2020 at the last Foundation board meeting. About \$986k will be available for branch programs and \$1.5m was approved for SJ Learns grants. Commissioner Thorsen is requesting each Commissioner to like and follow San José Public Library Foundation on Facebook, Twitter and

LinkedIn. The Board is moving to quarterly meetings and the next one is scheduled on February 19, 2020. City Librarian Bourne thanked Dr. Coppin for the hard work in raising funds for the Foundation which has exponentially grown 1000% in just a few years.

X. Information and Upcoming Opportunities For Commission Participation -

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

XI. Items for Future Commission Meeting Agendas: None.

XII. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be January 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., in SJPL Works at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library.

XIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:14 p.m.

MICHAEL MELILLO, Chair
San José Public Library
and Early Education Commission

ATTEST:

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION SECRETARY

ADRIANA A. YORK