

LIBRARY COMMISSION
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2004
SYNOPSIS

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Karas at the King Library.

Present: Chair Karas, Commissioners Ramos, Cohen, Berhitoe, Pettinger, Do, Green and Moriarty.

Absent: None.

Staff: Library Director Jane Light, Assistant Library Director Ned Himmel, Administrative Officer Anita Phagan, Deputy Director Rich Desmond and Administrative Assistant Diane Longoria.

Others: Members of the public, former Library Commissioner Ernest Guzman and Sr. Policy Analyst for the Mayor, Jim Webb.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – The agenda was approved as written.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. For approval: Synopsis of the January 14, 2004 meeting was approved as written. All approved.

b. Correspondence read and filed for public record: 1) Letters and emails from the public with recommendations for naming the new branch on Tully Road; 2) West Valley Friends newsletter.

4. COUNCIL LIAISON’S ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

5. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

a. Naming of new Branch on Tully Road. Chair Karas spoke briefly about the December Public Hearing regarding the naming for the new branch on Tully Road. The two names suggested by the public are 1) “Edward G. Keeble Jr. Branch Library” and 2) “Saigon Branch Library.” In addition, staff has suggested “Tully Branch Library.” In December the Commission asked staff to research whether the Keeble family had donated the library and ball field site to the City and to place on the February agenda for an action item for recommending to the City Council a name for the new library. City Librarian Light reported research showed that the Keeble family sold the property to the City. Members of the public then commented and the Commission heard comments on this matter from 15 speakers. Of these, 14 requested that the Commission recommend the name “Saigon Branch Library” and 1 speaker recommended that the branch be named “Tully Branch Library.” Commissioners felt that including a geographical name was important in helping library users identify the location. Most San José branches have such names. Commissioners were sympathetic to many speakers’ request that a city facility honor the contributions of Vietnamese-Americans to San José, but suggested that including “New Saigon” in the name was a more appropriate way to honor immigrants who made a new start in the United States and here in San José. COMMISSIONER COHEN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO

CITY COUNCIL THAT THE LIBRARY ON THE TULLY ROAD SITE BE NAMED "TULLY-NEW SAIGON BRANCH LIBRARY." MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GREEN. MOTION APPROVED, 6 YAY, 2 NO (BERHITOE, KARAS).

- b. Adopt Annual Budget Position Message. Former Commissioner Ernest Guzman spoke to the Commission about his concerns regarding proposed cuts to library services. He felt that support from the Friends Groups is needed more than ever. Ernest has been a strong supporter for libraries and has offered to work with Commissioners Do, Ramos, and Berhitoe in organizing an advocacy effort. Jim Webb, Sr. Policy Advisor for the Mayor's Office, spoke to the Commission about how the City's budget situation is looking thus far. The Mayor's Office is still moving forward to place a ballot measure in November for a parcel tax. Jim responded to questions from the Commission. Chair Karas asked the Commission for their input to the draft annual budget message. COMMISSIONER COHEN MOVED TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL BUDGET MESSAGE TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL WITH CHANGES. MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PETTINGER. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
- c. Quarterly Bond update. Rich Desmond, Deputy Director of the Library Bond Program updated the Commission on the bond projects and shared schematic designs of the new Evergreen Branch Library. The grand opening of the Vineland Branch was well attended. Contracts for the Alum Rock and Rose Garden branches have been awarded and within budget.
- d. Library Commission Work Plan Review and Discussion.
 1. Strategies and calendar regarding replacement of Library Benefit Assessment District – The Commission reviewed key messages and strategies for educating the public and community organizations and for contacting the media. At the next Commission meeting the Commissioners will review an updated list of media contacts and then assignments will be discussed for media outreach.
6. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS – Chair Karas announced the upcoming ground breaking for the Alum Rock Branch Library and encouraged the Commissioners to attend.
7. CITY LIBRARIAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS – Jane stated that the Vineland Branch Library has been a great success since its opening. The Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services Department (PRNS) is looking for ways to continue serving the community since the community center located on Almaden will be torn down. They will have use of the community room at the Vineland Branch one day per week for classes through December. The Silicon Valley Reads has begun its program featuring the book Fahrenheit 451. There are several programs scheduled for the public to participate.
8. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - a. Friends Groups from Branches and Main Library – None.

- b. San Jose Public Library Foundation Board – Commissioner Moriarty stated that the Library Foundation had their annual meeting in January. Also, the Foundation raised approximately \$22,000 dollars at their fundraising event. The Foundation is still looking for board members who have fundraising experience.
 - c. Oral Petitions (public comment) – Oral petitions were covered under Item 5a & b.
 - d. Meetings Attended by Commissioners as Commissioners – Commissioner Cohen was invited to be a guest on the Bay Area Vista television show on Sunday, February 1 to discuss the expiration of Benefit Assessment District funds. He attended the Commission retreat on 1/31 and the Rose Garden ground breaking. Chair Karas attended the Budget Committee meeting on 1/19; attended the Commission retreat on 1/31; attended the MLK Joint Library Sub-committee meeting on 2/2; attended the Vineland grand opening on 1/17 and attended the Rose Garden ground breaking on 1/31. Commissioner Pettinger attended the Commission retreat, the San Jose Library Foundation fundraising event and the Rose Garden ground breaking on 1/31. Commissioner Moriarty met with Council member Campos on 1/22 and 2/3. She attended the MLK Joint Library Sub-committee meeting on 2/2; the San Jose Library Foundation annual meeting on 1/28; the Commission retreat on 1/31 and attended the Vineland grand opening on 1/17 and the Rose Garden ground breaking on 1/31. Commissioner Ramos attended the following events in January; Los Amigos book sale; Los Amigos planning committee; met with staff at the Carnegie Branch; attended the Budget Committee meeting and the Rose Garden ground breaking and met with the media regarding the expiration of BAD. In February, he met with the Centro Aztlan Chicomoztoc group and the Hispanic Genealogical and Historical Society.
9. **UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMISSION PARTICIPATION** – Chair Karas highlighted upcoming opportunities for Commission participation.
10. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE COMMISSION MEETING AGENDAS** – Commissioner Karas reviewed the March agenda items and announced that the location for the March Commission meeting will be held at the Vineland Branch Library.
11. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

/s/
Jane Light, Secretary
San Jose Library Commission

JL:dml
Attachment

APPROVED: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____