

DRAFT

DRAFT

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION**

January 9, 2006

6:30 p.m.

City Hall

1400 Highland Avenue

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Gill, Humbarger and Popovich

Absent: Commissioners Miller and Ljungwe

Others Present: Parks and Recreation Director Richard Gill, Recreation Services Manager Mark Leyman, Community Library Manager Leticia Tan, President of Friends of the Library Jean Klaren, Regional Administrator Steven Klein and Recording Secretary Jane Grace

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the March 14, 2005 Library Commission were approved as written.

CEREMONIAL

None

NEW BUSINESS

06/0109.1 – Discussion of potential collaboration between the City of Manhattan Beach and the Manhattan Beach Unified School District for Library Services

Commissioner Gill indicated that he would like the Commission to try to work with the School District on a collaboration of library services because they were unable to build their new library as part of their bond issue. Commissioner Gill's recommendation is to explore the possibility of working jointly with the School District to take advantage of possible state funding where preferred treatment would come from joint use facilities. Mr. Gill reported that the some School Board members did indicate that they would be interested in talking about the possibility of joint use and would be willing to consider using their new administrative building for a joint use library.

Mr. Gill reported that the three phases of the original State bond issue have expired and funding is no longer available. He indicated that there is a possibility of the state issuing a bond in the future.

Commission Gill also inquired whether the \$50-\$100,000 from the excess property tax contributions is available and whether is could be used to help fund a joint use facility with the School District.

Mr. Gill indicated that the City has still not received an answer from the County regarding '05-'06 funding, suggesting that their attorneys have a problem with the process. Mr. Gill is not aware whether those funds, when received, could be used for library services at Mira Costa High School. Commissioner Popovich suggested that the

High School could lease the facility to the County or City, “splitting” the present library into two libraries, moving some of our books into the high school library. Commissioner Gill inquired whether we could partially opt out of the County library system; whether we could have a joint Manhattan Beach City Library that is jointly managed and run by the school board. Mr. Gill indicated that it has been suggested that we opt out of the County Library System and then contract back to the County for library services.

During a discussion among the Commissioners, the following points were made:

- Commissioner Gill indicated that the School District is interested in looking into creative ways to work with the City to finance an expanded and improved facility (i.e. books and computers). Commissioner Gill suggested that we are looking for a way to work with the State with Bond money or the City with the tax rebate money to make a better library for the citizens of Manhattan Beach
- Commissioner Popovich suggested that we could buy books from the County or use the book-marked books from the trust and then loan them out to the High School to enhance their materials.
- Mr. Klein suggested that the citizens of Manhattan Beach would not necessarily be satisfied with a joint-use library that is geared to high school student curriculum.
- Commissioner Popovich inquired whether the County could work with us to set up a method or tell us if there is a way to set up a method by which the County can help us facilitate getting materials to the high school. Commissioner Popovich suggested that the joint use facility at the high school would be open for city residents but primarily directed to high school students.
- Mr. Klein suggested that, if the City applies for state funding, their application would not be rated very high with the facility as described.
- Commissioner Gill indicated that he envisions using the tax rebate money as a way of funding and helping the School District maintain their operation and maintenance costs.
- Commissioner Humbarger would like more of the County tax funds to go to the City library before we give funds to the High School library.
- Commissioner Humbarger suggested that the Commission needs to set a schedule on how to move forward.
- Commissioner Popovich would like an understanding of the process that our City might use to share book-marked books.
- Commissioner Humbarger inquired whether a book-return was ever placed in the east side of Manhattan Beach as requested in a public hearing. Mr. Klein indicated that he would look into the idea.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Community Library Manager Leticia Tan indicated that the Manhattan Beach Friends of the Library, participating in a County-wide “Books Books Books” book sale, won second place in a photograph contest for their book sale.

OLD BUSINESS

05/0215.02 – Discussion and prioritization of library enhancements

Commissioner Popovich inquired how tracking on book donations works. She asked for a detailed accounting of expenditures, what was purchased and how much was spent. Mr. Klein indicated that the letter from Margaret Donnellan Todd indicating how this year's fund for library enhancements benefited the residents of Manhattan Beach is the only account of how the money was spent.

A motion was made to recommend that City Council ask the County for details (titles/categories of books purchased) on the \$50,000 spent with last year's excess property tax contributions for library services, and that some type of tracking system be set up for future purchases.

(MSC: Popovich/Humbarger – Unanimous)

Commissioner Humbarger asked the County to provide the Commission with a specific recommendation of what they want for the next purchase.

A motion was made to recommend that the City Council approve the use of '05-'06 excess property tax contributions from Manhattan Beach residents for library services, allocating up to \$50,000 for improvements. (MSC: Gill/Popovich – Unanimous)

OTHER COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commissioner Popovich inquired about the possibility of having public speakers, i.e. local authors, in the community space outside the new police/fire facility. Mr. Gill suggested that the city could provide the venue, but plans for the event should be programmed/proposed by citizens/organizations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. to the next scheduled meeting on February 13, 2006.