

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION

March 8, 2021
5:00 p.m.
Virtual – Zoom meeting

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A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Windes, Jones, Schreiner, Siemak, Bailey

Absent: Bond

Others present: Recreation Services Manager, Jan Buike; Management Analyst, Linda Robb

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Schreiner moved to approve the February 8, 2021 minutes with the Commissioner Siemak seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Ayes: Windes, Jones, Schreiner, Siemak, Bailey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bond

D. CEREMONIAL

None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chair Windes opened the floor to audience participation.

Acting Library Manager, Josh Murray gave his monthly report including the following:

10663 items circulated since last meeting. Anyone interested in checking out books through the sidewalk service is encouraged to call the library at 310-545-8595.

The public is invited to a virtual photographic tour of early Victorian era Los Angeles as seen through images from the Homestead Museum. The event will be led by Museum Director, Paul Spitzerri at 5:00 p.m. on March 11th.

Adult members of the community are invited to the virtual book club on April 5th at 6:30 p.m. to discuss *The Liar's Dictionary* by Eley Williams. Please contact librarian, Claire Moore at Cmoore@library.lacounty.gov.

Mr. Murray reported that he will coordinate with Recreation Manager Jan Buike to schedule Don Rowe of the LA County Library for a future meeting.

Commissioner Jones suggested a tabulation board to show library statistics to the public. Mr. Murray stated that he received information weekly and that he will forward the suggestion. Commissioner Schreiner stated that it could be as simple as a whiteboard or chalkboard for people to look at while they are waiting.

Commissioner Schreiner asked how the ancient Mesopotamia and book club events went. Mr. Murray reported that the virtual book club events are better attended than expected with double digit attendance each meeting. The Mesopotamia event was run by the County so he doesn't have the stats. Commissioner Windes, Mr. Murray suggested visiting the virtual programming page at lacountylibrary.gov.

Mr. Murray confirmed that the teen book reviews that Chair Windes had seen on the library website are from teens county wide, and very few, if any are from Manhattan Beach.

The floor was closed to public comment.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

Library Anniversary Celebration – Mr. Murray has no update on this at this time.

East Manhattan Beach Library Services/Book Vending Machines – Recreation Manager Buike reported that the County report will be sent out to the commission later this week. After reviewing the report, the commission can determine whether or not to send the survey. It has been decided that Mira Costa library is no longer an option for East Side library services. Commissioner Siemak stated that the survey will be reconsidered after seeing the County report and will need to be reviewed to see if the questions are still relevant. Commissioner Bailey will coordinate administering the survey at Mira Costa once it is ready to send out.

Afternoon with an Author – Commissioner Schreiner – nothing to update until group events are allowed.

MB Writer Awards – This event is currently tabled.

No Strings Attached – Commissioner Schreiner had no updates. Chair Windes mentioned that they would like to hold an event when library opens again. The ad-hoc committee will coordinate with Parks & Recreation. There may be an opportunity to have an event at the end of the school year to pick up some summer reading.

Library Appreciation Event – no action on this event at this time.

Communication with Manhattan Beach Unified School District – Chair Windes relayed Commissioner Bond's report that she has been communicating with the district and sending pertinent library program information twice a month. Commissioner Windes is interested in adding American Martyrs to the distribution list.

Library Welcome Back event – no action or update

Digitizing Manhattan Beach Historic Documents – The plan is to ask the county to use the surplus library funds to digitize the documents. This is currently a staff responsibility and will be removed from the work plan until assistance is needed from the commission.

Late Night at the Library – Manager Buike reported that this was previously a Cultural Arts initiative and suggested that Acting Cultural Arts Manager, Eilen Stewart come to the April meeting to talk about the how to plan an event of this kind and a possible tie-in with the Cultural Arts Commission. Chair Windes, suggested including the FOL in the discussion as they contributed funding to the past events.

Poetry Event – Manager Buike introduced the idea of combining the poetry event with the Late Night at the Library event and involving the Older Adult program poetry circle

and Mira Costa High School student poetry groups. Commissioner Bailey will speak with teacher Shannon Vaughn to see if there is interest.

Manhattan Beach Library Commission awards – Commissioner Jones, explained the essence is to recognize Manhattan Beach residents of any age and background who go above and beyond to foster the appreciation of reading, writing and literacy. The commission would nominate, vote on and determine recipients to be honored quarterly. Chosen recipient(s) would then be invited to a commission meeting and presented with a framed certificate, featuring the library and Light Gate. Manhattan Beach merchandise may be included as a prize. In addition to being honored at a meeting, the hope is to advertise on the City website, perhaps the Beach Reporter. Some examples of people to consider for recognition: PTA group at Robinson for installing Story Walk, a librarian, teen reviewers, Friends of the Library. Commissioner Windes would like to add Reading Specialist to the list and suggested that they could be honored as a group. Manager Buike asked how to define this broad idea. Commissioner Jones would like for it to remain broad in order to honor a variety of recipients. Commissioner Schreiner recalled that the City Council has conveyed more than once that the City Council likes to do the recognition for the City. Manager Buike will run the idea by City Council to see if they agree to allow.

G. STAFF ITEMS

Management Analyst Linda Robb informed the commissioners that staff is creating one sheet summaries of the projects on the work plan. The ad-hoc committee lead will be responsible for updating the project sheet monthly and send back to Ms. Robb for inclusion in the next agenda packet. Project sheets will be developed and sent out in time to include for the April meeting.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Windes asked when commission meetings may be allowed in City Hall again. Manager Buike replied that it looks like we'll be moving into the red tier and City Council is considering having their meetings back in City Hall. Commission meetings will be considered after that.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Siemak seconded the motion. The motion carried unopposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM, to April 12, 2021.