

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION

April 12, 2021
5:00 p.m.
Virtual – Zoom meeting

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A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 PM.

B. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Siemak

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Schreiner moved to approve the March 8, 2021 minutes as written.
Commissioner Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Ayes: Windes, Jones, Schreiner, Bond, Bailey

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Siemak

D. CEREMONIAL

Chair Windes thanked Commissioner Bailey for her service as commissioner.
Commissioners Schreiner and Jones also thanked her and wished her well.

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Chair Windes opened the floor to audience participation.

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

Since the last meeting the library has circulated 12,330 items from the sidewalk service table. On April 19th, the LA County Library system will reopen 30 libraries (including Manhattan Beach) for limited, in-person service. For a list of services and safety precautions the library will be taking, please visit lacountylibrary.org/reopening. For the immediate opening, the library will be focusing on safety protocols so there will be no opening celebration until it is running smoothly. There will be a limit of 62 people in the library at one time, including staff. The meeting and study rooms will be closed. Sidewalk service will still be available. Story hours will not be immediately available but are being planned with modifications.

The floor was closed to public comment.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

Afternoon with an Author – (Schreiner, Windes) – nothing to update until group events are allowed.

East Manhattan Beach Library Services/Book Vending Machines

– (Siemak, Bailey) Nothing new to report. Commissioner Bailey is ready to distribute the survey at Mira Costa when it is ready.

Late Night at the Library – (Windes, Schreiner) Likely to be combined with a poetry event. No further updates at this time. Recreation Manager Buike explained that the Late Night at the Library and poetry events could be combined because the City Council mentioned that they would like to see a poetry event held so this would be a great opportunity to have a multigenerational poetry event. Acting Cultural Arts Manager, (joined after Staff Items) Eilen Stewart outlined staff, process, budgetary and marketing requirements for past events. Late Night at the Library was a staff driven event that did not involve the Cultural Arts Commission. Chair Windes suggested planning a smaller version of the event that includes a community poetry event but no alcohol. Manager Stewart recommended partnering with the Cultural Arts Commission if the event is to include visual or performing artists but if planning for spoken word or poetry, the Cultural Arts Commission does not need to be involved. She mentioned that past events were sponsored as part of a larger package of art events and summer concerts and that it is difficult to find sponsors for smaller events. Commissioner Schreiner added that the vision is for a smaller multigenerational event. Chair Windes shared that the Friends of the Library or other volunteer organizations may want to get involved. Commissioner Bond suggested doing a few small events and if they are successful, perhaps the event can be added to future sponsorship packages. Manager Stewart mentioned that due to COVID-19, sponsorships are not being actively sought for 2021. Chair Windes is looking for one more member for the subcommittee.

Library Anniversary Celebration – Mr. Murray stated that the library is not hosting any events at this time. Programming is being slowly reintroduced. Any anniversary celebration event will be held at the County’s discretion. If held, the commission will assist in any way they can.

Library Appreciation Event – The commission agreed that the 2021 event will take place in November, following the same template as last year.

Library Welcome Back event – no action or update until the library is open again.

MB Writer Awards – This event is currently tabled.

Summer Reading Program – Librarian Claire Moore is organizing the virtual program which will begin, April 5th with students to be honored by the commission after the Summer break.

No Strings Attached – Commissioner Schreiner suggested holding the book giveaway event to coincide with the opening of the library. In addition, it is still the hope that the event can coincide with the Light Gate sunset in November. Commissioner Jones asked if donating books to other libraries had been considered. Commissioner Schreiner was involved in a program called Access Books that brought books to underserved libraries and areas. Commissioner Jones suggested that this might be a great project for the incoming student representative. Commissioner Schreiner added that it would be great to donate books to Richstone or local shelters when they are once again accepting donations.

Storywalk – (Bond) – Commissioner Bond reported that many cities are installing Storywalks and she needs to know where this can be done in the City. A basic setup is very inexpensive. More sturdy options are more costly. Manager Buike confirmed that Polliwog Park and the Greenbelt are both possible. She added that minimal sponsorship may be allowed with minimal recognition. The Boy Scouts have been asking for project so this may be a good Eagle Scout project. Commissioner Jones will join the subcommittee. Pages, the Library and Friends of the Library may also support.

G. STAFF ITEMS

Director Leyman addressed Commissioner Jones' previous proposal for Library Commission Award. In terms of process, any new items need to be approved by City Council to be added to the work plan. If this new award program falls into the scope of something that was already approved, it's ok to move forward. Separately, if the commission would like to honor someone as a one-off, that information can be submitted to the City Clerk for City Council recognition. City Council may either recognize or allow the commission to recognize. Commissioner Jones explained that she thought that the MB Writers Awards work plan item may be a bigger project than is needed. She created the Library Commission Award concept to enable the Commission to honor those who enhance writing, journalism, the written word, books, etc., on a quarterly or biannual basis. These honorees would be nominated and selected by the Commission. Director Leyman clarified that if the commission is creating a process to evaluate honorees, then the award would need to be a work plan item. If the commission is looking to recognize an individual or organization that they have learned about through the community or a news story, that can be handled through the City Council process.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

Commissioner Bond reported that she sends updates to the MBUSD every couple of weeks and she will include library reopening information in the next update.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Schreiner moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bond seconded the motion. The motion carried unopposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 PM, to May 10, 2021.