

CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION

September 13, 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 Jones, Windes, Schreiner, Siemak, Parikh and Bond

Absent: none

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

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Windes moved to approve the August 9, 2021 minutes as written.

Commissioner Schreiner seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ayes: Windes, Jones, Schreiner, Bond, Siemak, Parikh
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

D. CEREMONIAL

None

E. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

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

LA County Library has gone fine free. As a result, late charges are no longer charged and past fines have all been removed. Lost and damaged fees still apply. To learn more about this initiative, please visit lacountylibrary.org/fine-free. Commissioner Bond will help to publicize this new policy with the school district.

Upcoming virtual programs: lacountylibrary.org/virtual-programming

Baby Band Practice – Friday, September 17th

Opera Tales – Songs from Mozart’s The Marriage of Figaro and The Magic Flute will be presented on Saturday, September 18th.

Commissioner Windes thanked Mr. Murray for all of his help supporting the No Strings Attached event on August 10th.

Commissioner Jones delivered some flowers to thank the library staff on the Commission’s behalf.

Manager Murray asked the commissioners to contact him directly offline regarding

scheduling of commission activities at the library.

Melinda Reiter –Ms. Reiter was invited to talk about the Friends of the Library (Friends). She reported that the Friends collect books and have book sales every two months. Books are also sold online and in the Friends of the Library sales room located near the elevators at the library. Normally the group raises about \$20,000-\$25,000 per year to donate to the library for the purchase of books, payments for programming, etc. Other items and programs such as the outdoor patio furniture and the library bicycle were paid for separately through a separate fund. Most of the money is collected through book sales with a small amount through an annual membership drive.

Due to COVID-19, no new donations are being accepted at this time. Books are being stored offsite that will be placed in the sales room as soon as allowed.

Commissioner Jones asked if there is any way for the Commission to assist the Friends. Ms. Reiter mentioned that the Friends may be interested in supporting StoryWalk, but she would need to present that to the Board for approval. She added that they can always use help unpacking boxes the night before a sale. Board meetings are usually held on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

The floor was closed to public comment.

F. GENERAL BUSINESS

Afternoon with an Author – (Schreiner, Windes) Commissioner Schreiner reported that nothing has changed and as soon the Library Meeting Room can be reserved, the wheels will get in motion.

East Manhattan Beach Library Services/Book Vending Machines – (Siemak) Commissioner Siemak reported that he was unable to connect with the people he needed to meet with to finalize the survey. Manager Buike will set up a conference with Director Leyman to discuss the survey.

Late Night at the Library/ MB Poetry event – (Windes, Schreiner) - Commissioner Schreiner reported that they are not ready to move forward until the Joslyn Center can be reserved.

Library Appreciation Event – (Jones, Bond, Schreiner) – Commissioner Jones reported that event is firmly established for November 16th and she will work with Manager Murray to secure the room and establish whether it will be an in-person event or a grab-n-go event. Commissioner Bond will handle the invitation and bookmarks, Commissioner Schreiner will handle decorations.

No Strings Attached – (Windes, Schreiner) Commissioner Jones applauded Commissioners Windes, Schreiner and Parikh for their work at the Sgt. Pepper tribute band event. At the next event, there will be more signage indicating that the books are free. The next event will be on November 14th at the Light Gate sunset gathering. Parks and Recreation will provide tables. The giveaway tables will be ready to hand out by 3:30 pm with sunset around 4:30 pm. The sub-committee has learned that cookbooks, text books, encyclopedias and self-help books are not popular. Over 400 books were given away.

StoryWalk (alternative name to be decided) – (Bond, Jones) – Commissioner Bond has spoken with a potential Eagle Scout candidate regarding the Story Walk project. He had some questions regarding the project and was pointed toward Manager Buike, but has

not been in contact with her yet. Commissioner Bond will check to see if there are any StoryWalks locally to visit.

Summer Reading Program – Commissioner Windes gave an update that 855 books were logged by Manhattan Beach Readers. There were 3 winners drawn by the LA County system, 2 adults and one child. Librarian Claire Moore held a separate drawing for Manhattan Beach participants and awarded gifts to three people.

G. STAFF ITEMS

Manager Buike stated that the October meeting falls on Columbus Day. The Commission rescheduled the meeting to Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

H. COMMISSION ITEMS

Chair Jones announced that the Pumpkin Race is coming up, October 24th and she would like to organize a Library Commission pumpkin. Information will be sent out when available.

Commissioner Schreiner mentioned that the library windows need washing and wondered when the next washing is scheduled. Library Manager Murray will try to find out and report back at the next meeting.

Chair Jones bumped into Michael Zislis, who is interested in the library, and encouraged the commissioners to brainstorm ways that he might support library activities.

I. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM, to Tuesday, October 12, 2021.