

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

June 11, 2012  
6:30 p.m.  
Manhattan Beach City Hall

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**ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Cooperman, Adams, Rhees, and Hook.

Absent: Commissioner Clemons.

Others Present: Mayor Wayne Powell, Mayor Pro Tem David Lesser, Recreation Services Manager Mark Leyman, and Recording Secretary Mary Kirchwehm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Commission approved the May 14, 2012 minutes as written.

**CEREMONIAL**

None.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Manhattan Beach resident Michelle Murphy inquired if the Commission or City Council made the final decision on the bookmobile as part of the temporary services during the construction of the new library. She also requested clarification of the role of the Library Commission. Commissioner Hook reported that the Commission was informed that there were limited options for interim services, and the Commission made recommendations based on the information that was provided to them. Ms. Murphy requested that the Commission investigate a more permanent interim location for people to visit--something more than just a bookmobile to pick up books. She suggested a room where people can read periodicals.

Manhattan Beach resident Esther Besbris stated that she appreciates the recommendations that were made regarding the continuation of story time, the bookmobile, and transportation to other libraries. However, she believes that there are a number of people in the City who are not aware of the impending library closing and that from the beginning the discussions have centered on the neighboring libraries. She asked staff to explore further into what temporary service the City can provide for those who do not use the internet. She urged the Commission to concentrate on finding a city facility to house a temporary library.

Manhattan Beach resident Bill Victor stated that he would like a better temporary library that is more than a bookmobile. He would like to see something more pleasing for the community.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **12/0611-1 - Discussion of Temporary Services and Community Outreach**

Commissioner Cooperman explained the role of the Commission, who they report to and the process that has brought them to where they are today. He reported that the Library Commission has been having discussions regarding the new library for well over three years. Their role is to receive public input and provide Council with recommendations. The Commission has been having monthly meetings for several years, and during the process there has been a series of public meetings where the issues and concerns that are currently being mentioned were brought up. The Commission has spent a great deal of time discussing these issues, including a temporary location for a library during construction. With regards to setting up a temporary library, Commissioner Cooperman reported that there are limited resources, and it is unfeasible from a budget and location standpoint. Story time was critical to the community; therefore a place was found for story time. The bookmobile arose from trying to provide core services.

Recreation Services Manager Mark Leyman introduced Mayor Wayne Powell and Mayor Pro Tem David Lesser.

Mayor Pro Tem David Lesser acknowledged that there would be challenges during the transition period and that the City is trying to devise solutions. He reported that the issue of temporary library services will be on the City Council agenda on July 17, 2012. He also discussed the possibility of providing the following additional services at little to no additional cost:

#### **Dial-A-Ride**

Expand Dial-A-Ride service to transport older adults to nearby libraries in Redondo Beach or El Segundo.

#### **Community Room**

Although many of the facilities are leased out or unavailable to set up a full service library, there is the possibility to utilize some of the meeting rooms available as an alternative community room.

#### **Reading Room**

Designate a room at Joslyn Center, Manhattan Heights or the Creative Arts Center for a possible non staffed reading room.

#### **Computer Terminals**

Determine a location for computer terminals for older adults and others to reserve books.

#### **Private Donors**

Determine if there are any private donors who may be willing to donate their empty space.

Mayor Pro Tem Lesser reported that he liked the idea of having access to periodicals and suggested further discussion with library representatives to find out how the periodicals can be made available during this transition time.

Mayor Pro Tem Lesser stated that more efforts need to be made in notifying residents of the closing of the library.

Mayor Powell commented that the City values the public's input and the recommendations made by the Library Commission. Mayor Powell reported that there were several community meetings

that were advertised in the paper. During those meetings, the community communicated their desire for the continuation of the children's story time. The community also requested the ability to order and check out books.

Commissioner Hook reported that the Commission initially believed there would be temporary space for an interim library, but after viewing the details, it was clear that it would not be a viable solution during construction when there are other full service libraries in the area. She also stated that the most frequent users of the library are the older adults and children. Therefore, it was determined that story time would continue and computers at the Joslyn Center would be available for the older adults to reserve books. In addition, there was discussion of the bookmobile for others who would be interested in reserving books for pick up. Commissioner Hook reported that the Commission has been mindful of the community's concerns. Commissioner Hook also stated that it would be beneficial to post or display more information on the new library in the current library foyer that would include a timeline and schematics viewing. She further suggested reviewing past minutes for more information on past discussions regarding interim services.

Ms. Murphy inquired if the bookmobile is large enough for people to browse. She expressed her concerns that people will not have a place to browse for books or periodicals and suggested an interim library during construction.

Commissioner Rhees suggested the possibility of a suggestion box for the community.

Commissioner Adams asked Ms. Murphy if she thought Dial-A-Ride service to surrounding libraries would be another option for browsing. Ms. Murphy stated that while many patrons of the library may decide to visit surrounding libraries, there are also residents who would prefer to stay within the community. She reported that she would probably not go to other libraries and would probably order books online. She suggested a reading room for the community.

Ms. Newburg suggested the City rent space somewhere else within the City for a reading room. She reported that the older adults do not want the OASIS room to be dedicated to a public reading room.

Mr. Victor suggested a temporary steel building be set up in the parking lot between the post office and the Joslyn Center. Commissioner Adams reported that her recollection was that the parking spaces in the suggested parking lot are very valuable to the older adults. Commissioner Hook stated that the Commission, along with staff, reviewed the possibility of a temporary library and it was concluded that a temporary library was not a viable option.

Commissioner Cooperman explained that there are prerequisites to temporary space for an interim library. The space would need to be available, affordable, ADA accessible, and fit within the County's criteria. He stated that there have been extensive discussions regarding interim services.

Commissioner Cooperman stated that because people are unaware of the current library status, he suggested notices be inserted in the water bills.

Mayor Pro Tem David Lesser reviewed some of the concerns to be included in the Staff Report for July 17th:

- Supplement City Service
- Options on Improving Communication
  - Water Bill Insert Possibility
  - Suggestion Box
  - Banners
  - Ads in Newspaper/Manhappenings
  - Print Outs from Website at the Circulation Desk at the Library
  - Schematics Available for Viewing
  - Hometown Fair Exposure
  - Cable Channel
  - Post Notices at the Bulletin Board in the Library at the Circulation Desk

Commissioner Rhees requested clarification of the budget for temporary services. Mayor Pro Tem Lesser reported that the budget was part of the County's budget for the library. He stated that he would like to explore what the City has available through the City's existing budget. Commissioner Rhees inquired if the City earmarked a certain amount within the City's budget for the library outreach. Mayor Pro Tem Lesser reported that the City has not earmarked any funds for the library outreach. However, in speaking with the City Manager the Dial-A-Ride budget, as it is presently funded, would include sufficient funds to allow for a more robust service with Dial-A-Ride. There would not be any funds available for increased scheduled service because it would involve more trips and more staff hours for which the City does not have staff resources.

Mayor Pro Tem Lesser suggested that a new library construction web page should be implemented. Presently it is a resource about the construction documents, approvals, past presentations, etc. He suggested the website should be changed to be directed towards the residents to reflect the topics that are presently being raised.

Commissioner Hook also agreed about refocusing the website to interim library services, the timeline, and future library drawings. However, the current website does contain much information about how the Commission arrived at their recommendations, and the Commission encourages people to continue to view it.

Commissioner Adams requested that there be further discussion regarding the availability of periodicals and new books in a temporary reading room.

Mayor Powell reiterated utilizing the bulletin board in the library that is located at the circulation desk.

**COMMISSION ITEMS:**

None.

**STAFF ITEMS:**

None.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. to the next regularly scheduled meeting on July 9, 2012.