



MINUTES LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

El Segundo Public Library
Rose Garden Room
111 West Mariposa Avenue
El Segundo, CA 90245
Tuesday, November 12, 2019

A. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Sara Whelan called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:

David Jonta, Janice Merva, and Sara Whelan

Board Members Absent:

Carol Ericson and Kristie Sherrill

City Staff:

Melissa McCollum, Library Director; Jessie LeMay, Executive Assistant; and Kristina Kora-Beckman, Teen and Adult Services Librarian

Others:

Sari Brann, History Committee President; and Joanne Gen, El Segundo School District Librarian

C. PRESENTATIONS — None

D. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS — None

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Library Board Meeting of September 10, 2019:
MOTIONED by David and SECONDED by Janice to approve the minutes. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

F. SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS — None

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Macmillan Publishers' eBooks Policy versus #eBooksForAll

Teen and Adult Services Librarian Kristina Kora-Beckman addressed the embargo implemented by Macmillan Publishers, its effect on libraries' core values of information accessibility and services, and the response by the American Library Association and other stakeholders (referenced in documents attached to the agenda).

On November 1, Macmillan announced that they would begin limiting purchases to not more than one copy of any new eBook to public libraries for the first eight weeks after a book's release and require libraries to repurchase eBooks every two years. MacMillan is the only major publisher currently imposing this embargo but public libraries are concerned that other publishers may follow suit.

Kristina informed the Board about the financial impact of eBook purchases. Libraries pay up to five times more than an individual pays. In addition, libraries pay for licenses which often expire after two years.

Discussions were held and the Board was presented with options or actions to take such as: (1) Personally sign a petition at ebooksforall.org and encourage friends and family to do the same, (2) as a Board, write a letter to Macmillan using the American Library Association (ALA) sample letter denouncing their policy, and (3) participate in a boycott against MacMillan.

After the discussions, the Board unanimously voted to participate in boycotting Macmillan until January 1 and sending a letter to MacMillan opposing their new policy. MOTIONED by Dave and seconded by Janice, the Board will participate in the boycott. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS — None

I. REPORTS — LIBRARY DIRECTOR (No Board Action Required)

1. Discussion of Library Programs, Services, Budget, Material Collections, Facility Maintenance, Personnel Changes, and Other Items Related to the Administration of the El Segundo Public Library.

Melissa reported on the following updates:

Library's website redesign project — We are still on track for a January 20 debut. Photo sessions are being scheduled for individual headshots and group photos of committees and boards. Major training for staff is scheduled for next week. More updates will be provided at the January 14 Board meeting. Melissa thanked Kristina for her exceptional job leading the library's website redesign project.

Library and {pages} partnership — Some 600 to 650 people attended Deepak Chopra’s event and over 800 attended Dav Pilkey’s. Overall, the presentations were impressive and well-received, Melissa said. She shared photos taken at the event.

Author Fair went well. Romance and mystery panels, a nonfiction author presentation, and children’s activities were held. Board Member Carol Ericson moderated the romance panel. Teen and Adult Services Senior Librarian Julie Todd coordinated the event, and Library Assistant Roz Templin organized the musical entertainment.

California Library Association (CLA) Annual Conference — A total of fourteen staff members attended the conference; ten received CLA’s free scholarship pass. A “Lunch and Learn” activity is planned for staff to informally discuss the highlights from the sessions they attended, including new ideas and opportunities. Melissa extended an invitation to the Board.

Cultural Development Fund Ordinance — The first introduction of the ordinance was read at the City Council meeting on November 5 and a second reading was scheduled for November 19. If approved, the ordinance will be in place by January 1. After that, discussions about ideas for restructuring to accommodate the new vision and new responsibilities will take place, Melissa said.

Programming Update — Melissa shared the November program flyer and announced the following upcoming events:

- **Firefighter StoryTime** at the children’s library on Thursday, November 14, at 3:30 p.m. El Segundo Fire Department Battalion Chief Deena Lee will read stories about firefighting to the children. They will also tour a fire truck outside the library after story time. Youth librarian Kristen Morell organized the event.
- **Living Library at ESMoA** on Saturday, November 16, from 1 to 4 p.m. Rather than checking out a book, one may “check out a person” to hear their story. Spots are still available to sign up for a 1:1 conversation for fifteen minutes. Julie, Roz, and ESMoA have done a great job of organizing the event and inviting interesting people, Melissa said.
- **Ongoing programs:** Bilingual story time is now on a monthly schedule. Youth Services Senior Library Assistant Adriana Muro is the lead programmer. Baby story time has become very popular. Youth Services Librarian Kristen Morell is the lead programmer.

J. REPORTS — SCHOOL DISTRICT (No Board Action Required)

1. **Report on the School Libraries, Including those at El Segundo High School, Center Street Elementary School, Richmond Street Elementary School, and the Middle School.**
 - a. **Library Director’s Report**

Melissa reported on the following:

The Book to Action program will move forward and will take place in April, 2020. Library staff, community volunteers, and authors Bill Shapiro and Naomi Wax, met and discussed some ideas for the program, which includes a “show and tell” for adults and a special program with fifth grade students from Richmond Street School. The featured book is *What We Keep*.

b. School District Librarian’s Report

Joanne Gen reported as follows:

Members of the El Segundo Unified School District (ESUSD) School Board, along with School Superintendent Melissa Moore, Assistant Superintendent Marisa Janicek, and others from the district office are participating in a walking tour of Lawndale High School, Redondo Beach High School, and Da Vinci High School highlighting the schools’ libraries.

A meeting is scheduled in December to discuss the upcoming bond projects and the impact these projects will have on the school campus moving forward.

Joanne and Kristina participated in High School events to share available resources, i.e., databases, which are being offered to students by the school library. In January, they will attend and will give a presentation at the High School Parent Teachers Association (PTA) meeting.

K. REPORTS — PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY (No Board Action Required)

1. Report on Book Sales, Donations, Historical Committee Activities, Special Events, and Other Matters Related to Friends of the Library Business.

a. President’s Report

Sari Brann, on behalf of Friends of the Library President Brenda Ross, announced that the Friends will have a book sale on December 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Sue Carter Community Room. She said that after the sale the used book storage area will be relocated to the main floor.

b. History Committee Report

Sari reported that the heritage walk led by the History Committee during Active Aging Week was fun and interesting. She shared a map of the historical areas of El Segundo where they planned to stop. After the walk, all were invited to the history room where she shared about the library’s history. Sari said she plans to do a tour of downtown El Segundo in the future.

Sari is currently working on the new History Committee webpage to be incorporated in the library’s website. Members’ photos will be uploaded soon.

L. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Janice Merva commented that she's continually impressed by the various ongoing library programs and projects.

M. ADJOURNMENT

1. Motion to Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14, in the Rose Garden Room.