

**Library Board**

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**MINUTES – January 26, 2022**

The Inglewood Library Board met on January 26, 2022 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Board Member Patt Sanders.

Roll Call

Present:

Patt Sanders – At Large Board Member, Chairman  
Julie Minton – District 1 Board Member, Vice Chairman  
Pat Douglas – District 2 Board Member  
Jacqueline Cochran – District 4 Board Member

Absent Board Members:

Ernesto Castillo – District 3 Board Member

Staff:

Harjinder Singh – Deputy to the City Manager  
Kerri Arroyo – Library Manager  
Irina Martirosian – Staff Assistant

Public Comments

None

Approval of the Minutes

Board Member Minton made a motion for the approval of the minutes for October 27, 2021

All the Board Members approved the minutes.

Board discussion items

Board Member Minton asked Kerri to go over two meetings regarding Morningside Park Branch Library.

Kerri Arroyo gave the board members the update for both meetings. 1st meeting had 17 attendees. 5 of the attendees were via zoom, including some of the Inglewood School District teaches, Ambassador, Dr. Lu, Bernadette Lucas, the academic officer, the County Administrator Dr. Erica Torres were via zoom. On the site visitors were mostly senior citizens. The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was via zoom and had total of 15 participants including Mayor Butts, 6 staff members, architect team, several young moms with children and few other individuals. The Architect shared the same PowerPoint presentation about the preliminary plan and multi concept plan that was presented to the board. Both meetings had representatives of the complete demographic of that area. They all expressed the same desire for the library to come back into operation and are very excited.

Board Member Minton asked questions about when the architect was hired, how many libraries he's done? What stage is the project right now? Is there a room for other options? If we can have a survey for more community input, because we have small group of the community representatives from the meetings.

Deputy to the City Manager Harjinder Singh went over the renovation project and answered the questions.

Board Member Minton asked about Library Director Position, talked about Library Board bylaws, ALA membership of commissioners, Library website, recording of the Board meetings and having a search box on the first page of the library's website and a link to Library Board meetings.

Deputy to the City Manager, Harjinder Singh talked about the current reorganization again, Library being City Department and reporting to the City Manager's office, Kerri Arroyos' role as a Manager, salary savings, and going by the size of the department, number of employees workload it did not require a Director and the current positions outlined in the plan will be sufficient to accomplish the goals of the library. Information was provided stating that the Library Board operates in an advisory capacity, so it does not overlap with the decisions that are made by the mayor and council. Mr. Singh also mentioned that right now meetings are not being recorded and since it's their meeting to run, the board needs to decide if they want to record it. It's possible now because it's on zoom, but not sure if later will have an access to the technology to record those meetings.

Board member Cochran was excited about the fact that Morningside Library is going to reopen and asked if the architectural redesign can be presented to the board when it's ready.

Deputy to the City Manager Harjinder Singh answered that once final design is ready, it will be presented to the board.

All board members stated that Morningside Library needs more books, Library Board Bylaws are very old and need to be updated.

Board member Sanders was not happy with municipal codes, Library Board being advisory committee, asked about the big budget for the Main Library's repairs, third floor being empty, leaking roof, carpet, signs, issues with the elevators and the area where we keep public records.

Deputy to the City Manager Harjinder Singh told the Board that as staff, we're all obligated to operate under the municipal code, the roof is fully repaired and under 10 years warranty, and elevators are working. The big renovation project at the Main Library is still happening. City is going out for the bond, they are putting resources together and because we are moving forward with the renovation there is no point to change the carpet. But carpet was changed completely at the Crenshaw library instead. Emptying out of the third floor of the Main Library doesn't have anything to do with leaks, it was more from an operational standpoint. The library has been compressed and we have more staff helping public out and a security guard walking up and down all the aisles on each floor now. Mr. Singh also mentioned that public records are centralized at the City Clerk's Office.

## Library Report

Library Manager, Kerri Arroyo gave the board members Library's update on programming and all the accomplishments.

- Steam coders virtual program for 6 weeks was very successful and had 12 students;

- Phenomenal giveaways – 515 kits for adults, teens and children;
- 68 children came, wrote letter and left in Santa’s beautiful mailbox in Children’s division;
- Santa’s visit at Main Library;
- Kwanzaa craft which is a passive activity where the kids come in, we supply all the materials, they make something and take it home;
- Kerri Arroyo shared picture of the unique and special mural canvas “Every Story is about Future” which we had on a site at the Main Library for 6 weeks and was created by the community and some of our employees as well. It will live in teen center wall and will be moved and replaced back at the Main Library after renovation.
- Kerri Arroyo also shared a picture of our Gingerbread Storytime that we had indoors with all safety protocols and talked about family story times and bilingual story time programs that takes place every month one for each English and Spanish.
- We had famous “Mariotto” mariachi band from music center, who played an hour of wonderful Spanish and Christmas spirit music on the first floor of the Main Library and we had 45 attendees.

Kerri Arroyo shared some statistics with the board members.

In the last six months, we have checked out 1237 checkouts of eBooks, audio books, videos and magazines. Just in the month of December, our children's librarian was able to visit 164 students, these were via zoom and some on site. Also, special needs Westin College had 63 programs. In addition to the college, they did pass the programming, they get hundreds and hundreds students coming in and out. So taking advantage of and having them have on site activities, coloring and just skills to really improve their career placement and their functioning in society. Our books circulation total in the last six months is 1333. 980 for adults, 266 for children and 87 for teens. Even though we are under pandemic, we are reaching people virtually and are very focused on providing programming of what our children and families want.

## Friends Report

Susan Carleo, President of the Friends of Inglewood Public Library (FOIPL) informed the library board about Friends of Inglewood Public Library being Independent nonprofit organization. Their mission is to raise money to assist Inglewood Public Library. Since the Library was closed during pandemic, they were able concentrate on developing their website [www.FOIPL.org](http://www.FOIPL.org). If you click on Friend of Inglewood Library logo at the bottom of the library’s newsletter, it will take you directly to their website, which is a standalone and not connected to the city. Also, Susan Carleo mentioned Amazon Smile and thanked library staff for adding the link for their website to the newsletter. They are looking forward to be open and have book sales again.

## Public Comments

Frankie Palacios, resident in the community made a comment about community residents not knowing about the meeting. She got the information from “Eye on Inglewood” Facebook page. Frankie Palacios shared her wishes and concerns with meeting participants, loved the idea of having more books and services for seniors, and asked if we can have a social worker at Crenshaw library. Also, she asked about the area where library keeps the events on the website.

Library Manager Kerri Arroyo answered the questions.

#### Commissioner Comments

Board member Cochran asked Kerri Arroyo if library is planning anything for Read Across America in March and thanked staff for being patient as they express some of the concerns and needs and moving toward clarification on some of the issues.

Kerri Arroyo told the board that historically both libraries always celebrated Read Across America. And since the library is close it's a little challenging right now.

Board member Douglas thanked everyone.

Chairman Sanders thanked everyone and was happy to see everyone.

With no further comments the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.