

Library Board

MINUTES –March 23, 2022

The Inglewood Library Board met on March 23, 2022 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Board Member Julie Minton.

Roll Call

Present:

Julie Minton – District 1 Board Member, Vice Chairman
Pat Douglas – District 2 Board Member
Ernesto Castillo – District 3 Board Member
Jacqueline Cochran – District 4 Board Member
Patt Sanders – At Large Board Member, Chairman

Staff:

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 February 23, 2022.
Board Member Cochran seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as follows:

Ayes: Library Board Members Minton, Cochran and Douglas
Nays: None

Board discussion items

Board member Minton read the Municipal Code, board duties and functions and complained that board is in general advisory capacity and want to understand how the board will be included in future matters regarding the Morningside Branch and the Main Library, because the planning was completed before the board was informed. Board member Minton does not believe the services were adequate, doesn't believe that community meetings were adequate and thinks we should have ongoing community meetings, should have at list one more community meeting with advance notice and would like to have a general timeline of the project. Ms. Minton also would like to know when the design was decided, how the process was conducted? Was there a competitive bid process for the project or any other architects considered? Was just presented to the city council? Was the city council involved and when? Board member Minton mentioned that she didn't want to bring up all this at the last meeting because the architect was in the meeting and this is not his problem, the argument is not with him and he's just doing his job. Is the architect hiring the contractor and will that be a competitive process?

Library Manager Kerri Arroyo answered that this project was designed back in 2017, 2018 and initially supposed to be a technology focused site. After having some discussions they decided to also bring early literacy to families and encompass as much as possible in that building. For the timeline first community meeting was held in January. The second two community meetings were additions at the request to the board, one with zoom and then the survey. So the meetings in all three different formats have spanned a timeframe of about a month and a week. All construction, discussion and concept of design and the hiring questions will be deferred to the Deputy to the City Manager Harjinder Singh.

Board member Minton said she believe this is a public project, its taxpayer's money, it's a public building that is going to be open to the public and it doesn't sound correct that the city council is not involved and that is another reason why board is pushing for the director's position because most likely a director would have been hired from outside. They would have had a lot of experience with this. They would have been looking at recommendations from the American Library Association. This is a big project and there are bits for buildings, there are bits for all kinds of things. City charter says that certain projects over a certain amount of money, have a competitive bid process. Board member Minton said that board wants Harjinder Singh to be at the next meeting to answer all their questions and since the board members were not informed it's not a good situation.

Library Manager Keri Arroyo mentioned that there is a bid solicitation and selection scheduled for the contractor. First bid solicitation is held for July 25th for the span of several months and then bid selection starts on September 5th and spans for few weeks.

Board Member Minton told Kerri that the same process should have been with the architect also. Ms. Minton asked if there were any small, similar libraries visited and was it considered a 20 year projection like ALA recommends, where the demographics considered for this project?

Library manager Kerri Arroyo said there were similar libraries visited but not as small as 2500 sq. Morningside is extremely unique with its size, situation, grant deed, with the community that surrounds it, plus being one of three sites. This will be a state of the art library that will meet as many possible needs that we can fit into that footprint and meaning high technology, literature, books, technology to serve any and all needs of every age demographic. The goal is to serve ages zero to hundred.

Board member Minton asked to see the grant deed of the Morningside Library.

Board members Minton also would like elaboration about the bond measure, why the Morningside Branch can't be included in that bond measure to be expended and have a separate children's section.

Board members Douglas and Cochran suggested to have a list of questions and present it beforehand to give Kerri and Harjinder an opportunity to answer all the questions.

Library Manager Kerri Arroyo told the board that will give them the document after the meeting. Also, the size of this library does not require a bond measure. We do have all the funds set up for this library and because of grant deed of that building there can be no change to the actual square footage.

Board member Sanders mentioned that not enough people attended the community meetings and not everyone received the survey and asked for the results of the survey.

Library Manager Kerri Arroyo told the board that she personally walked through the streets and handed as many as possible flyers for the first meeting to local housing apartments and houses in the local area of the Morningside library and had only 32 participants from 2 community meetings. The survey went out to 6500 library members and only 52 patrons submitted the survey. All that feedback from the meetings was applied to the design and the demographic that is surrounding that library with the space restrictions. The design that was presented by the architect seems the most accommodating space that has major flexibility and can provide services to everyone for generations.

Library Report

Library Manager Kerri Arroyo gave the board members Library's update on programming, outreach and accomplishments. Library is celebrating Cesar Chavez holiday, having activities, offering e-books and book displays in honor of him. We are partnering with the Parks and Recreation department and will be attending in a

collaboration of STEM happening at Edward Vincent Park in April where there's a collaboration of the LA Rams, the Inglewood Unified School District, many community members. Our librarians are going to the schools and having class visits. Also, we are reaching out to the Senior Center, offering computer classes. We have computers in use all the time. We have our early literacy area in the children's room. We had lots of success with our giveaways and gearing up for our Summer Reading Club which happens in a few months. So, please continue to take a look at our newsletter because that encompasses everything with databases that we have, services for all age demographics, things that we have with whom we're partnering with, as well as programs that are happening on site at both libraries.

Board member Cochran asked how the quilt event went.

Library Manager Kerri Arroyo said the program was very successful. There were 45 attendees, including the major and other elective officials. There were a lot of speakers. All the participants received a Certificate of Participation from Sabrina Barnes. The artist was delighted to see the great turnaround. Kerri Arroyo also mentioned that the quilt will be at the library in April if anyone wants to take a picture.

Friends Report

Susan Carleo, President of the Friends of Inglewood Public Library (FOIPL) mentioned that because FOIPL is a nonprofit organization they are constantly seeking ways to change the donations onto dollars. They have received a lot of CDs and DVDs and other media over the years that is no longer usable and now because they have a website, someone contacted them through the website and is interested in purchasing a large number of CDs and DVDs. They are continually looking for ways to convert donations to dollars. They are very busy, organizing books downstairs every week and looking into having a book sale by the end of the spring, early summer.

Board Member Minton asked for the bookstore hours of operation.

President of the FOIPL Susan Carleo answered that the books store is open whenever the library is open. FOIPL has a donation kiosk in the lobby of the Main Library and anytime anyone goes into the library can buy something at the book store.

Community member Aldridge asked if FOIPL is selling books online.

President of the FOIPL Susan Carleo answered no, getting into online store is a major step and FOIPL is not in a position at this time, because they all are volunteers and it requires somebody who's not just able to spend that time but also have the capacity and willing to handle all the logistics and the cost with shipping and filling the orders. However, we do have something like that. One of the organizations called Better World Books that we work with is one of the vendors with Amazon. When someone is buying a book from Amazon, Amazon is selling on behalf of Better World Books.

Community member Aldridge asked if FOIPL is selling anything besides books.

President of the FOIPL Susan Carleo answered that they sell CDs, DVDs, media related supplies, notebooks, old fashion long playing records...

Public Comments

Community member Lorraine Aldridge reminded the board discussion about the potential for the meetings to be recorded, because she might not be able to come to the future meetings and would be nice for her and other community members to be able to know what's going on. Ms. Aldridge thinks that will help encourage public to participate at the Library Board meeting.

Commissioner Comments

Board member Douglas mentioned that with the grant deed of the Morningside Library they also need to ask to see all the restrictions.

Board member Cochran appreciate staff for their work, for being active listeners and mentioned that will get her questions to Kerri regarding the Morningside Library. She also said that because she voted down for the meetings to be recorded at the last meeting, now she thought about that and change her mind. In order to reintroduce the motion that has already passed, they need someone on the dissenting side get to agree on bring it back and she's willing to act.

Board Member Minton said they will bring it up on the next month Library Board meeting and that will be on the agenda.

Board Member Castillo offered his gratitude to other Commissioners for assuring the quorum for the past few meetings. He was absent because of the school board meetings, closed session... Mr. Castillo thanked other board members for the great questions and think the recording of the meetings would be a great step towards being more visible in the community, thanked the community member Aldridge for being there for the public and hopping to see more public members come out to speak. Mr. Castillo also thanked the president of the FOIPL Ms. Carleo for doing all the volunteer work.

Board Member Sanders said it was a productive meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

With no further comments the meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.