

Library Board

MINUTES – June 28, 2023

The Inglewood Library Board met on June 28, 2023, via Zoom. Chairman Patt Sanders called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Present:

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

Staff:

Harjinder Singh – Deputy City Manager
Kerri Arroyo – Library Manager
Irina Martirosian – Management Assistant

Public Comments

None

Approval of the Minutes

Board member Douglas made a motion for the approval of the minutes for April 26, 2023.
Board Member Cochran seconded the motion.

All in favor, motion passed.

Library Report

Deputy City Manager Harjinder Singh gave the board members construction updates on Morningside park library and stated that this site should be done with construction around mid-January to early February.

Deputy City Manager Harjinder Singh gave an update on the Main Library renovation, which is a 40-million-dollar project. \$16 million of it will go towards the seismic retrofit; the remaining \$24 million will be on renovations.

Griffin Structures, who is the construction manager, were approved by the council on 6/6/23. The council approved LPA, who is the architect, on 6/13/23.

Deputy City Manager Harjinder Singh told the board the construction process is in Phase 1. Each council member will have a district listening meeting around mid-August, which can take three to six months. Also, a survey will be open for several months to get input from the public. Phase 2 is the design portion, which will take all the input from the public and start working on different ideas and budgets, the limitations of the building, and creating construction documents.

Board member Douglas asked if there are other phases.

Deputy City Manager Harjinder Singh stated that there are three phases. Once a contractor bids for the project, it moves into Phase 3, which is construction, which will last about 14 to 15 months.

Board member Cochran asks how to get involved in the council members' meetings and if the library would provide services to the community during the construction.

Deputy City Manager Harjinder Singh invited the board to contact their council members. Also stated that there will be other presentations regarding the current state of the building so people understand what they're commenting on, problem areas, and other things.

Deputy City Manager Harjinder Singh stated that both sites, Morningside Branch Library and Crenshaw Imperial Branch Library, will operate during the Main Library renovation. The library has also requested to purchase a library van, using a different budget to do a mobile library to provide services to the public during the closer.

Library Manager Kerri Arroyo provided the board members with the library update that included book ordering for both Crenshaw and Main Library (over 15,000 books); circulation (over 24,000 items); outstanding customer service; internships; heavy programming for children, teens, and adults; and 6 paid programs all through the summer reading program; nice giveaways; Teen advisory board that gave scholarships at the end of the summer; computer; and ESL classes; Summer Reading Program with 300 participants in two weeks have join; the very first kickoff with the Aquarium of the Pacific with over 400 attendees in three hours, excellent commendations that we get from the public, collection development; 34,000 summer lunch grant; partnership with Parks and Recreation Department; programming at summer camp providing reading, math, and science camp to campers; outreach; a grant for \$5,000 to help incentivize the Inglewood community; free park pass program to attend 200 parks throughout California and receive a free backpack with supplies.

Board member Cochran asked if the Aquarium of the Pacific brought their mobile unit.

Library Manager Kerri Arroyo stated that they brought their 12 tons of rolling aquarium and which accommodated between 80 and 100 people per hour.

Board member Sanders asked why library board members were not invited.

Library manager Kerri Arroyo stated that the newsletter is an invitation for everyone.

Library manager Kerri Arroyo shared with the board that she attended the American Library Association. She visited three libraries which had prior renovations and viewed different layouts and furniture finishings.

Friends Report

On behalf of Susan Carleo, President of the Friends of Inglewood Public Library (FOIPL), Library Manager Kerri Arroyo gave a friend's report. She stated that Friends had a successful book sale on Saturday, June 17; and they appreciate Councilman Alex Padilla for the generous purchase and donations; Next big book sale will be in December of 2023; they've added a new category of books called oldies but goodies; all proceeds help the Inglewood Public Library.

Public Comments

Community member Gregory Mason stated that he disagrees with Zoom meetings. He would rather have in-person meetings once a week instead of Zoom to align with council meetings. He states that the cleaning of Thomas Van Stan was very important to him, and he hopes some members in Inglewood can acknowledge who he was.

Commissioner Comments

Board member Sanders asked Library Manager Kerri Arroyo if they are commissions or board members. She mentioned that she found out that they are not commissioners. They are board members, and she's not happy about that, and if they have no say so then she no longer needs to be on this board.

Library Manager Kerri Arroyo stated that they are an advisory board, as commissioners on the library board.

Board member Douglas suggests that the commissions or board members each approach their council person. She's also very pleased to get the newsletter a few times a month with all updates, it's nice and colorful, and she can't stop reading. Board member Douglas is very happy with the progress of the two libraries and appreciates Kerri on behalf of the board for the good meeting.

Board member Cochran agreed to approach their council person and reminded board members about the meetings where they have been involved in many projects, they have been able to make recommendations, and they have been given a chance for input and an opportunity for questions.

Board member Cochran appreciates the staff for their hard work. She's pleased with the summer reading program and loves the creativity of bringing the aquarium into our community and the high number of attendees. Board member Cochran is happy that Kerri brings UCLA graduate students for an internship.

With no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 5:29 pm.