



**South Pasadena Public Library**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MINUTES**  
**July 23, 2015**



**CONVENE:**

Board President Ed Pearson called the regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees of the South Pasadena Public Library to order in the Library Conference Room on July 23, 2015 at 7:03 p.m.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Trustees Present

Ed Pearson, President  
Ann Penn, Secretary  
Andy Lippman, Trustee  
Rick Thomas, Trustee

Also Present

Brendan Durrett, Measure L Committee  
President  
Ann Messana, Friends President  
Paul Politi  
Ellen Daigle, Ellen's Silkscreening  
Steve Fjeldsted, Director of Library, Arts &  
Culture  
Sean Faye, Library Administrative Secretary

**EXCUSED:** Constance Lue, Vice President  
Mayor Pro Tem Diana Mahmud

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the regular meeting of June 11, 2015 were reviewed – **MSC: Ann Penn, Andy Lippman – all approved**

[Trustee Rick Thomas arrived at the Board of Trustees Meeting at 7:06 p.m.]

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**ACTION ITEMS:**

1. **Paul Politi & The Daigles' Recommendation for the Placement of the Leo Politi Sculpture outside the Library – these will be donated by Ellen & Joe Daigle and the City Council–**  
Paul Politi, Leo Politi's son, expressed his appreciation to the Library and South Pasadena for providing inspiration to his father, who loved sketching here. Paul Politi said that the work his father produced in South Pasadena reinforced his notion that a book could change a person's life. There is currently an exhibit of Leo Politi's work at the Pico House in downtown Los Angeles. Paul Politi is donating several of his father's paintings and providing a sculpture which will be purchased for \$9,000. The Daigle Family has donated \$3,000 towards this purchase and the City Council has donated \$5,800. Trustee Andy Lippman offered to donate the remaining \$200 to complete the purchase.

Ellen Daigle said the Politi Family has requested for the paintings to be displayed on the North Wall of the main reading area of the Library, above the Reference bookshelves. The Politi Family would like the sculpture to be displayed right outside the Oxley St. doors to the Library.

[Paul Politi and Ellen Daigle left the Board of Trustees Meeting at 7:27 p.m.]

**Motion by Library Board Trustee Andy Lippman, seconded by Secretary Ann Penn, to display the sculpture outside the entrance to the Library, between the two doors and before the rose garden, with funding accepted as outlined in the proposal.**

**AYES:** Pearson, Penn, Lippman, Thomas  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Lue  
**ABSTAIN:** None

2. **Paul Politi's & The Daigles' Recommendation of Placement of 4 Leo Politi paintings in the Library. These have been donated by the Politi Family** – President Pearson said there had been a tentative agreement at the last Trustees meeting to display 3 of the 4 paintings on the North Wall, with the exception of the “Moy Moy” painting which Secretary Penn thought would be better suited for the Children’s Room. Children’s Services Librarian Maida Wong said there isn’t any room to display that painting.

**Motion by Library Board Trustee Andy Lippman, seconded by Trustee Rick Thomas, to accept the gift of 4 paintings, with the intention of placing them in the Atrium on the North Wall.**

**AYES:** Pearson, Penn, Lippman, Thomas  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Lue  
**ABSTAIN:** None

3. **Approval of Discard Policy on Items less than \$250 in estimated value** – President Pearson said that this policy was drafted to prevent the Library from getting rid of an item that could prove to be valuable. Consulting a second party before discarding an item has been added and this will make it easier to discard broken equipment.

**Motion by Library Board Trustee Andy Lippman, seconded by Secretary Ann Penn, for the resolution to be approved.**

**AYES:** Pearson, Penn, Lippman, Thomas  
**NOES:** None  
**ABSENT:** Lue  
**ABSTAIN:** None

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Measure L Committee Activities** – Measure L Committee President Brendan Durrett said that the ballot language was approved, the website, [www.sopasyesonl.com](http://www.sopasyesonl.com), is up, and donations can be made. President Durrett said that a professional logo and stationery have been designed and the fundraising campaign has begun. Friends President Ann Messana added that they will also produce lawn signs advertising Measure L.

President Pearson asked if there was any opposition to Measure L and President Durrett replied he wasn’t aware of any. Secretary Penn remarked that the Utility Users Tax will not be on the ballot this year, and opponents of the Utility Users Tax have been generally opposed to all new taxes. President Pearson said that the turnout for local elections is typically small, and offered the services of the Board to the Measure L Committee when the time comes.

2. **Library FY 15/16 Budget** – Director Fjeldsted thanked President Pearson for his plea to the City Council at their June 17 meeting for more Book Budget funds, which had been reduced from what

was allotted in previous years. President Pearson said that a compromise was reached among Council members and that the City will provide an additional \$37,000 for that account. President Pearson added that we are very fortunate to have a City Council so favorable of the Library. Director Fjeldsted said that the new Budget Books should be available in late August.

3. **Inventory of Library Artwork** – Urged by Mayor Pro Tem Mahmud at the last Trustees meeting, Director Fjeldsted said that each department is creating an inventory for items worth more than \$5,000. Director Fjeldsted added that in the course of developing the inventory of artwork he discovered the Library had an additional Leo Politi painting, “3 Girls in Pink,” that is in the Children’s Services Librarian’s Office.

Friends President Ann Messana said that she may need clarification from the City Attorney, mainly for tax reasons, over what is owned by the Library and what has been donated. President Messana said the issue had been raised by the Friends’ bookkeeper. Director Fjeldsted said that he could provide a draft memorandum of understanding that would need to be approved by the City Attorney. He also asked the Friends President to talk to him about this.

[Ann Messana left the Board of Trustees Meeting at 8:04 p.m.]

4. **Library Special Tax Annual Auditor’s Report FY 2015-16** – President Pearson asked the Board to note that the current estimated annual general revenue of the Library Special Tax, approved by the City Council based on an Auditor’s Report by Community Economic Solutions, is \$232,776. Director Fjeldsted said this information is and filed with the County of Los Angeles.
5. **Review of Goal 2 of Library Strategic Plan, 2011-2015** – Director Fjeldsted said that Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan for the Library gives objectives to provide a facility that is welcoming, comfortable, easily accessible and flexible, to develop a master plan to identify long term space needs should the Library be able to expand into the Senior Center. These needs include a larger children’s room, a larger teen room, a computer room, a quiet study room, an art gallery, a lobby, and a kitchen. The City would have to hire a professional construction company to estimate the cost of such an expansion, but Director Fjeldsted estimated it could cost between \$2 to \$4 million.

Secretary Penn said that at the last meeting of the Community Center Ad Hoc Committee the two plans being considered by the City were to either renovate the building known as “old plunge,” although the Cultural Heritage Commission had placed a lot of contingencies on that option, or to purchase another building that has a lot of potential, including an underground parking lot. . Director Fjeldsted said that there currently isn’t funding at this time for either the Library expansion or a new community center.

President Pearson was pleased that the completion of the ADA Ramp Project and the restoration and display of the “The Children’s Hour” artwork, listed in Objective 6, were completed. Director Fjeldsted replied that “The Children’s Hour” project was completed due to the Board approving use of the Mullen Estate and Romine Trust Funds and President Pearson said the Board will continue to review the Goals of the Strategic Plan at future meetings to check their progress.

[The Library Board of Trustees Meeting took a brief break at 8:15 p.m. for a signing ceremony of Measure L with Mayor Joe, Jon Primuth of SPEF, Ann Messana, Ed Pearson, and Brendan Durrett.]

[Brendan Durrett left the Board of Trustees Meeting at 8:21 p.m.]

6. **Volunteer Recognition Luncheon Review** – President Pearson thanked Trustee Lippman for all the work he put forth towards this year’s Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, including making arrangements with the Keynote Speaker Linda Deutsch as well as coordinating the food. Director Fjeldsted said that he has given Linda Deutsch an open invitation to present an Author Night at the Library. Director Fjeldsted said that he has asked Adult Services to approach Nick Ut, a photographer for the Associated Press that Trustee Lippman recommended for next year’s luncheon.
7. **“Serving With a Purpose” Conference Recap** – President Pearson and Trustee Thomas attended the “Serving With a Purpose” conference in May. President Pearson said most of the attendees were affiliated with Friends groups and that the term “social media” was repeated often. Trustee Thomas said the concern was that libraries could lose relevance due to social media and other electronic resources and the need to find ways to tie them together. Director Fjeldsted thanked President Pearson and Trustee Thomas for attending the conference and added that the Library doesn’t currently have a Facebook page, although City Hall has informed him that plans are underway for the Library to become more socially active.
8. **Library Staffing Update** – Director Fjeldsted said there are currently vacancies for a Part-Time Library Clerk II for the Administrative Office and Support Services, a Part-Time Children’s Librarian, and the Adult Services Librarian. Director Fjeldsted said that the Library used to conduct its own recruitments, but now HR does them. Secretary Penn asked for an up to date organizational chart to be provided at the next Trustees meeting.

[Andy Lippman left the Board of Trustees Meeting at 8:55 p.m.]

9. **July 2 Colburn School Wind Ensemble patriotic concert in Library Park** – Director Fjeldsted said that the concert attracted 300 and that Mayor Joe loved the group and acknowledged them at the last City Council meeting. Director Fjeldsted said they performed for free and will return next year, adding that we should by then have an improved A/V system for them to use.
10. **Library Parking** – Director Fjeldsted said the proposed development of the SPUSD Parking Lot into a 91 unit of condominiums currently has no written provision for Library parking. Director Fjeldsted said the City has responded that there would be too much density and too much traffic created by this proposal. Director Fjeldsted said that if this were to go through the Library staff would have to park on the street and take up parking spaces that could be used by patrons.
11. **Library Upstairs Carpeting** – Director Fjeldsted said this will be a three day process, beginning on 8/17/15. The new upstairs carpet will be in squares that match the downstairs carpet. At this time there are many stains in the Community Room carpet and many areas in the second floor hallway carpet are torn.
12. **Beatles HELP! Screening on July 30** – Director Fjeldsted said the movie hasn’t been screened in theaters for decades and we obtained special permission from Apple Corps Limited UK for no charge. The movie will be shown in Blu-Ray on the giant movie screen purchased by the Friends. Before the movie, musicians will be performing acoustic Beatles songs. This event will be covered in the Pasadena Weekly.
13. **Tommy Lasorda Author Night on August 6** – Director Fjeldsted said that Tommy Lasorda will appear for an Author Night on August 6 to promote his new book, “My Way.” He will be joined by his co-author Colin Gunderson and Los Angeles Dodgers historian Mark Langill. Outreach is being conducted, including various Dodgers fan organizations.

14. **Ray Bradbury's 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration on August 22** – Director Fjeldsted said the Library will screen “Fahrenheit 451” in the Community Room in celebration of Ray Bradbury’s birthday on August 22. Bradbury passed away in 2012. There will be a performance by members of the Ray Bradbury Pandemonium Theatre Company, as well as a tribute from Jim and Lissa Reynolds of the Fremont Centre Theatre.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS:  
REPORTS:**

**Board President:** President Ed Pearson said the Annual Report will be due on 9/4/15, which will be before the next Trustees meeting on 9/10/15. President Pearson volunteered to write the report, Trustee Thomas agreed to review it, and Secretary Penn offered to present it before the City Council.

**Trustee:** None to report.

**City Council Liaison:** None to report.

**Friends Representative:** Before she left the Trustees meeting, Friends President Ann Messana said that the Friends had made a \$5,000 contribution to Measure L.

**Trustee Liaison to Friends:** None to report.

**Representative to Community Center Ad Hoc Report:** None to report.

**Director of Library, Arts & Culture:**

- Director Fjeldsted said he will be on vacation from 8/3/15-8/5/15.
- Director Fjeldsted said he had attended the luncheon for the Special Olympics earlier in the day and helped serve lunch to the teams from Paraguay and Uruguay.
- Arogant Hollywood, a homeless man that has vexed the Library for years, has been sentenced to 90 days in jail according to the Police Chief. Director Fjeldsted has a 3 year restraining order against this person.
- There was a sordid incident in the Teen Room but the Police Department will not release the report because a minor was involved. Director Fjeldsted was assured by the Police Chief that once the DNA results come back that the perpetrator will be caught. Director Fjeldsted has asked for security cameras to be installed in the Library and some of the funds for AV upgrades for the Community Room will go towards these cameras.
- Director Fjeldsted said the kick off launch for Measure L will take place at the home of a man who has an incredible new garden and personal library. Duffy Hudson will perform a 15 minute routine as George Burns.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regular meeting for the Library Board of Trustees will be on 9/10/15 in the Ray Bradbury Conference Room in the Library at 7 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The regular meeting of July 23, 2015 was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ as written.

Minutes approved \_\_\_\_\_ as corrected.



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President