

**Community & Library Services
Commission
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
6:00 PM – Regular Meeting
MINUTES**



**City of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
City Council Chambers**

STAFF:
ASHLEY WYSOCKI, Director
Community & Library Services
CHRIS COLE, Acting Deputy Director
Community & Library Services
CHARLENE GOMEZ, Sr. Admin. Assistant
Community & Library Services

AUSTIN EDELL, Chair
LOLLY MCHARDY, Vice-Chair
CEASON BAKER, Commissioner
LISA-LANE BARNES, Commissioner
LAURA COSTELLOE, Commissioner
DR. RICHARD HARRISON, Commissioner
TARYN PALUMBO, Commissioner

NOTE: THIS MEETING WAS RESCHEDULED FROM FEBRUARY 14, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Edsell called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm, at which time a quorum was met.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Barnes.

ROLL CALL – Commissioners: Baker (excused), Barnes, Costelloe (arrived at 6:18 pm), Edsell, Harrison, McHardy, Palumbo. Staff: Wysocki, Cole, Gomez, Lammers

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cooper C. spoke regarding books being moved at the Library and asked if the teen section was being removed completely.

Carol Daus spoke regarding the library and books being removed. Ms. Daus felt the resolution to remove books was unwarranted.

Natalie Moser, resident, and City Council Member, spoke regarding the dismantling of the teen center at the Central Library and removal of the books at the libraries. Council Member Moser urged the Commission to look into the situation at the Library.

Amory Hanson spoke in support of naming the parkland at 17281 Eucalyptus Lane after fallen Officer Nicholas Vella.

Libby spoke regarding the removal of books at the library, the time it was taking away from the Librarians doing their jobs, and the narrow scope of criteria for the removal of the books.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Request approval of the January 10, 2024, meeting minutes.

MOTION: Chair Edsell moved to approve the minutes as written with Commissioner Barnes seconding the motion. All in favor (6-0-1).

PRESENTATION

1. **Library's Digital Resources** – April Lammers, Senior Librarian, Technology and Database Service at Central Library, provided a presentation on the databases available through the Library. The Library pays for services through grants, partners, and general funds. Services includes e-books and streaming media. Libby is a program for e-books and audio books, which are checked out with a library card, and is also offered through Kindle devices. Books are chosen by Librarians. Lammers provided some statical data saying the second month of service showed 6,000 check outs. The Palace Project, which is similar to Libby, is a resource for e-books and audio books. The books are chosen by the City's Librarians, partner libraries, and the State, and the program was purchased through grant funding. NewsBank offers newspapers and magazines, which are geared towards Southern California publications. Brainfuse Help Now, offers on-demand tutoring, for children, adults, and veteran resources. It is helpful for homework, test prep, and resume building. The Library monitors what the patrons are using so that they can stay current and provide what is most popular to their patrons.

Commissioner Palumbo thanked the Library for bringing Libby to the City. She asked what the process is for acquiring a license for a book, so that it can be added to the database. Lammers responded that a large amount of the licenses where already purchased historically and moved to the new database.

STUDY SESSION - None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. **Naming of the Parkland at 17281 Eucalyptus Lane in the Parkside Estates Community** - Wysocki provided an overview of Resolution 2017-25, including the criteria for naming a park. All park naming opportunities go through the Commission and then to City Council for final approval. Wysocki continued, providing a description of the park, and saying the HOA maintains the landscape, while the City maintains the hardscape, playground, picnic area and irrigation system. Wysocki provided information on the Park Naming & Memorials Committee's recommendation to name the park after fallen Officer Nicholas Vella.

Commissioner Barnes asked if the name should include his full name. Commissioner Costelloe asked if the naming would identify Vella's rank or title. Wysocki said the naming and eventual park identification sign would mirror that of Prince Park, which was named for fallen Officer Leslie Prince. The sign will follow the specifications for park identification signs as previously approved by Commission. Gomez said that the park name will be Vella Park, with Officer Nicholas Vella's name and end of watch date below the park name.

Chair Edsell asked if the family was in support of the park naming. Wysock responded that she has been working closely with the Police Officers Association, who assured her that the family is on board with the park naming.

MOTION: Commissioner Costelloe moved to approve and make a recommendation to City Council to formally name the parkland located at 17281 Eucalyptus Lane, "Vella Park", in honor of fallen Officer Nicholas Vella. Commissioner Palumbo seconded the motion. All in favor (6-0-1)

AYES: Barnes, Costelloe, Edsell, Harrison, McHardy, Palumbo

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Baker

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. CIP Review & Project Updates:

- a. Gisler Park – Cole said rain delays have occurred, but reopening is anticipated soon.
- b. Seeley Park – Construction of the park will begin next week. Rainy weather has caused some delay, but it is anticipated to get back on track soon.

2. Calendar of Events - Cole reported on the following:

- a. **Norma Gibbs Park** - Restoration Milestones Plaque Unveiling: Save the Date – Wednesday, March 6, 2024.
- b. **CA Arbor Day Celebration:** Save the Date – Friday, March 15, 2024 – Cole said that this event is in conjunction with the Huntington Central Park Jubilee celebration and described the location.
- c. **Log Cabin at Lake Park** – April 20, 2024, in Lake Park at the Boy Scout cabin. Boy Scouts will be serving hot dogs and providing tours of the cabin.
- d. **Huntington Central Park Jubilee Celebration** - Scheduled June 15, 2024, at Senior Center in Central Park. The event will host past commissioners, department heads, and key City staff from the past, in addition to citizens who were instrumental in the development of the park and volunteers who continue to give their time to keep the park beautiful.

3. Code of Ethics Language Update – Gomez announced that a memo from the City Clerk was included in the agenda packets with a word change for the Code of Ethics. Chair Edsell stated that he believes the memo is incorrect and the words should be switched. Staff will follow up with the City Clerk.

STAFF ITEMS – Not Agendized

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

COMMENTS – Not Agendized

Commissioner Costelloe said she has received numerous questions on this day regarding

the situation at the Library. She asked if the teen section had been removed, and if the books had been moved or removed? Commissioner Costelloe asked that the Library situation be agendaized so that Commissioners have information to provide the public when asked. Furthermore, Commissioner Costelloe asked for more information on library cards, and asked for clarification on the age of a “young adult”.

Commissioner Palumbo echoed Commissioner Costelloe’s sentiments and said she was disheartened about the Library situation, and as a Commissioner of the Community & Library Services Commission, she was being asked questions as well. She continued by saying that it was distressing, and she would like clarity on the situation. She asked that it be on the March agenda.

Chair Edsell thanked speakers for coming out and suggested that everyone attend the Jubilee celebrations. Additionally, he encouraged everyone to get out and vote.

ADJOURNMENT – With no further business, Chair Edsell motioned to adjourn at 6:51 pm with Commissioner Costelloe seconding.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Minutes – January 11, 2024
2. Park Naming Presentation
3. Resolution 2017-25
4. City Clerk Memo on Code of Ethics Word Change

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Huntington Beach Community & Library Services Commission is Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 6:00 PM in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.