

**Community & Library Services
Commission
Tuesday, February 11, 2025
6:00 PM – Regular Meeting
ALTERNATE DATE - MINUTES**



**City of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
Meeting Rooms B7 & B8
ALTERNATE MEETING LOCATION**

STAFF:

ASHLEY WYSOCKI, Director

Community & Library Services

CHRIS COLE, Manager, Facilities & Dev.

Community & Library Services

CHARLENE GOMEZ, Sr. Admin. Assistant

Community & Library Services

AUSTIN EDSSELL, Chair

LOLLY MCHARDY, Vice-Chair

CEASON BAKER, Commissioner

STEVE BARNES, Commissioner

TEISHA NIM-HUSAINI, Commissioner

JEANNE PARIS, Commissioner

TRICIA THIENES, Commissioner

OATH OF OFFICE – Prior to the start of the meeting, the Oath of Office was administered to incoming Commissioners, Jeanne Paris, Teisha Nim-Husaini, and Tricia Thienes, by City Councilwoman, Gracey Van Der Mark, while City Clerk, Lisa Lane Barnes, administered the Oath of Office to Steve Barnes, in order to constitute a quorum of the Community & Library Services Commission.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by the sitting Chair, Austin Edsell, at which time a quorum was met at 6:04 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by sitting Vice Chair, Lolly McHardy

ROLL CALL – By Gomez

Baker (excused), Barnes, Edsell, McHardy, Paris, Nim-Husaini, Thienes

Staff: Wysocki, Cole, Gomez, Gettman, Drevdahl

PRESENTATION – Chair Edsell announced that due to the large number of public speakers, the Commission would hear the Presentations section of the agenda prior to Public Comments.

25-092 Community & Library Services – Part-Time Employee of the Month Program

Wysocki announced the Part-Time Employee of the Month program and introduced Supervisor, Scott Gettman, from the Senior Center in Central Park to present a certificate to part-time Recreation Leader, Kelly Cook. Gettman provided background on her achievements. Also to be honored was Leyla Flores, a Program Coordinator at Murdy Community Center, who was unable to attend the meeting.

25-092 Eagle Scout Project Presentation – Cole presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Scout, Scott Smith, who for his Eagle project, built two chessboard picnic tables for Central Park, installing them on the southeast picnic meadow.

Commissioner Barnes, an Eagle Scout himself, asked the Scout why he chose the

project. Scout Smith responded that he liked to play chess and thought others would like to play outdoors, too.

Scout Alex Arias was unable to attend. Cole provided information on Scout Arias' perch pole project showing images of the project in the Raptor Foraging area of Huntington Central Park west.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

25-113 Gomez announced receipt of 338 supplemental communications by the close of the 1:00 pm deadline. Copies of the communications were provided in the Commissioners' agenda packets and via email for their review.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Amory Hanson spoke in support of Administrative Item #250-094.
- Barbara Richardson spoke in opposition to the plaque design and asked Commission to reconsider designing it to match the existing building plaques.
- Julie Bixby voiced her concerns with the inscription and design of the plaque, numerically listing her reasons.
- Paul Robidoux thanked Commission for recognizing Central Library's 50th anniversary. However, he voiced his concern about the design and language on the plaque and felt it should focus more on the library.
- Pat Slusser voiced his concern and objection of the plaque's design and language.
- Cooper Carrasco voiced his concerns about the plaque design and language. He suggested utilizing the Central Library's Makers Space to design the plaque in order to bring light to one of the library's available services.
- Hilda Irons provided information on libraries and what they offer as community centers. Ms. Irons spoke in opposition to the proposed plaque.
- Karen McKinley offered plaque design suggestions to honor the library and pointed out flaws with the current design.
- Wendy Rincon was not in support of the plaque design or cost. Ms. Rincon suggested replacing the City Council Members' names with those of the original architect and library director.
- B. Channel questioned the plaques design, whether a historian was consulted, and compared the "not to exceed" cost with the cost of the recent Gibb's Park re-dedication sign.
- Rose Molina, who attended the original Central Library dedication at 15, suggested using students in the community to submit design options.
- Michelle Ferry opposed the plaque's design and language and provided her historical knowledge of plaques and statues.
- Madeline Yang opposed the current design due to the acronym and its connotation.
- Mina Lemara said she was not in favor of the plaque language, specifically the MAGA acronym, and felt it excluded those with disabilities.
- Bethany Webb opposed the plaque design and language and provided information on her family history within the City of Huntington Beach.

- Debra provided a quote from history and stated that the language did not represent all citizens.
- Jonathan McGaw provided feedback on the current design and language and suggested that local school kids design the plaque.
- Rick Brown supported the plaque language and felt it would serve as a tribute into the future.
- “K” was not in favor of the plaque and recommended replacing the names on it with the original architect.
- Patti Pappas stated that the plaque should display the name of the original library director, Walter Johnson, and the original architect, who worked to have the library built.
- Kathy Carrick spoke in support of the plaque, stating most of the funds have already been raised and elaborated on the acronym by linking the letters to children’s book titles.
- Debra Struthers expressed her support for the plaque design and celebration of the library.
- Diane Benthey voiced her disagreement with the plaque design by urging the Commission to reject the action and search for other ways to celebrate the library.
- Chris Kluwe spoke in opposition to the plaque providing information on radical organizations and voicing his opinion on other ways to honor the library.
- Janet Michels voiced her feelings, stating that she believed a plaque was a good idea, but not this plaque as currently designed.
- Christopher Rini was gravely concerned over the plaque design and language. As examples, Mr. Rini felt there were too many logos, that the plaque only referenced “library”, not “Central Library”, and felt the plaque needed better language.
- Kathryn Goddard reminded Commission that the plaque was for the 50th anniversary of the library building. Therefore, the plaque should reflect the building by providing information on the original Neutra architects. She suggested a consultation with City Archivist, Kathie Schey, who has performed extensive research on the building.
- Karrie Mann voiced her love for the City and all its activities; however, the design and language of the plaque made her sad.
- Betty Flynn provided her support for a plaque for a library where kids can enjoy themselves. Ms. Flynn suggested some changes to the current design.
- Tim Geddes spoke in opposition to the plaque, expressing his concerns about the design, language and acronym.
- Diana Lithgow stated that her father was the original consulting attorney when Central Library was built. She provided historical information on how the City Council at the time met with the community and felt that would be a good starting point for the current City Council to follow.
- Scott Geisler spoke in opposition for the plaque design and felt the acronym used was polarizing.
- Lindsay Klick suggested that the language in the staff report replace the language on the plaque, or that a chronological history be cited like that of the recent Gibbs Park rededication plaque.
- James Elder opposed the plaque design and language. He asked Commission to reject the plaque as written.

- David Rynerson provided his concerns with the plaque and suggested holding a competition for the citizens, utilizing the Makerspace to create the plaque.
- Guest PJ suggested that Commissioners vote no on Item #25.
- Natalie Moser, a former City Council Member, voiced her strong opposition to the plaque. She provided historical information on symbols and the building's history and provided a supplemental communication depicting 3 alternate plaque language options.
- Derek Campfield spoke in opposition to the plaque, saying it would make people feel unwelcome.
- Tom F. said he felt the City had been constantly on display recently and asked that it stick to a more traditional sign.
- Cyrus Pilling provided information on the City's flag resolution and an alternative to the MAGA acronym.
- Ann Palmer voiced her approval of a plaque to celebrate the library. Although she had some issues with the proposed plaque, she provided suggestions. Ms. Palmer also voiced her appreciation for the Commission and City Council.
- Mark Sheldon provided historical information on Central Library's 50 years, his opinion of the plaque design, and his opposition to the MAGA acronym.
- Mike Selna expressed concern over society's division and felt the plaque should be one to bring people together. He stated that if the political views represented in the plaque were removed, he would personally pay for the plaque to be fabricated.
- Michelle Boukris shared personal memories of both her and her children learning to read at Central Library. She felt that "galvanizing" or "alluring" were not appropriate words for the plaque.
- Valentina Bankhead spoke in support of the plaque and provided an additional description of the MAGA acronym. Additionally, Ms. Bankhead felt the cost was adequate, comparing it to other public art in the City.
- George Washington spoke in support for the plaque and stated that citizens were taking back schools and libraries.
- Estella Hernandez stated that Central Library was a staple in the community and spoke of her opposition to the MAGA acronym.
- Dina Chavez spoke of the love the community had for the library and felt that it deserved a better plaque. Ms. Chavez quoted sections of the library display policy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

25-090 **Request approval of minutes of the October 9, 2024, meeting** –
Approved by a majority of the remaining members of the Commission who attended the October 9, 2024 meeting.

MOTION: Vice Chair McHardy moved to approve the minutes as written with Chair Edsell seconding the motion. Approved 2-0-1 (Baker absent)

AYES: Edsell, McHardy

NOES: None

ABSTAINS: None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

25-093 **Election of Chair and Vice-Chair** - The Community & Library Services Commission held its annual elections. Sitting Chair Edsell called for nominations for Chair from the floor, at which time, Commissioner Paris nominated Commissioner Edsell. With no further nominations, the vote was taken:

MOTION: Commission Paris moved to elect Commissioner Edsell to continue as Commission Chair, with Commissioner McHardy seconding. The motion passed, all in favor (6-0-1, Baker absent).

Chair Edsell called for nominations for Vice Chair, at which time, he nominated Commissioner McHardy as Vice Chair. With no further nominations, the vote was taken:

MOTION: Chair Edsell moved to elect Commissioner McHardy to continue as Vice Chair, with Commissioner Barnes seconding. The motion passed, all in favor (6-0-1, Baker absent).

25-094 **Approval of Plaque Design and Language for the Huntington Beach Public Library 50th Anniversary** - Wysocki displayed a copy of the plaque for viewing and provided background on the item. Commissioner Paris conveyed to the audience that the Commission did not design the plaque, and they were only to review it for recommendation to City Council. Discussion ensued on the design and anticipated cost. Chair Edsell stated that he learned from Council Member Van Der Mark that the plaque was already funded through private donations. Commissioner Paris suggested that there may be other changes made through City Council. She felt there was room for editing to make it less busy. Chair Edsell asked staff for direction on approving or providing editorial comments at the Commission level. Wysocki said that the Commission could approve and make recommendations for edits to the City Council if they desired.

MOTION: Commissioner Paris moved to approve the item with the recommendation that it be less busy. Commissioner Thienes seconded the motion. The motion passed, all in favor (6-0-1, Baker absent)

AYES: Barnes, Edsell, McHardy, Paris, Nim-Husaini, Thienes

NOES: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

25-095 **CIP Review & Project Updates** - Cole introduced Frank Drevdahl, the Department's new Capital Projects Administrator, who provided information on CIP projects for fiscal years 2024/25 and 2025/26. Included in his report were FY 2024/25 Council approved projects: The Park Bench building improvements will go out to bid in February and should be completed by April; the HVAC system at Main Street

Branch Library; the Newland House restoration project, which includes much-needed repairs to the house along with lead paint abatement, and severe restoration of the water tower. Drevdahl also reported on proposed FY 2/25/26 projects: the Murdy ballfields; the Art Center lighting project and ADA compliance; the City Gym & Pool flooring replacement at the pool area; improvements to Helen Murphy and Banning Branch Libraries; and the beach parking attendant ticket booth refurbishments.

Cole reported on playground projects, which included approved FY 2024/25 projects Langenbeck Park and Robinwood Park, and proposed FY 2025/26 projects Drew Park, Arevalos Park, and the All-Inclusive Beach Playground.

Commissioner Barnes asked if another non-profit besides Kiwanis could assist with funding the repairs at the All-Inclusive Beach playground. Cole said that a partnership would be more beneficial in the future when the full playground would require replacement.

25-096 **Winter Reading Challenge** – Wysocki reported that the program ended on January 31 and saw a 57% increase in participation over last winter's Reading Challenge. Participation included 229 adults; 54 teens; 632 children; and a total of 915 participants. Wysocki thanked everyone who participated.

25-097 **After-Hour Parking Restrictions at Gibbs Park** - Cole reported that residents had complained about overnight parking in the park's limited spaces. Therefore, a curfew from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am was instituted.

25-098 **Calendar of Events** – Wysocki reported on the following and said events would be a reoccurring item on the Commissions agenda:

- Centered on the Center exhibition now showing through March 29, Huntington Beach Art Center
- Valentine's Crafternoon: Friday, February 14, 3:00 pm, Central Library
- "A Tribute to Love" Nancy's Cabaret, Saturday, February 22, 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Senior Center
- Read Across America: Wednesday, March 5, 3:00 pm, Central Library
- Paws in Bloom Pet Vendor Fair: Saturday, March 8, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Central Park West
- Rise and Walk: Saturday, March 15, 8:00 am – 10:00 am, Senior Center in Central Park
- Hotrods and Helos: Sunday, March 30, 10:00 am, Beach Parking lot (Huntington St. to Hyatt Bridge)
- Jack's Surfboards Pro: Wednesday, April 2, 7:00 am, Southside of Pier
- Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon: Saturday, April 26, 12:00 noon, Senior Center in Central Park

STAFF ITEMS

25-099 Commissioner Parks & Facilities Tours – Discussion ensued to determine tours for 2025. Wysocki asked for the Commissioners' input. Commissioner Paris said she would like to see the City Gym & Pool. Commissioner Barnes would like to see properties that need repairs and upcoming CIP projects.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

COMMENTS – Not Agendized

Chair Edsell announced that he, Vice Chair McHardy, and Commissioner Paris attended the Centered on the Center opening reception at the Huntington Beach Art Center.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair Edsell moved to adjourn at 8:14 pm with Commissioner Paris seconding the motion.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Huntington Beach Community & Library Services Commission is Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 6:00 PM in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

Internet access to Community & Library Service Commission agenda and staff report material is available prior to the Community & Library Services Commission meetings at <https://huntingtonbeach.legistar.com/>.

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