

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF THE POMONA PUBLIC LIBRARY

REGULAR MEETING

February 19, 2025

5:00 P.M.

100. OPENING

- **110. Call to Order**

Chair Suarez called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

- **120. Pledge of Allegiance**

Poet Laureate Caesar Avelar led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **130. Roll Call**

Present Trustees:

- Lisa Snider (Mayoral Appointee)
- Sofia R. Araya Abbas (District 1)
- Meg Johannsen (District 2)
- Tom O. Rodriguez (District 3)
- Mario Suarez (District 4)
- Renee Barbee (District 5)
- Alexis L. Gordillo (District 6)

Others Present:

- Mark Gluba, Assistant City Manager
- Anita Torres, Deputy Director of Library Services / Board Secretary

200. PUBLIC COMMENT

210. Duane asked permission from the board to take photos of incoming Poets Laureate.

220. Councilmember Martin welcomed incoming Poets Laureate and two recently appointed board members.

300. CONSENT CALENDAR

310. Approval of the Library Board Meeting Minutes: November 20, 2024.

320. Approval of the Library Board Meeting Minutes: January 15, 2025.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TRUSTEE BARBEE AND SECONDED BY TRUSTEE SNIDER TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT (7-0).

400. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

410. Trustee Snider visited her hometown library and expressed interest in the automatic conveyor belt book return, the playground, and the adult fitness facilities.

420. Trustee Johannsen congratulated the library team for their social media presence.

500. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

510. Introduction and welcome of the newly appointed District 1 and District 6 Library Board Trustees. Councilmember Martin expressed excitement about appointing Sofia Araya to the board, highlighting her library knowledge. Councilmember Martin also announced the appointment of Alexis Gordillo on behalf of Councilmember Canales. Trustee Araya and Trustee Gordillo each gave a brief introduction.

520. Introduction of the 2025-26 Pomona Poet Laureate and Junior Poet Laureate. Chair Suarez introduced the new Poet Laureate, Natalie Sierra. Ms. Sierra shared her passion and experience before reading one of her works. Chair Suarez introduced the Junior Poet Laureate, Kea Lee, who spoke about her poetry background. Caesar Avelar, the exiting Poet Laureate, read a poem and thanked Chair Suarez.

530. Nomination and Election of the 2025-26 Chair and Vice Chair for the Board of Library Trustees. Chair Suarez Nominated Vice Chair Rodriguez for Chair. Chair Rodriguez nominated Trustee Johannsen for Vice Chair.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHAIR SUAREZ AND SECONDED BY TRUSTEE SNIDER TO APPOINT VICE CHAIR RODRIGUEZ AS CHAIR. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT (7-0).

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHAIR RODRIGUEZ AND SECONDED BY TRUSTEE SNIDER TO APPOINT TRUSTEE JOHANNSEN AS VICE CHAIR. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT (7-0).

540. Library Infrastructure Project and Operational Plan Updates. Ms.

Torres provided an update on the library closure and upcoming construction, stressing the need to close the library 12 days before construction begins for preparation. Mr. Gluba gave a brief recap of the project for new trustees. Construction is set to begin on 4/14. Modified public services will be throughout the project, and construction is estimated to conclude by August or September. Ms. Torres emphasized the importance of maintaining library services during the closure to ensure continued community engagement and connection with library staff. Ms. Torres also provided an update on upcoming outreach programs during the library closure.

550. Board of Library Trustees Meeting Dates and Meeting Location During Library Construction Project April 2025 through August 2025. This item was deferred to the March meeting.

600. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

610. FOPPL – On behalf of the Friends, Duane Smith reported the Trivia Bee will take place on 4/11 with location TBD.

620. PPLF – On behalf of the Foundation, Duane Smith announced the Foundation Gala will take place on 6/12. Funds raised will be allocated for library-related or library-adjacent expenditures. Additionally, Homework Club will continue at the Mendoza Center during the library construction project.

630. SOPPL – John Clifford introduced the Support Our Pomona Public Library organization.

700. STAFF COMMUNICATION

710. Deputy Director of Library Services - Ms. Torres had no further information, thanked everyone, and congratulated the newly appointed board members and Poets Laureate.

720. Assistant City Manager – Mr. Gluba reported the discovery of a plaque from the original City Hall. He also discussed the upcoming changes to the Library children’s room and mentioned some recent vandalism related damage to the library.

800. ADJOURNMENT

810. Adjournment to Wednesday March 19th, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

CHAIR RODRIGUEZ ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:32 PM.

Anita Torres, Deputy Director of Library Services /Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Tom Rodriguez, Chair, Board of Library Trustees