

**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF THE
LIBRARY COMMISSION AND
TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Library Commission convened in a joint session with Torrance City Council at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at Katy Geissert Civic Center Library.

II. ROLL CALL

Library Commission

Present: Commissioners Haussmann, Perkins, Ravine, Sargent, Wengrow, and Chairperson Ross.

Absent: None.

City Council

Present: Councilmembers Ashcraft, Goodrich, Griffiths, Rizzo, Weideman, and Mayor Furey.

Absent: Councilmember Barnett.

Also present: City Attorney Fellows, City Manager Jackson, City Treasurer Cortez, Community Services Director Jones, Senior Business Manager Minter, Assistant to City Manager Chaparyan, Assistant City Manager Giordano, City Librarian Theyer, Principal Librarian Wierzbicki, Principal Librarian of Operations Vinke, Senior Librarian Coates, Youth Services Supervisor Firchow, and others.

III. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Wengrow led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Sargent moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda. Commissioner Perkins seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

V. TOPICS

V.1 Welcome – Video Presentation

Chairperson Ross expressed appreciation to Councilmembers and staff for participating in this joint meeting of the Library Commission and Torrance City Council. He presented the video “Explore the World with the Torrance Library” that was the winner of a contest held as part of the Library’s celebration of a Century of Service in 2013.

V.2 Commission Outreach

Commissioner Haussman provided a report on Commissioners' outreach efforts to promote Torrance Public Library at community events that include Homeowners Associations, Torrance Youth Council meetings, Cherry Blossom Festival, Torrance Certified Farmers' Market, and YMCA Healthy Kids Day. She noted that the Commission uses such outreach to promote Library services and to interact with the public.

V.3 Community Focus Groups and Survey Results

Commissioner Perkins reported that last year the Commission conducted six community Focus Groups centered on Library strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, and asked community members to prioritize potential future services. She noted that comments from the Focus Groups included requests for lower fees, more parking, Sunday service year-round, and more new materials. She stated that the Commission examined results and gave feedback and insight to City Librarian Theyer.

Commissioner Wengrow reported that the Commission followed up by assisting Library staff with a Community Survey. She noted that results showed that the greatest reasons to visit the Library was to borrow books and audiovisual materials and to attend adult programs. She stated that having Internet access at home or work remained the largest reason people did not use the Library. She noted that the top four results that the public wanted to see in the future were technology training, downloadable audio books, greater wireless Internet capacity, and getting personalized reading recommendations.

V.4 Commission Advocacy

Commissioner Ravine discussed the Commission's participation in local and State advocacy for Library services and programs. He stated that the Commission has assisted in fighting an uphill battle for several years to get State funding reinstated for materials, systems, and programs that have been cut in the budget. He noted that Commissioners attend California Public Library Advocates workshops, California Library Association conventions, regularly send letters to legislators, and visit local legislators during Day in the District to promote the Library and remind them about the importance of public libraries. He discussed the Public Library Broadband Project that will include public libraries on the high speed broadband network.

V.5 Future Library Needs

Commissioner Sargent stated that, with results from the Focus Groups and Survey, the Commission and Library are now looking towards future resources and services. She described needs of the community that include high speed and easy access to Internet, additional formats of library materials, and more library programs. On behalf of the Commission, she requested that City Council consider increasing the Library's materials budget, noting that over \$140,000 was cut during the recession. She further asked them to focus on providing the Library with the electronic infrastructure needed in the information age and to promote the Library to its constituents.

V6. COLLABORATION WITH YOUTH COUNCIL – VIDEO PRESENTATION

Chairperson Ross reported that the Commission collaborates frequently with the
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Recording Secretary

Torrance Youth Council and introduced Youth Council members Nathan Apodaca, Arielle Stephenson, and William Kang. He stated that the Youth Council has produced several videos promoting Library resources to teens, noting that they can all be viewed on the Library's Facebook page. He presented the first video that they produced entitled "That's My Library!" He thanked Councilmembers for their continued support as well as City Librarian Theyer and Library staff for the support they give to the Commission and community.

VI. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Furey voiced his appreciation for all the hard work that the Commission, Library staff, and Youth Council does. He noted that the value of the Library system in Torrance is unparalleled and that it plays a great role in the community. He stated that City Council would give as much support to the Library as it can when it goes through the budget process. He encouraged Commissioners to continue outreach and advocacy and to pursue grant opportunities. He mentioned that former Mayor Scotto was pleasantly surprised by the high usage of the Library. He stated that he would promote the importance of the Library to legislators when he is in Sacramento later this month.

Councilmember Ashcraft stated that her children used the Library when growing up and noted that the foster care children that she is involved with depend on the Library for computer use.

Councilmember Rizzo stated that his children frequented all branches of the Library when growing up and noted that the programs it offered made them better readers.

Councilmember Goodrich expressed appreciation to Commissioners for their outreach, innovation, and getting youth involved. He was pleased to announce the upcoming birth of his son on June 5.

At his request, Chairperson Ross described how Commission meetings rotate to branch libraries each year.

Councilmember Weideman stated that he visits Katy Geissert and North Torrance Libraries at least twice a week, and is a member of the North Torrance Mystery Book club. He noted how important it is for Commissioners to be the eyes and ears of the community with their knowledge base.

Commissioner Griffiths stated that he is impressed with all the work that the Commission does and is excited about recent facility upgrades. He expressed hope that the City can restore some of the budget cuts to the Library and stressed the importance of technology.

Commissioner Sargent discussed a time when Phil Ross at Katy Geissert's Reference desk was helpful in solving a problem. She stated that a recent Library program with Riviera Garden Club was so popular that they had to turn people away. She announced Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival, YMCA Healthy Kids Day, and Relay for Life this weekend.

Community Services Director Jones commended the Commission and Youth
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Council on a great collaboration. He expressed his appreciation to City Council for all the support it has provided in the past and all it will provide in the future.

On behalf of the Youth Council, Arielle Stephenson expressed appreciation to the Library and Commission, noting how pleased members are that Chairperson Ross attends almost of their meetings.

Mayor Furey encouraged everyone to sign up for the Wyland Foundation Mayor's Challenge.

VII. ADJOURNMENT / RECESS

At 6:15 p.m., Mayor Furey stated that Councilmembers would recess and reconvene at 7:00 p.m. on April 21, 2015 in the City Council Chambers

At 6:16 p.m., Chairperson Ross adjourned the meeting to May 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the North Torrance Library.

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Approved as submitted May 11, 2015 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk
