



**South Pasadena Public Library  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
May 26, 2022**

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**CONVENE:**

President Dean Serwin called the special meeting of the Library Board of Trustees of the South Pasadena Public Library to order in the Library Conference Room on May 26, 2022 at 7:04 p.m. Members of the public attended virtually, via Zoom, as part of the City's in-person/hybrid resumption of in-person meetings.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Trustees Present

Kenneth Gross  
Annie Chang Long  
F.J. Pratt  
Bianca Richards  
Dean Serwin

Also Present

Cathy Billings, Library Director  
Diana Mahmud, Council Liaison  
Margaret Lee, Measure L Committee  
Sally Kilby, Member of the Public  
Sean Faye, Administrative Secretary

The Library Board of Trustees held a moment of silence for the victims of the tragedy in Uvalde, Texas.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

1. None

**ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

2. **Review and approve draft minutes of the regular meeting held May 12, 2022**

**Motion by Library Board Vice President Bianca Richards, seconded by Library Board Trustee Kenneth Gross, to approve the minutes as written for the regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees held May 12, 2022.**

<b>AYES:</b>	<b>Gross, Long, Pratt, Richards, Serwin</b>
<b>NOES:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	<b>None</b>

3. **Special Tax Renewal**

The Board discussed their recommendation to the City Council regarding the term of renewal for the Library Special Tax. It will be recommended to Council that they put the measure on the

ballot for the 11/8/22 General Municipal Election. The Board deliberated whether the Special Tax should be renewed until repealed by a majority vote of the South Pasadena electorate, or for a limited term.

A public comment was made by Margaret Lee of the Measure L Committee. She stated that the Measure L Committee has debated whether the renewal should be for a set term limit or evergreen without reaching a firm conclusion. A term limit of 7-10 years may be more palatable. The Committee is awaiting the input from their consultant.

A public comment was made by Friends Board member Sally Kilby. She favors passing the measure as an evergreen tax, but would set a limit of 10 years if the initiative that would potentially impact evergreen taxes is on the ballot.

Library Board President Dean Serwin is in favor of pursuing an evergreen renewal of the Parcel Tax, but pending the advice of the City Attorney or Measure L consultant, recommended it be renewed for 9 years.

Suggested language for the ballot question was reviewed, and the following was proposed by Councilmember Mahmud: "To maintain funding for the operation and maintenance of the South Pasadena Public Library, shall an ordinance be adopted continuing South Pasadena's Library Special Tax, until terminated by a majority vote of the electorate in South Pasadena."

The Board wants the community to understand that part of the reasoning to make the initiative evergreen is to avoid the needless and significant cost of the renewal process. Those costs are associated with the advocacy committee and the election itself.

**Motion by Library Board Vice President Bianca Richards, seconded by Library Board Trustee Kenneth Gross, for the Board to request the City Council ask for renewal of the Library Special Tax until it is terminated by a majority vote of the electorate.**

<b>AYES:</b>	<b>Gross, Long, Pratt, Richards, Serwin</b>
<b>NOES:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>ABSENT:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	<b>None</b>

[Margaret Lee left the Library Board of Trustees meeting at 7:56 p.m.]

#### **4. Trustees Annual Report and 2022-2023 Work Plan**

The Board discussed their accomplishments and which items from their 2022-2023 Work Plan to present at the 6/22/22 Commissioner Congress.

It was agreed to highlight the following accomplishments: hosting an in-person event for the first time in more than two years to honor the library's volunteers; the safe return to in-person library services as of 5/17/2021; and the standardization of library hours, with a consistent opening time of 10:00 a.m. 6 days/week, as of 4/4/2022.

The Trustees' Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Work Plan will include: raising awareness in the community of the Library Special Tax renewal for the 11/8/2022 General Election; working to adopt the 2023-2028 Library Strategic Plan; a comprehensive review and update of the Library's administrative policies.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Secretary Annie Chang Long thanked Library staff that volunteered for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage month event on 5/21/22 and the diversity of books offered to the community. Secretary Long also expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Children's Librarian staff for the Summer Reading Program.


President Serwin thanked everyone for their time and the robust, congenial, and thorough discussion.

Vice President Bianca Richards was happy to hear support for the Library at the most recent Budget meeting. Vice President Richards is also happy to see children taking part in in-person Library events again.

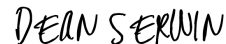
Trustee Kenneth Gross thanked everyone for their accommodations in scheduling tonight's special meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will be on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the Ray Bradbury Conference Room and by video conference for the public via Zoom.

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Dean Serwin adjourned the special meeting of the Library Board of Trustees on May 26, 2022 at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes approved  as written.

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



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President

6/10/2022

Date