



**CITY OF FULLERTON  
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**September 17, 2018, 5:00 P.M.  
Fullerton Public Library  
Main Library Conference Room  
353 West Commonwealth Avenue  
Fullerton, California**

**Call to Order**

President Paden called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Library Conference Center Room of the Fullerton Public Library.

**Roll Call**

Present: Ballard, Byers, Cantor, Dale and Paden

Absent:

Staff: Judy Booth, Library Director  
Ken Homsley, Adult Services Division Manager  
Ann Tower, Recording Secretary

**Public Comments**

None

**Regular Business**

**1. September 18, 2018 City Council Agenda Item #1 -- CITY OF FULLERTON BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION** – Proposed changes to the Library Board of Trustees and proposed creation of a Library Advisory Commission – *Trustee President Paden*

The Library Board discussed the education code, case laws related to re-organization of Library Boards and the City Council's control over gifts and bequests.

President Paden discussed why it's in the best interest of the Library to have a separate Board. He expressed that there should be a presentation before the City Council explaining what we want to do with the Library system.

Trustee Cantor read the letter he wrote to City Council (see attachment).

**Public Comments:**

Kathy Dasney – Spoke about the difference between administrative and advisory committees. She said Council Member Fitzgerald has spoken about converting the library to a county library and privatize it.

Glenn Georgieff – Asked for clarification regarding the City Council Members' views regarding the reorganization.

Ginger Britt – Said she sent a letter to the City Council regarding this matter and spoke about Council Member Fitzgerald's response to it.

Jane Reifer – Spoke about a City Committee she was a part of and a similar situation they faced with the Council.

Donna Jaecker – She spoke about the City Council's track record on advisory committees.

Elizabeth Oates – Requested clarification about the education code and the Library Board.

Amy Alspaugh– Spoke about the removal of municipal code and discussion of education code

Babette Carlson, Foundation - How can we help, so this won't be accepted at tomorrow's meeting? She gave background about City vs. county libraries.

Name unknown – Bring friends to the meeting tomorrow night.

Name unknown – Spoke in support of the library.

Trustee Dale discussed why the City Council has proposed the Library Board reorganization. He supports Trustee Cantor's letter. He would be interested in finding out why the Council has proposed this and needs a broader conversation to see why the Council is taking these steps. He agrees the Foundation and Friends should be a part of these conversations.

Molly McClanahan and Fern Richardson spoke about the Ad Hoc Committee and suggested bringing their recommendations to the Library Board first before taking them to the City Council.

Trustee Cantor suggested considering how other libraries are structured. Fullerton could have its own special district library where it would cost tax payers nothing more than what they already pay but instead of having the money go into a general fund it goes into a separate account that the Council can't touch. The public might want to consider this depending on tomorrow night's discussion.

Trustee Dale and Secretary Ballard suggested some changes to the letter. Trustee Cantor added a final paragraph to the letter.

MOTION made by President Paden, SECONDED by Secretary Ballard to adopt correspondence with the exception of paragraphs number 5 and 6, which were removed and adopt this as the position of the Library Board of Trustees to present to the City Council at tomorrow's meeting.

Library Director Booth revised the letter and returned to the Board for signatures. Afterward, she scanned and emailed it to Eva (to forward to the Council Members) and copied the City Manager. (see attachment)

**Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. to the next Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees on September 27, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. at the Fullerton Public Library, 353 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, California.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Ruth Leopold, Recording Secretary

September 17, 2018

Dear Mayor Chaffee and the Honorable Members of the Fullerton City Council:

The Fullerton Public Library has been governed by an administrative Board of Trustees for over one hundred years. In that time, generations of Fullertonians turned billions of pages of millions of books, but more importantly the Fullerton Public Library has been supplemented in its mission through the open hearts of volunteers and the open wallets of its generous patrons.

We find it deeply disturbing that the City Council would direct staff to prepare an ordinance to replace a century of precedent concerning the library's governance without collecting input from the individuals and associations deeply invested with making the library the success that it is today.

The Council has not made its case for change, so it is impossible for this Board to offer a constructive argument for why it ought to justify its own existence, but the purposeful exclusion of the Library's support groups from this important conversation does not require an argument to understand its obvious offense. The City Manager and the City Attorney had ample time and ability to include supporters and volunteers in this process. They chose not to. We strongly object.

Should the Council desire to assume direct management of the City Library, it ought to start with an inclusive conversation and receive input from its volunteers and supporters.

If the Council has a case for change, we invite an open and transparent discussion in the form of a joint meeting with the Library Board of Trustees. We traditionally include the Friends of the Fullerton Library and the Fullerton Library Foundation in all our discussions.

As such, we insist they have a seat at the table when discussing the future of our free and public library. Until this conversation occurs, it is in the best interest of the City and the Library to table decisions related to how our hundred-year library operates, serves its patrons, and promotes continuing lifelong learning.

Sincerely,



Sean Paden, President, FPL



Carl Byers, Vice-Chair, FPL



Joshua Dale, Trustee, FPL



Ellen Ballard, Trustee, FPL



Ryan Cantor, Trustee, FPL

September 17, 2018

Dear Mayor Chaffee and the Honorable Members of the Fullerton City Council:

The Fullerton Public Library has been governed by an administrative Board of Trustees for over one hundred years. In that time, generations of Fullertonians turned billions of pages of millions of books, but more importantly the Fullerton Public Library has been supplemented in its mission through the open hearts of volunteers and the open wallets of its generous patrons.

We find it deeply disturbing that the City Council would direct staff to prepare an ordinance to replace a century of precedent concerning the library's governance without collecting input from the individuals and associations deeply invested with making the library the success that it is today.

The Council has not made its case for change, so it is impossible for this Board to offer a constructive argument for why it ought to justify its own existence, but the purposeful exclusion of the Library's support groups from this important conversation does not require an argument to understand its obvious offense. The City Manager and the City Attorney had ample time and ability to include supporters and volunteers in this process. They chose not to. We strongly object.

Should the Council desire to assume direct management of the City Library, it ought to start with an inclusive conversation and receive input from its volunteers and supporters.

The Fullerton Public Library embraces the tenants of the American Library Association, including the Library Bill of Rights, which includes "Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment."

Upending one hundred years of successful library governance without receiving or soliciting public input is not challenging censorship. It's enabling it. This is antithetical to our mission and values.

If the Council has a case for change, we invite an open and transparent discussion in the form of a joint meeting with the Library Board of Trustees. We traditionally include the Friends of the Fullerton Library and the Fullerton Library Foundation in all our discussions.

As such, we insist they have a seat at the table when discussing the future of our free and public library.

Sincerely,

**Sean Paden, President, FPL**

**Carl Byers, Vice-Chair, FPL**

**Joshua Dale, Trustee, FPL**

**Ellen Ballard, Trustee, FPL**

**Ryan Cantor, Trustee, FPL**

9/17/18-Special Meeting Library Board of Trustees  
Distributed by Trustee Ryan Cantor