



Council Meeting: June 10, 2008

**SUBJECT: Appointment of Representative to Silicon Valley Library System Advisory Board for the 2008-2010 Term**

**REPORT IN BRIEF**

Under the California Library Services Act (CLSA) of 1977, the City Council must appoint a local resident to serve on the Silicon Valley Library System Advisory Board whenever a vacancy arises. This report recommends the appointment of Jim Griffith to this position for a two-year term (2008-2010).

**BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the California Library Services Act, Education Code Sections 18747-18750, each Cooperative Library System shall establish an advisory board consisting of as many members as there are member jurisdictions of the system. The governing body of each member jurisdiction shall appoint one member to the advisory board from among its residents.

The term of any member of a system advisory board shall be for two years, and each member shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.

The appointing jurisdiction shall ensure that members of a system advisory board are representative of the public at large and of the underserved residents in the system service area. The duties of each system advisory board shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Assisting the Administrative Council in the development of the System Plan of Service. The Administrative Council is comprised of the Directors of each participating library.
- Advising the Administrative Council on the need for services and programs.
- Assisting in the evaluation of the services provided by the system.
- Keeping the Sunnyvale Board of Library Trustees up-to-date on System Advisory Board activities.

When a vacancy on the System Advisory Board occurs, staff seeks nominations of community members to fill the vacancy at a Board of Library Trustees meeting. A former Board of Library Trustees member, Tom Flaherty has served as the representative to the System Advisory Board during the 2006-2008 term. During this time, Sunnyvale has been well-served by the representation Mr. Flaherty has provided to the Board. Including Mr. Flaherty, the last three representatives have had prior library experience as members of the Board of Library Trustees. Effective participation on the System Advisory Board requires an awareness of current library issues. Therefore, it can be desirable for a current Trustee to assume this position.

At the May 5, 2008 meeting of the Board of Library Trustees, the current Chair of the Board of Library Trustees Jim Griffith volunteered to serve as the representative to the System Advisory Board for the 2008-2010 term. The Board of Library Trustees voted unanimously

to recommend Jim Griffith to the City Council to serve as the Sunnyvale representative to the System Advisory Board of the Silicon Valley Library System.

**EXISTING POLICY**

- Policy 6.2F.1c Participate in regional and statewide library cooperative activities to strengthen library services for Sunnyvale residents.
- Policy 6.2F.1e Support activities of the Sunnyvale Board of Library Trustees in its advisory role to the City Council including library policy review, receiving input for library users, and advocacy of the library.

**DISCUSSION**

Each member library of the Silicon Valley Library System (San Jose, Santa Clara City, Santa Clara County, Los Gatos, Mountain View, Palo Alto and Sunnyvale) is required to select a member of the community to serve on the System Advisory Board. System Advisory board members meet regularly in member libraries to provide a citizen perspective to the System's Administrative Council. The SVLS System Advisory Board also works in cooperation with the Boards of PLS (San Mateo County) and BALIS (East Bay) to provide training, to participate in advocacy activities, and to contribute to greater community awareness of libraries' resources and services. The System Advisory board member regularly attends the meetings of the Board of Library Trustees, presents updates on activities and keeps up with library issues considered by the Board.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**PUBLIC CONTACT**

Public contact was made by posting the Council agenda on the City's official-notice bulletin board outside City Hall, in the Council Chambers lobby, in the Office of the City Clerk, at the Library, Senior Center, Community Center and Department of Public Safety; posting the agenda and report on the City's Web site; and making the report available at the Library and the Office of the City Clerk.

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Appoint the candidate Jim Griffith as nominated by the Board of Library Trustees.
2. Select another appointee from the community to serve on the System Advisory Board to the Silicon Valley Library System for the term specified.

**RECOMMENDATION**

At their May 5, 2008 meeting, the Board of Library Trustees voted unanimously to recommend Council appoint Jim Griffith to the System Advisory Board which is Alternative #1.

Staff recommends Alternative #1.

Reviewed by:

Deborah L. Barrow, Director, Library  
Prepared by: Steve Sloan, Administrative Librarian

Approved by:

Amy Chan  
City Manager

**Attachments**

A. Draft Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes of 5/5/08.

# Attachment A

**amount of \$52,136 and the expenditure of State Public Library Funds for use in the following special project categories: Collections, Improvements to Library Services. Motion carried unanimously.**

3. Legislative Day:

Chair Griffith and Administrative Librarian Steve Sloan attended Library Legislative Day on Wednesday, April 16 in Sacramento. Chair Griffith provided an overview of their meetings with Senator Elaine Alquist and Assembly Member Joe Cotto. Talking points included Public Library Funds and Transaction Based Reimbursement.

Chair Griffith opened the public hearing and there being no public testimonies, closed the public hearing.

4. National Library Week Feedback:

Director Barrow thanked Boardmembers for their participation in National Library Week. During the week, Library staff provided 500 personalized bookmarks and Boardmembers distributed cookies. Boardmembers shared comments they received regarding customer service and the branch library study.

Chair Griffith opened the public hearing and there being no public testimonies, closed the public hearing.

5. SAB Representative:

Director Barrow provided the Board with a brief overview of the System Advisory Board (SAB) role and/or responsibilities. Community member Thomas Flaherty's term will be expiring this year. Chair Griffith volunteered to a two year term to the SAB.

Chair Griffith opened the public hearing and there being no public testimonies, closed the public hearing.

**Vice Chair Lilly moved, and Boardmember Su seconded, to appoint Jim Griffith to a two year term to the System Advisory Board. Motion carried unanimously.**

6. Health & Safety Fair – Saturday, May 10:

Director Barrow informed the Board that the Health & Safety Fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Columbia Neighborhood Center. Library staff will be on-site providing program flyers, booklists, promotional library items and information on the branch library study issue. Boardmembers signed up for two-hour time slots.

Chair Griffith opened the public hearing and there being no public testimonies, closed the public hearing.

7. Global Sunnyvale – Saturday, June 21:

Director Barrow informed the Board that Global Sunnyvale is scheduled for Saturday, June 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Plaza del Sol. Library staff will be on-site providing program flyers, booklists, promotional library items and information on the branch library study issue. Boardmembers signed up for two-hour time slots.