



City of Sunnyvale

Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, February 25, 2020

6:00 PM

Special Meeting - Study Session
(Audio Only)

Study Session - 6 PM

6 P.M. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING (Study Session)

1 Call to Order in the West Conference Room (Open to the Public)

Vice Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2 Roll Call

Present:

Mayor Larry Klein

Vice Mayor Nancy Smith

Councilmember Glenn Hendricks

Councilmember Russ Melton

Councilmember Michael S. Goldman

Councilmember Mason Fong

Absent:

Councilmember Gustav Larsson

3 Public Comment

Vice Mayor Smith announced Council will hear agenda item 3-Public Comment after agenda item 4-Study Session.

4 Study Session

[20-0026](#)

Discussion of Options and Recommendation on Elimination of
Fines for Overdue Library Materials (Study Issue LCS 19-02)

Cherise Brandell, Director of Library and Community Services and Ellen Giarrizzo, Circulation Manager delivered a presentation that discussed the options for elimination of fines on overdue library materials to remove barriers to library use.

Councilmembers asked questions and made the following comments:

- Fails to see connection between declining library usage and increasing balance of

billed fees.

- Agrees with the purpose of having fines and fees; materials should be returned so others may use them.
- Consider lower cost fines and fees.
- Does not want to subsidize fine revenue losses by using the Service Level Set Aside.
- Would be interested in a one-year pilot program.
- Would want to review policies to determine the best way to waive fines and fees.
- How would we encourage patrons to return materials? We should have a caveat for patrons that don't return multiple materials.
- If we are unable to wipe fines and fees for all, let's do it for the children, they should have access to books.
- Framework policy should be in place to allow the Director of Library and Community Services to waive fines and fees, no need to come to Council.
- Is curious about removing fines (amnesty) for adults every three to five years.
- We should hire a consultant to run a fines amnesty program like other cities do.
- Supports the amnesty program to remove past fine debt.
- Agrees to amend schedule for fines but keep the fee schedule the way it is.
- Wants to eliminate all fines, not just for children.
- How would we envision piloting a year-long program?
- Are we requesting anything different than what other libraries have done?
- Likes the approach of taking the increase in revenue from Community Services class fees and using it to help with the loss of revenue offset.
- What percentage of disabled accounts are fine vs fee based?
- We should ask patrons for donations to go towards children's blocked accounts.

3 Public Comment

Members of the public made the following comments:

- Is in favor of the study issue.
- Concerned about not billing patrons for expensive items.
- Fines and fees on unique collections vs printed books.

5 Adjourn Special Meeting

Vice Mayor Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.