

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

February 22, 2007

A Regular meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library, 2920 Overland Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90064, convening at 11:07 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT:	PRESIDENT	ROBERT A. CHICK
	VICE PRESIDENT	TYREE WIEDER
	COMMISSIONER	JULIE MENDOZA
	COMMISSIONER	NELLIE RIOS-PARRA
	COMMISSIONER	RITA WALTERS

EXCUSED

ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: Fontayne Holmes, City Librarian; Kris Morita, Asst. General Manager; Pat Kiefer, Asst. City Librarian; Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Public Library; member of the Westside Village Civic Association; member of the Westwood Gardens Civic Association; member of the Palms Neighborhood Council; member of the Tract No. 7260 Association, Inc.; Roy Stone, President of the Librarian's Guild; and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 2/8/07

MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Commissioner Rios-Parra and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting held February 8, 2007 be approved as submitted.

REMARKS BY THE WESTERN AREA MANAGER
AND THE PALMS-RANCHO PARK BRANCH LIBRARIAN

Western Area Manager

Suzanne Gray, Manager, welcomed the Board to the Palms-Rancho Park Branch, which is located in the center of the Western Area. She advised that all the branches in the region have book clubs and some branches have special

categories such as Daddy and Me, Mystery and Teen Book Clubs. She said the Palms-Rancho Park Branch is well used and has the highest circulation in the western part of the City. Additionally, this branch is staffed with a Children's Librarian III who is responsible for the training of all new children librarians in the area. Ms. Gray commended staff for their close ties to the community and for actively reaching out to all segments including the Chinese and Persian population.

Senior Branch Librarian

Maggie Johnson, Senior Librarian, said that the collection mirrors the diversity of the area and offers users a variety of languages such as English, Spanish, Persian and Chinese. She reviewed the programs and services offered including Baby and Toddler Storytime, sign language classes, literacy programs, Hot Off the Press, and educational visits by the Los Angeles City Departments. Most recently 70 parents enjoyed a program entitled "Trashy Stories" which was highlighted by a visit from a Department of Sanitation trash truck. The Palms-Rancho Park Branch staff was introduced and thanked for all their hard work.

Ms. Johnson spoke about the dedicated participation of the active teen council involved in many programs. The branch also enjoys great support from student volunteers from local schools and the Transitional Living Skills Center. In conclusion, Ms. Johnson introduced Marie Wallace, President of the Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Public Library. She thanked the Friends group, the Neighborhood Council, various homeowners association and the patrons for their support.

Vice President Wieder inquired about the library's involvement with local schools. Jennifer Murphy, Children's Librarian III, stated that the library has a very good relationship with the public, parochial and private schools. Librarians visit schools off-site to develop a close association with the students and offer services available at the branch.

Commissioner Rios-Parra asked if staff share experiences with other branches about successful programs such as the infant and toddler literacy program. Ms. Johnson advised that Michelle Robinson, Children's Librarian II, had developed a video that is used as a training tool for the Baby and Toddler Storytime programs at the Library Department.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS
WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION:

(In accordance with Board Policy, a total of 15 minutes shall be allocated for public comment not to exceed three (3) minutes per speaker. Items arising during the public comment portion of the meeting shall be referred by the President to the staff or Board Committee for appropriate action or report back thereon to the Board.)

(1)

Marie Wallace, President of the Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Public Library, spoke of the importance of the community meeting room as a place for the public to share ideas and interact. She stated that the room is used for many activities such as author visits, book sales, meetings and social functions. Ms. Wallace mentioned that the Branch's web site, constructed by her daughter, has a pictorial history of the library and rotating photos of children and authors.

CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORTS

MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Commissioner Rios Parra and unanimously carried that the following resolutions be adopted:

Recommended Acceptance of Gifts

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2007-9

RESOLVED, That the gift of two Dell Desktop computers (total value of \$2,048.87) for the Wilmington Branch Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a thank you letter be sent to the Friends of the Wilmington Branch Library expressing the appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for the gift.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2007-10 (C-8)

RESOLVED, That the following contributions be accepted and deposited in the account indicated below:

Fund No. 300, Account No. 9010, Library Materials

- \$2,000 From the Pacific Palisades Library Association for the Ascot Branch Library
- \$5,500 From the Friends of the Woodland Hills Library

FURTHER RESOLVED, That thank you letters be sent to the donors expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners for their generous financial contribution to the Los Angeles Public Library.

SPECIAL THANKS

Commissioner Walters expressed the Board’s appreciation to the Pacific Palisades Library Association for their gift to the Ascot Branch Library.

Recommended Transfer of Funds

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2007-11 (C-9)

WHEREAS a transfer of funds in the amount of \$10,000 to the Library’s Transportation Expense Account is needed to reimburse employees for the use of their personal vehicle to conduct City business; and

WHEREAS a transfer of funds in the amount of \$24,000 will provide sufficient funding in the Salaries, Overtime Account, to adequately fulfill coverage of public posts and overtime usage as necessary:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the transfer of funds in the amount of \$34,000 within the Library’s Fiscal Year 2006/2007 Budget, Fund 300, Department 44, as indicated below:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
\$10,000	Account 1010, Salaries General	Account 3310, Transportation Expense
\$24,000	Account 1010, Salaries General	Account 1090, Salaries Overtime

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2007-12 (C-10)

WHEREAS a transfer of funds in the amount of \$50,000 is required to reimburse the Department of General Services for the overtime worked by the Security staff during emergencies, personnel shortages, and special events; and

WHEREAS a transfer of funds in the amount of \$1,000 is needed to reimburse the Communication Services Division of the Information Technology Agency for the installation of additional phone lines:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the transfer of funds within the Library's Fiscal Year 2006/2007 Budget, Fund 300, Department 44, as indicated below:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
\$50,000	Library Trust Fund 831, Acct. 112	Department of General Services Fund 100, Department 40, Account 1070
\$1,000	Account 1010, Salaries General	Information Technology Agency Fund 100, Department 32, Acct. 9350

CONSIDERATION THAT THE MEETING ROOM AND TERRACE AT THE PALMS-RANCHO PARK BRANCH LIBRARY BE NAMED IN HONOR OF RAY BRADBURY

The City Librarian stated that, in accordance with Board policy, staff is proud to recommend that the meeting room and terrace at the Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library be named in honor of Ray Bradbury. She said that Mr. Bradbury, distinguished author and longtime resident of Cheviot Hills, has given generously of his time and talents and spoken at many events sponsored by the Library Department.

Ms. Holmes advised that letters were received from the Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Public Library and homeowners association requesting that the meeting room and terrace be named in his honor. Thereafter, the Library Department posted a notice of consideration on the Library's website for feedback thereon.

The President commented that the current Board naming policy had received a tremendous amount of input including feedback from the community. He said that many naming requests are received for the 71 branch libraries and only after very careful consideration, and in very rare instances, are parts of the library named after distinguished individuals. The President stated that he is supportive of this tribute for such a great man.

Commissioner Walters concurred with the President in supporting the naming of the meeting room and terrace. She stated that Ray Bradbury's books are timeless and as contemporary today as when they were written.

Public Hearing**(1)**

Annette Mercer, longtime resident and President of the Westwood Gardens Civic Association, whose 620 homes are located northwest of the library, stated that the Palms-Rancho Park Branch is heavily used by the residents of this diverse area. She spoke of the library visits from students of all ages, long time residents and families. She said that widespread support and a large amount of interest was expressed when she sent an e-mail about the proposed naming and Mr. Bradbury's upcoming visit to the branch on March 4. She advised that her Board voted on February 21, 2007 to support the naming and she has not heard any dissention.

(2)

George Garrigues, author and Secretary of the Palms Neighborhood Council, said that the proposal does not go far enough to honor such a great author. He stated that his Neighborhood Council has not had an opportunity to comment but would like to do so. He thanked the Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Public Library, particularly Marie Wallace, and the Cheviot Hills Homeowners' Association for all their support of the library.

Mr. Garrigues presented the following comments and suggestions:

- The place for the honor should be on the first floor where the books are located rather than the meeting room where there are no books and which is rarely used.
- Installation of a plaque in front of the building which would read: "This building and its contents are dedicated to Ray Bradbury, visionary, author and neighbor. You don't have to burn books to destroy a culture, just get people to stop reading them".
- Expanding the resolution in the Librarian's Report with the wording "and will consider other ideas for honoring Bradbury".
- Any books honoring him should be in print on book paper.

(3)

Marie Wallace, President of the Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Public Library and member of the Westside Village Civic Association mentioned that she has lived in this community for almost fifty years. She stated that the Friends and the Westside Village Board unanimously approved a contribution of \$1,000

and \$500 respectively to be used for the development of a plaque and a young adult collection in Ray Bradbury's honor. She stated that a huge part of Ray Bradbury's interests have been innovative ideas and young people. Therefore, she added, it is appropriate to honor him with the dedication of the meeting room, which is a place rich with ideas, and a young adult collection.

(4)

Richard Harnetz, Secretary and immediate Past President of Tract No. 7260 Association, Inc., said that the residents of the association live between Pico and Olympic and between Fox Hills Drive and Century Park West. He stated that in answer to their request, the City Librarian had responded the Palms-Rancho Park Branch could not be named after Ray Bradbury because the Board policy stipulates that libraries are only named after the regions in which they exist. He said that Mr. Bradbury is an institution and is known throughout the world. He added that naming the meeting room is too small an honor to bestow on such a giant figure. He advised that the Tract. No. 7260 Association, Inc. and the Westside Neighborhood Council, on which he also sits, voted to recommend that the library be named "The Palms-Rancho Park Ray Bradbury Library".

The President requested that staff work with the Friends and neighborhood organizations to locate a prominent location for signage that recognizes Ray Bradbury's extraordinary contributions.

THEREAFTER it was MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Commissioner Rios-Parra and unanimously approved:

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2007-13

WHEREAS the Board of Library Commissioners received and considered requests from the Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Library and neighborhood organizations that the meeting room and adjacent terrace at the Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library be named after Ray Bradbury; and

WHEREAS Ray Bradbury is a distinguished author and friend of the Los Angeles Public Library. He is the winner of the 2004 National Medal of Arts and the 2000 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the naming of the meeting room and adjacent terrace at the Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library as the "Ray Bradbury Meeting Room and Terrace"; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That Library staff work with the Friends and neighborhood organizations in locating a prominent location for signage that recognizes his extraordinary contributions.

ORAL REPORT RE
HOT OFF THE PRESS

Elizabeth Hoage, Assistant Director of Branches, reported that the Hot off the Press service was developed as a response to public comments that many popular items were not readily available because the "hold" system was in such high demand. She said that Hot off the Press was instituted so that more patrons would have access to new materials. The service has restrictions of a two-item checkout for a one-week period, and the items need to be returned to the location where it was checked out. She commented that the Library orders books at least four months in advance of the publication date so that the focus is on the reputation of an author rather than the title being a bestseller.

Ms. Hoage stated that the use of this service varies by community but overall it has been extremely successful. Statistics will be maintained and the service evaluated after a year.

Questions were raised by the Commissioners concerning patron access to bestsellers, whether the one-week time period was sufficient, and at what point were Hot Off the Press materials moved to the regular collection. Ms. Hoage stated that the number of copies purchased for the regular collection, including bestsellers, had not changed and a three-week loan period for these materials was available. Additionally, Hot Off the Press Books could only be moved to the regular collection when the branch had not circulated their copy following a 4-6 week period.

Public Hearing

Richard Harmetz, patron, stated that he uses Hot Off the Press frequently and thanked the City Librarian, staff and the Board for this service. He asked if the DVD loan period could be extended from two days to a week since there are much more copies on the shelf than when DVD's first became available at the library.

The President asked the City Librarian to schedule an informational report on the DVD service for a future meeting.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

In response to a request from Vice President Wieder, the City Librarian stated that a report on the installation of men's restroom stall doors in the Central Library would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m

ATTEST: _____

Robert A. Chick
President

Gladys L. Senac
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be Approved:

March 15, 2007

This is a true copy: