

# MINUTES

## **BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

**MAY 24, 2007**

A Regular meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library, 630 West Fifth Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071, convening at 11:05 a.m. on the above-written date.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	PRESIDENT	ROBERT 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; Patricia Kiefer, Asst. City Librarian; Shannon Lawrence, Policy Analyst, Mayor's Office; Adrienne Khorasanee, Deputy City Attorney; Roy Stone, President, Librarian's Guild; and staff.

### MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 5/10/07

MOVED by Commissioner Rios-Parra, seconded by Commissioner Mendoza and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular meeting held May 10, 2007 be approved as submitted.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS

WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION: NONE

### CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORTS

MOVED by Commissioner Rios-Parra, seconded by Vice President Wieder and unanimously carried that the following resolution be adopted:

Recommended Approval of Submission of Grant Application

Discussion was held on the LSTA Grant application for a new online homework assistance service and questions were raised about the provisions of the grant. The City Librarian advised that students would be able to go on-line and receive one on one tutoring. The program would have an evaluation and measurement component and notification of grant award should be forthcoming by mid-June.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2007-26

WHEREAS Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants are available from the California State Library to support the implementation of online homework assistance services through public libraries in the State:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the submission of an application to the State Library for an LSTA grant of \$50,000 to be used as partial funding for a new online homework assistance service to children and teenagers; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the grant proposal be forwarded to the Mayor and City Council for their information and approval.

ORAL REPORT RE  
TEEN PROGRAMS

(On May 10, 2007, Commissioner Walters requested a report on teen programs and the impact they have on gang intervention and prevention.)

The City Librarian stated that Albert Johnson, Senior Librarian, Young Adult Services, would be presenting the report on teen programs as they relate to the Mayor's new initiative in terms of gang prevention and alternative programs for young people in the City of Los Angeles.

Albert Johnson reported that Young Adult Librarians serve all schools within their service areas including LAUSD Middle, High, Alternative and Continuation Schools as well as Charter, Parochial, Private and Restricted Schools. Mr. Johnson presented an overview of the following programs and services available to young adults at all community branch libraries:

- Materials Resources
- Teen Volunteers
- Teen After School Enrichment Programs
- Teen Councils/Teen Consultants
- Teen Spaces in Libraries
- Student Smart Program
- Annual Teen Summer Reading Program
- Partner with Local Community Teen Oriented Groups

### **Board Discussion**

Commissioner Walters asked Mr. Johnson to elaborate on the effectiveness of the programs and services as tools for gang intervention and prevention and whether they were in keeping with the Mayor's anti-gang efforts. Further, she requested that he speak on teen participation and outreach activities, especially in those areas with a higher concentration of gangs, and whether feedback from participants was available.

Mr. Johnson said that the resources available do provide alternatives to gang participation and are relative to what the Mayor is trying to accomplish. To cite one example, he spoke of the Student Smart Program, a series of workshops designed to assist teens with developing stronger study habits, test taking and providing study tips for the new SAT exam. He noted that attendance and participation statistics as well as feedback from teens and parents would be obtainable at the end of the program cycle. With respect to participation and outreach activities, Mr. Johnson advised that teens from all levels are encouraged to participate. Outreach efforts are targeted by use of flyers, media coverage and visits to schools by Young Adult Librarians on a regular basis.

Commissioner Rios-Parra asked what other marketing strategies are in place to reach parents and students who may not be aware of the Student Smart Program. Mr. Johnson responded that Young Adult Librarians work with schools counselors and are encouraged to visit community youth service providers, organizations and local churches. Additionally, many of the materials are bilingual.

Following an inquiry from Vice President Wieder about the level of participation from community colleges at local libraries, Mr. Johnson commented that a more comprehensive approach can be developed to access resources from community colleges.

In the discussion that ensued, President Chick and Commissioner Mendoza requested that, at the end of the program cycle, data be provided to the Board on the number of participants, the library facility being used and the originating institutional affiliation of the student in the Student Smart Program.

Mr. Johnson concluded his presentation by stating that without the cooperation and support of Library Administration and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles these dynamic teen programs would not be possible.

Commissioner Walters thanked Mr. Johnson for his critical work with young people especially for those that are disenfranchised.

#### ORAL REPORT RE GENEALOGY SERVICES

The City Librarian introduced Michael Kirley, genealogy subject specialist in the History and Genealogy Department. She said his presentation would be centered on the special collection and services at the Central Library and branches.

Mr. Kirley reported that the Los Angeles Public Library has the largest genealogy collection on the west coast. He spoke of the contributions of Orra E. Monnette, President of the Board of Library Commissioners in the 1920's at the time the new Central Library was being constructed and subsequently dedicated. Mr. Monnette was also a genealogist who bequeathed his personal library, including books that he had written and personal papers, to the library after his death.

The following is an overview of the present and future collections strengths as presented by Mr. Kirley:

#### Collections Strengths

- Local histories
- County histories
- City Directories
- Immigration records
- Manuals and How-To Books
- Heraldry
- Personal Names
- Military Records
- Vital Records
- Census Records
- Newspapers
- Periodicals

Future Collection Strengths

- Los Angeles Street Address Directories Online
- Los Angeles City Directories Online
- Family History Index Online

President Chick stated that the collection of the Los Angeles Public Library is an incredible resource for reading and research needs not only for residents of the City of Angeles but for visitors from all over the world. He thanked Mr. Kirley for highlighting this extraordinary service.

ORAL REPORT: UPDATE ON HYDE PARK  
MIRIAM MATTHEWS BRANCH LIBRARY

Cecilia Riddle, Director of Branches, reported that Security Officers from the Office of Public Safety have been stationed three to four times a week at the Hyde Park Branch during peak service hours. Ms. Riddle said that schools in the vicinity have agreed to forward a letter to the parents from the Library Department informing them about the many resources available through the public library, communicating the standard of acceptable behavior while in the library, and encouraging them to pick up their children on time. Ms. Riddle concluded by stating that library staff will be proactive in communicating with school personnel should anything out of the ordinary arise.

Commissioner Rios-Parra suggested that library personnel contact the local school district superintendent so they could be supportive of the Principals in this endeavor.

ORAL UPDATE RE MAYOR'S 2007/2008  
BUDGET FOR THE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

The City Librarian reported that on Monday, May 21, the City Council approved the Mayor's 2007-08 Budget with revisions. She stated that she was pleased that the Budget and Finance Committee responded to the Library's presentation on the need for new books and information resources by restoring an additional \$1 million to the Library Materials budget. It is anticipated that the revised budget will be adopted by the Mayor and the entire Council.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Westchester-Loyola Village Branch Library

The City Librarian stated that the Board of Library Commissioners had received a recommendation from Councilman Bill Rosendahl, including several accompanying letters of endorsement, requesting that a room in the Westchester-Loyola Village Branch Library be named in honor of Mary Lou Crockett. Ms. Crockett was an outstanding civic leader and a member of the Airport and Library Commissions. In accordance with Board Policy, the recommendation has been posted on the Library’s website and at the branch facility to facilitate community input

Mid-Valley Branch Library

The President acknowledged a May 16, 2007 complaint letter concerning the Mid-Valley Branch. The City Librarian stated that Branch Library Services is following up.

Literacy Awards Dinner

The President thanked the Mayor for attending the LAPL Awards Dinner held May 17 and congratulated Tony Kushner, Nancy Harahan and AT&T on being honored. He said this major fundraiser was a resounding success due to the large number of generous supporters.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert A. Chick  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gladys L. Senac  
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be Approved:

June 28, 2007

This is a true copy: