

# MINUTES

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

**FEBRUARY 26, 2009**

A Regular meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Echo Park Branch Library, 1410 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026, convening at 11:05 a.m. on the above-written date.

**PRESENT:** PRESIDENT TYREE WIEDER  
COMMISSIONER ROBERT A. CHICK  
COMMISSIONER RITA WALTERS

**EXCUSED**  
**ABSENT:** VICE PRESIDENT JULIE A. MENDOZA

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kris Morita, Interim City Librarian; Patricia Kiefer, Assistant City Librarian; Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney; Jacki Wagner, CAO Analyst; Friends of the Silver Lake Library; Friends of the Cypress Park Branch Library; Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council; Roy Stone, President, Librarian's Guild; and staff.

### MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 2/12/09

MOVED by Commissioner Chick, seconded by Commissioner Walters and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting held February 12, 2009, be approved as submitted.

### REMARKS BY THE NORTHEAST AREA MANAGER AND THE ECHO PARK SENIOR BRANCH LIBRARIAN

#### Northeast Area Manager

Sylvia Galan-Garcia, Northeast Area Manager, welcomed the Board to the Echo Park Branch and the Northeast region. She said since the Echo Park Branch opened eleven years ago response from the public has been outstanding. She spoke of the facility's special features indicating the slatted walls facilitate the marketing of materials.

Ms. Galan-Garcia reported increased circulation at all twelve branches in the region, which serve a diverse clientele. She stated their hard-working, dedicated staff has been carrying out the goals of the Library's Strategic Plan by continuing to actively reach out to students and maintaining dynamic, innovative

programming at all levels. Highlights of programs/services include book clubs, art workshops presented by LACMA, Young Adult Teen Councils, literacy centers at Echo Park, Benjamin Franklin, Lincoln Heights, and Robert Louis Stevenson Branches, two Early Learning with Families Programs, and popular computer classes including classes in Spanish and Chinese. Staff is looking to develop computer programs for job inquiries, creating resumes and facilitating access to the Employment Development Department, which would be especially helpful during this economic crisis. Additionally, two topics addressed were schools participating in the Mayor's Partnership for LA Schools and Northeast area multilingual librarians assisting at public events. Lastly, Ms. Galan-Garcia acknowledged generous donor support from the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, the Neighborhood Councils and Library Friends groups for making these programs possible.

#### Senior Branch Librarian

Lisa Palombi, Senior Branch Librarian, remarked that the Library Department has been serving the Echo Park neighborhood for over 100 years. She mentioned the Branch's special assets including the new Adult Literacy Center, the Early Learning with Families pilot project, the refurbished children's section, and the popular computer lab, which is extensively used by students needing assistance with homework through an online program called Live Homework Help.

Ms. Palombi reported they have been working diligently toward reaching the goals of the Strategic Plan with their biggest effort dedicated toward increasing literacy. She emphasized staff is not only embracing literacy in its traditional sense in terms of books but through other means such as with use of computers, through art programs, and embracing the community's native languages by presenting many of the programs bilingually. Popular literacy programs for young children include Storytime, which was taped by KCET for the children's program called *A Place of Our Own* to be aired in April 2009, and Read to Me LA, which focuses on 4-5 year olds getting ready for kindergarten.

The Senior Librarian informed the Board they offer referrals for parents needing social services and partner with other community agencies so they can cross promote their services and are aware of available resources for their population.

In conclusion, she introduced her staff who were present: Karla Valdez, Children's Librarian, Nadine Flores, Adult Librarian, and Guadalupe Perez-Cocolan, Clerk Typist.

President Wieder indicated she is aware librarians work closely with local schools and asked whether different outreach efforts were in place for the Mayor's Partnership Schools. The Interim City Librarian stated because these are low-performing schools, outreach efforts have intensified including meeting regularly with school personnel and providing special programs for the students.

The President commended Mmes. Galan-Garcia and Palombi for taking the initiative to understand the needs of the community and then providing services to complement those needs. She applauded staff for thinking ahead and trying to develop a program that will assist patrons with job-hunting issues and navigating the Employment Development Department which can be overwhelming. She said the idea of partnership with other organizations is also very important so that resources can be maximized.

**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)

Ida Talalia, member of the Echo Park Trash Abatement Project and Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council, said using the Echo Park Branch Library has been a fabulous experience. She has attended a mural forum, participated in a first-rate LACMA art program and observed a wonderful instructor teaching a computer class. Ms. Talalia emphasized that programs and services that the community can see and experience in a tangible form must remain no matter what because they really help in a way that is intangible. For instance, she explained, an individual might be losing a job and might not be able to put certain foods in front of his family, but if you can bring the family and enjoy something for free that is top of the line in quality it does something for you. Ms. Talalia supports the library and urged the Board to fight for more funding.

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The President extended thanks to Ms. Talalia for her appreciation of the Los Angeles Public Library.

(2)

Lisa Baca, Chief Information Officer of the Greater Echo Park Elysian Neighborhood Council, acknowledged Sylvia Galan-Garcia, Lisa Palombi, Judy Donovan, Senior Librarian at Edendale Branch and their staff for their efforts in reaching out to them. She said a budget is being currently developed that will come before their Neighborhood Council to possibly support teen programs, the ELF program or assist with supplies. She did indicate there might be a 10% reduction in their budget for the next fiscal year. Ms. Baca spoke of Los Dias de Los Muertos event held in October 2008 at the Echo Park Branch where persons from diverse cultures shared stories of family members who had passed away. She informed the Board she is part of a new friends group named the Echo Park Library Community group, and they will be up and running soon with their first book sale this summer. Lastly, Ms. Baca wanted to go on record that they appreciate the Board's support and love the Edendale and Echo Park Branch Libraries.

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President Wieder thanked Ms. Baca for her volunteer work with the community libraries and Neighborhood Council. She pointed out collaboration between Neighborhood Councils and community libraries make a difference in terms of spirit of community cooperativeness.

(3)

Alexia Teran, President of the Cypress Park Branch Library and member of the Cypress Park Neighborhood Council, said she is happy to be here and is an avid supporter of literacy. She referenced her public comments at the July 2007 Board meeting in the Cypress Park Branch wherein she asked permission that two benches, bike racks with safety mechanisms, and a large mat be placed in front of the facility with funding provided by the local Neighborhood Council. She indicated permission was only given for a beautiful new mat in the entrance, which has been installed. Ms. Teran again reiterated the same request. She said bike racks are needed because children place bikes in the front entrance, and she is concerned about an accident occurring. Also, families will use benches. Ms. Teran emphasized she is hoping for approval soon because of the length of time it takes to receive payment from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and upcoming budget constraints.

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The Interim City Librarian directed staff to work with Ms. Teran.

CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

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

Recommended Acceptance of GiftLIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-11 (C-6)

WHEREAS, Lynn Libby Hawkins was a member of the Friends of the Memorial Branch Library. She served as President of the Friends from 1997-1998; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hawkins passed away on December 11, 2008, leaving the Los Angeles Public Library Memorial Branch Library a bequest in the amount of \$35,526.60 from her estate:

RESOLVED that the gift of \$35,526.60 to the Los Angeles Public Library Memorial Branch Library be accepted from the estate of the late Lynn Libby Hawkins and deposited into Library Trust Fund 831, Account No. 264 "Estate Lynn Libby Hawkins – Memorial Library"; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that a letter of thanks be sent to the family of Ms. Hawkins and executor of the estate, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners for the generous gift.

Recommended Approval of One Year  
Extension to the Audio Visual Services ContractLIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-12 (C-7)

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2005, the Board of Library Commissioners approved Agreement No. 737 between the City of Los Angeles Library Department and Russell Pyle to provide Audio Visual Services for the period of June 27, 2006-June 26, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Library Department requests to amend Contract No. 737 to extend the Agreement for one (1) year; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Library's Contractual Services Account to cover the services:

Board Resolution  
No. 2009-12 (C-7)

RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the Amendment to Contract No. 737 for Audio Visual Services by Russell Pyle to be extended for one (1) year, from June 27, 2009 through June 26, 2010, subject to any technical changes by the City Attorney and the Interim City Librarian prior to execution.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Library Commissioners is authorized to execute the Contract amendment upon receipt of the required approvals.

Recommended Approval of One-year  
Extension to the Special Event Services Contract

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-13 (C-8)

WHEREAS, on February 16, 2006, the Board of Library Commissioners approved Agreement No. 738 between the City of Los Angeles Library Department and Debra Dendrinis, Attention to Detail, to provide Special Events Coordination Services for the period of July 13, 2006-July 12, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Library Department requests to amend Contract No. 738 to extend the Agreement for one (1) year; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Library's Contractual Services Account to cover for the services:

RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the Amendment to Contract No. 738 for Special Events Coordination Services provided by Debra Dendrinis to be extended for one (1) year, from July 13, 2009 through July 12, 2010, subject to technical changes by the City Attorney and the Interim City Librarian prior to execution.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Library Commissioners is authorized to execute the Contract extension upon receipt of the required approvals.

RECOMMENDED FINAL APPROVAL OF  
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE  
SILVER LAKE BRANCH LIBRARY ART PROJECT

Juliana Cheng, Director of Facilities, reported that in December 2008, the Board approved the conceptual design development plan for the art project at the new Silver Lake Branch by artist Christina Ulke. At that time, the Board asked the artist to work with the Friends of Silver Lake Library (FOSLL) to modify the list of quotes. Ms. Cheng thanked the members of FOSLL for not only putting the artist's request for assistance on their website but spending many hours of their own time doing research. Ms. Cheng said the final list of quotes is a culmination of all the different voices. Thereafter, she acknowledged the presence of Michael Saint-Onge, Maryann Kuk and Cynthia Jackson from FOSLL, Barry Milofsky, architect for the project, and Felicia Filer and Dee McMillin from Cultural Affairs.

Christina Ulke, artist, thanked the Friends and said the amount of quotes they came up within a very short time was impressive. Thereafter, she reviewed all the quotes which are to be located in five areas of the branch.

**Public Comments**

Michael Saint-Onge, President of FOSLL, voiced the Friends' commitment to the Silver Lake Branch Library indicating FOSLL has been around for three years and the library has not even opened yet. He thanked the artist for her passion and vision of selecting quotes from movers and shakers in the Silver Lake and surrounding areas. Mr. Saint-Onge said the artist did a wonderful job of representing the diversity of the community, and the whole process was made that much better with community involvement. He stated they wholeheartedly support this art project.

Commissioner Walters remarked that the modified quotes are much better and more appropriate noting that some of the people featured previously are still represented but with different quotes from their work. She advised Cultural Affairs use this model of community participation for all future public art projects. She thanked the community, staff and the artist.

MOVED by Commissioner Chick, seconded by Commissioner Walters and unanimously carried that the following resolution be adopted:

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-14 (C-9)

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2008, the Board of Library Commissioners approved the Conceptual Design Plan of the public art project for the new Silver Lake Branch Library; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Commissioners requested Christina Ulke, the artist, to work with the Friends of the Silver Lake Library (FOSLL) and to submit the final list of quotations to the Board for review and approval:

RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the Design Development (Final) Plans for the Public Art Project by artist Christina Ulke for the new Silver Lake Branch Library.

STATUS REPORT ON FY 2009-2010 BUDGET

The Interim City Librarian reported that currently the Mayor and CAO are working on finalizing the FY 2009-2010 budget. The budget deficit is projected to be approximately \$432 million and is due to declining revenues in all areas (the fallout from the housing market, the credit crunch, declining sales tax revenues, and unprecedented number of foreclosures which will affect the property tax collection accounting for nearly a third of the City's receipts). Ms. Morita commented that during the last two weeks, the Mayor and CAO have held internal budget hearings with all city departments to discuss budget reduction packages with each department submitting either a 6% or 9% reduction package. She advised the City is looking for all possible sources of revenues and are preparing applications to apply for various federal stimulus programs. By Charter, the Mayor must release the budget by April 20, 2009.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MATTERS PENDING

President Wieder presented the following announcements:

Election Day

The President encouraged citizens to vote on Tuesday, March 3, 2009.

Commissioner Vacancy

Ms. Ana E. Cubas has withdrawn her name as a nominee for Library Commissioner. The Mayor should be announcing another appointment within 45 days.

New City Librarian

The selection for a City Librarian is still in process. We are hopeful the Mayor will be making his selection within the next couple of weeks.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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

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Tyree Wieder  
President

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Gladys L. Senac  
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be approved:

March 12, 2009