

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

APRIL 16, 2009

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 11:04 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT: VICE PRESIDENT JULIE A. MENDOZA
COMMISSIONER ROBERT A. CHICK
COMMISSIONER MARSHA HIRANO-NAKANISHI
COMMISSIONER RITA WALTERS

EXCUSED

ABSENT: PRESIDENT TYREE WIEDER

ALSO PRESENT: Kris Morita, Interim City Librarian; Patricia Kiefer, Assistant City Librarian; Deputy City Attorney Basia Jankowski; Verdel Flores, Vice President, Librarian's Guild; and staff.

WELCOME - NEW COMMISSIONER

The Vice President and members of the Board welcomed Dr. Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, who was formerly a member of the Commission for Children, Youth and their Families and currently serves as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Research and Resources at the California State University Office of the Chancellor. Dr. Hirano-Nakanishi was confirmed by the City Council on April 8, 2009.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 3/26/09

MOVED by Commissioner Chick, seconded by Commissioner Walters, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting held March 26, 2009, be approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS

WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION: NONE

CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

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

Recommended Acceptance of GiftsLIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-16

RESOLVED that the following gifts of materials to the John C. Fremont Branch Library be accepted:

- 32 interior and exterior book stack signs, 8 area hanging signs, and 3 exterior signs, for a total value of \$9,977.44, and
- Book shelving for the Young Adult Picture Book Area, valued at \$4,935.34; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that a thank you letter be sent to the Friends of the John C. Fremont Branch expressing the appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for the gifts.

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LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-17 (C-11)

RESOLVED that the following gift in the mount of \$2,000 for the Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library Young Adult Materials collection be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that thank you letters be sent to World Wrestling Entertainment, Mattel Philanthropy Programs & Children's Foundation, and the Young Adult Library Services Association acknowledging this donation.

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LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-18

RESOLVED that the following gifts of materials to the North Hollywood Regional Branch Library be accepted:

- Window shades, valued at \$1,099.19, for the Meeting Room doors, and
- Six Buckstaff Tribune arm chairs, valued at \$4,324.99 for the Reading Room public seating area; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that a thank you letter be sent to the Friends of the North Hollywood Branch Library expressing the appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for the gifts.

Recommended Approval of LSTA
Grant Application for First Source Project

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-19

WHEREAS, Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grants are available from the California State Library to support technology innovation and resource sharing among all types of libraries for Fiscal Year 2009/2010:

RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the submission of an application to the California State Library for an LSTA grant in the amount of \$313,500 for the continuation of the First Source Virtual Project.

ORAL PRESENTATION: ART, MUSIC,
AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Anne Connor Central Library Director, introduced Sheila Nash, Senior Librarian, and Emma Roberts, Adult Librarian III, who would be presenting a report on resources in the Art, Music and Recreation Department.

Sheila Nash spoke of the value of the collection and staff expertise in subject areas pointing out that employees in the Art, Music and Recreation Department hold degrees in Art History, Music, Film Theory, Studio Arts, etc, which is a great benefit when providing consultation to patrons. She said Virginia Loe, Manager of the Art Department as well as the Fiction and Literature Department and DWP Library has a degree in Music and was a Librarian and Subject Specialist in Art for nine years. Ms. Nash stated the subject areas cover a wide range of topics that are of interest to a large percentage of the public, indicating they include the following:

- Art History
- Landscaping and Gardening
- Three Dimensional Art such as Sculpture, Jewelry, Coins
- Drawing
- Comics
- Graphic Novels
- Graphic Design
- Crafts
- Fashion and Costume

- Interior Decoration and Furniture
- Painting and Artists
- Photography
- Films and Filmmaking
- Scores and Books about Music and Musicians
- Recreation – Film, Dance, Circus, Puppetry, Rodeo, Carnivals, Board and Card Games and Sports

Ms. Nash advised that one of the strongest areas in both size and demand is the Music Books and Orchestral Scores. Many music and song requests are received at the reference desk, and the large collection of orchestral scores are used by over 300 community orchestras in Southern California, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Additionally, the sheet music collection is one of the premiere collections frequently used for statewide reference.

Emma Roberts spoke about the types of questions handled in the Department and presented samples of materials from the over 21,000 cataloged items that reside in Rare Books. During her presentation, she mentioned staff participates in outreach efforts with schools such as the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and Otis College of Art and Design and also called attention to collaborative ventures with other institutions and local libraries.

Board Discussion

Vice President Mendoza emphasized the importance of increasing awareness of these valuable resources to both young people and teachers. Commissioner Hirano-Nakanishi indicated a list of factoids highlighting the unique collection would be a valuable tool.

The Board was informed by the Central Library Director that the public can access these resources through the library's web page. Furthermore, the City of Los Angeles' Cable TV Station Channel 35 is in the process of finalizing a show on the library's special collections which will include the sheet music collection.

ORAL PRESENTATION: CONDUCTING EVACUATION DRILLS AT ALL BRANCH LIBRARIES

Ruby Turner, Assistant Business Manager, reported that the library participates in the City's Building Emergency Education Program, which stipulates in part that "all city facilities with 10 or more City employees have basic fire/life safety

training, set up a safe refuge area and have at least one practice evacuation drill per year". Ms. Turner stated all floors of the Central Library were completely cleared and secured within 19 minutes in the evacuation drill held August 14, 2008. She advised the library does not schedule evacuation drills during public service hours because to do so would interrupt computer sessions that patrons often must reserve days in advance.

Ms. Turner said in April 2008, the Business Office distributed and conducted training for each branch library following guidelines of the library's Branch Emergency Instructions Manual, which includes instructions for evacuating the branches for drills as well as fire, earthquakes, tsunamis near coastal areas, etc. In 2008, staff in all branch libraries either conducted a drill or evacuated their building in response to alarm activations.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Walters, Ms. Turner stated because most branches are one-story buildings they are cleared in three to four minutes during an evacuation.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING:

Breakfast for Friends Groups

A breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 for the Los Angeles Public Library's Friends groups to thank them for their support throughout the year.

Retirement Announcements

The Interim City Librarian announced that Georgette Todd, Coordinator of Young Adult Services, and Ruby Turner, Assistant Business Manager, two of the most experienced, dedicated and talented staff, are retiring the end of April and May, respectively. Ms. Todd is the Library Department's recipient of the Career Service Award for 2009.

Upcoming Board Meeting

The Vice President announced that the next meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners would be held Wednesday, April 29, 2009 at the Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch Library.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

Julie A. Mendoza
Vice President

Gladys L. Senac
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be approved:

April 29, 2009