

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

APRIL 29, 2009

A Regular meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch Library, 694 South Oxford Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90005, convening at 11:04 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT: PRESIDENT TYREE WIEDER
VICE PRESIDENT JULIE A. MENDOZA
COMMISSIONER ROBERT A. CHICK
COMMISSIONER RITA WALTERS

EXCUSED
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER HIRANO-NAKANISHI

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

REMARKS BY THE HOLLYWOOD AREA MANAGER AND THE PIO PICO-KOREATOWN BRANCH LIBRARIAN

Hollywood Area Manager

Edris Newton, Hollywood Area Manager, reported the area was bounded geographically by Atwater Village on the North, Fairfax on the West, Pico Union on the East and Washington Irving on the South and consisted of 13 branches. She said patrons enjoy a myriad of resources and activities including art programs presented by LACMA, literary centers, teen counsels, Grandparents and Books Program, Early Learning with Families (ELF) Program in selected branches, and outreach to public, private, charter and local pre-schools. In conclusion, she thanked the Friends groups for their strong, active support of the libraries in the Hollywood Area.

Senior Branch Librarian

Myungcha Lim, Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch Senior Librarian, stated the Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch is one of the busiest libraries in the system and is a gateway for visitors from many countries. She advised that a large Korean and

Latino population enjoy the very popular English conversation classes offered at the branch. Ms. Lim mentioned some of the ongoing activities such as adult computer comfort classes, health and education seminars, teen councils and volunteer opportunities for young adults. The children programs include Read to Me LA, Storytime and enhanced services through the ELF Program. Lastly, she commented families in the community greatly appreciate the resources provided by the library.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Walters inquired about the Federal criteria for the ELF program and how the branches were selected for participation. She indicated the Memorial and Washington Irving Branches would be good choices for inclusion in the program because of the large number of children in those surrounding communities. The Interim City Librarian stated she would provide a report thereon to the Board.

Vice President Mendoza pointed out that during a fiscal crisis some might argue that computer classes should only be taught in adult schools. She asked staff for their thoughts. Ms. Newton emphasized that libraries are family-generated entities indicating a parent can attend a computer comfort class while at the same time their child can read books or participate in other library-sponsored activities.

On behalf of the Board, President Wieder thanked Mmes. Newton and Lim for their informative report and for hosting the meeting.

(TAKEN OUT OF ORDER)

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 4/16/09

MOVED by Commissioner Chick, seconded by Commissioner Walters and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting held April 16, 2009, be approved as submitted.

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)

David Berry'an, concerned citizen and engineer, of Berryan Enterprises Corporation, presented an unsolicited proposal to the Board that he said would solve some of the library's computer-related problems, as well as loss of books, etc.

The Board referred said proposal to management.

(2)

Mark Choi, President of the Friends of the Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch for the last six years, noted that the branch has been consistently ranked number one in circulation. Ironically, he remarked, not many people know about library outside of the immediate community, and the Friends group has taken the challenge to make the public more aware of its existence. Proposals raised by Mr. Choi and feedback in italicized are listed below:

Donation Recognition Wall

Asking to designate wall space(s) to recognize donors thereby encouraging contributions and making the public more aware of the library.

Formal proposal needs to be developed by the Friends, and they should work with staff in connection therewith. Proposal requires Board approval.

Structure Modification for Signage

Requesting approval to install metal rings to tie ropes for banners and announcements for special library events. Friends will provide funds and manpower.

Referred to staff.

Branch Name

Proposing to change the name of the branch to Koreatown Branch. Mr. Choi stated many people confuse the Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch with the Pico Union Branch, and staff receives consistent complaints from patrons who have made computer reservations thinking that it was one branch and not the other.

Commissioner Walters stated the name of this branch is a historical issue. The Pio Pico Branch was built on Olympic Boulevard in the mid-1960's and now is located on Oxford Avenue. Pio Pico was very revered as the last Latino Governor of the State of California. The Commissioner said during the time of the branch move from Olympic to Oxford there was a great deal of discussion about the name, and the final decision was that Koreatown would be added after Pio Pico.

Surveillance System

Requesting installation of surveillance system that can record security incidents. The Friends will raise funds.

Referred to the Business Office and the Office of Public Safety.

* * *

President Wieder requested an update from staff within 30-60 days on what follow up has taken place. She indicated the Friends would be advised when items are placed on the Agenda.

In addition, the President thanked Mr. Choi for his years of service and willingness to volunteer his time. She said it's citizens like him and the members of the Friends who assist in making LAPL a wonderful institution. Mr. Choi responded it was a pleasure and thereafter acknowledged his Board Members who were present.

(3)

Mr. Richard Shih referenced the LAPL Strategic Plan (Plan) during his presentation of the following requests:

1. Requesting security camera system installation. He stated this issue was originally raised by a Korean daily newspaper and agreed upon by many residents of this community he contacted.
Plan - Page 10, Appendix V-15
2. Asking that a place in the branch be designated to display an ethnic heritage collection with a name board included. Mr. Shih indicated they have a Korean heritage collection which was donated by Alumnae Assoc. of a Korean Gyunggi Girls High School in Los Angeles.
Plan - Page 17, Appendix 1-2 and Appendix II-10

3. Requesting that an open space on the second floor of the branch be used for public community events
Plan - Appendix 1-2 and Appendix V-12
4. Asking that Korean language be added to search for books stored at the Los Angeles Public Library
Plan - Appendix V-19
5. Proposing that the Friends of the Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch website be linked to Central Library

* * *

The President thanked Mr. Shih for attending the Board meeting and presenting his requests. She suggested that he work with management especially in regard to the special heritage collection as there are policies and procedures in place.

Vice President Mendoza posed questions on the policy dealing with heritage collections. Further, the Vice President stated the Friends group might want to keep in mind how they want the collection preserved or presented if that was a priority for them. The Interim City Librarian stated she would present a review of the policy to the Board at a later date.

CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

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

Recommended Transfer of Funds

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-20 (C-12)

WHEREAS the Department of General Services provides security services to the Library Foundation of Los Angeles for all Foundation activities and special events on an as needed basis, subject to reimbursement of all costs; and

WHEREAS on April 21, 2009, the Library Department received and deposited a check for \$2,754 from the Library Foundation for security services for the 2008 calendar year:

Board Resolution (Cont.)
No. 2009-20 (C-12)

RESOLVED, That \$2,754 be transferred from the Library Trust Fund 831, Account 112, to the Department of General Services, Fund 100, Department 40, Appropriation Account 1070, Salaries As Needed.

RECOMMENDED RECEIVE AND
FILE REPORT ON MAYOR'S FISCAL
YEAR BUDGET 2009/2010

Interim City Librarian Kris Morita reported that due to the unprecedented deficit of \$530 million, Fiscal Year 2009/2010 looks grim. She said the Mayor's proposed budget provides funding to continue existing service hours at the Central Library and at all 72 branches, including the Silver Lake Branch. Although the Library's overall operating budget shows an increase of \$3.5 million, these funds are earmarked for utilities, building maintenance, security, custodial, natural gas and fuel and fleet services. Furthermore, due to the budget deficit the book budget is being decreased by 19%.

Ms. Morita stated the salary accounts of all City Departments have been decreased by 10% and for the Library Department that equates to \$6.4 million. This amount represents the equivalent of 115 positions and will have a significant impact on public service. She said 25 vacant positions have been deleted due to the City's fiscal constraints, which is in addition to the 115 positions. The Interim City Librarian informed the Board that because discussions are ongoing between the City and the unions, it is unknown how the reductions will be made: through work furloughs, early retirement or layoffs. The Council's Budget and Finance Committee is scheduled to consider the Library Department's budget tomorrow, April 30.

Commissioner Chick expressed concern about the impact reduction of library materials would have on patrons, noting it becomes more critical that the library effectively buy books that will be used by the public. He inquired if there is a need to purchase multiple copies of the same fiction book. The Commissioner asked that staff look at a system for effectively buying books and requested information on the percentage of fiction versus non-fiction books and whether the library had a method to assess patron usage of fiction books. Ms. Morita responded she would report back.

The Vice President also noted the bleak reality that the book budget is going to be reduced dramatically. She requested that discussions be held and suggestions considered relative book budget revenue generating proposals. The President stated she would work with staff to come up with a timeframe.

Public Comments

Roy Stone, speaking on his own behalf, addressed Commissioner Chick's concern about why multiple copies of the same book are selected. He stated as a Senior Librarian he very carefully looks through materials that are available for selection. If a material is popular, multiple purchases of the same book are chosen so patrons do not have to be on a hold list for too long. When scanning material, he has seen the same book checked out as many as 23 times since they received it. He emphasized they are very careful with their purchases because funds are limited.

Mr. Stone, speaking as President of the Librarian's Guild, stated the budget is very grim. He said they will continue to speak out when issues arise with custodial service, security problems, etc. He advised the Guild would be present during City Council budget hearings. In addition, Mr. Stone emphasized they are working diligently to come up with a union aspect for early retirement because they want a good balance of not having all the new people laid off and not losing all the experienced personnel. He indicated the union is going to support management again this year.

BOARD ACTION

The Board received and filed the Mayor's proposed 2009/2010 Fiscal Year Budget.

PRESENTATION:**JOB HUNTING GUIDE WEBSITE**

The Interim City Librarian reported the new Job Hunting Guide has more than 200 employment-related Web sites and resources to help the unemployed search for jobs. She introduced Richard Kraus, Librarian III in the Business and Economics Department, who was instrumental in compiling the information with the assistance from the librarians in Business and Economics, Social Sciences, InfoNow, and Information Technologies. Final editing and formatting of the presentation was done by Barbara Haywood, Executive Assistant, Matthew Mattson, Webmaster, and Peter Persic, Director of Public Relations and Marketing.

Richard Krauss stated the LAPL Job Hunting Guide's goal is to better serve patrons in tough economic times, inform library staff of resources and help City employees facing possible layoffs. He noted that the California's unemployment rate during March 2009 was at 11.2 percent. Mr. Krauss said this collaboration is LAPL at its best bringing together the various talents, skills, experience, and responsibilities of many.

The Job Hunting Guide, which can be found at the Library's web site under "What's New", is divided into five chapters and provides valuable information about:

- Coping with Unemployment, Financial and Health Care Issues
- Where to look for Jobs
- Exploring Career Opportunities, Education and Training
- Researching Potential Employers
- Interviewing, Resumes, Cover Letters, Exams, Dress for Success, etc.

The President thanked Mr. Krauss for providing a Job Hunting Guide for our citizens in these challenging economic times.

COMMISSIONERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND MATTERS PENDING

Donations of Chinese-Language Books

The Los Angeles Public Library will accept a donation of more than 600 Chinese language books valued at \$20,000 from the China Zhigong Party and the Ameson Education and Culture Exchange Foundation on Thursday, April 30, 2009, at the Chinatown Branch Library.

Material Drop Policy

Commissioner Chick requested a report regarding a uniform policy when library materials, including books, DVD's, etc., are considered overdue at drop boxes.

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

ATTEST: _____

Tyree Wieder
President

Gladys L. Senac
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be approved:
May 14, 2009