

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

MAY 28, 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 11:00 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT:	PRESIDENT	TYREE WIEDER
	COMMISSIONER	ROBERT A. CHICK
	COMMISSIONER	MARSHA HIRANO-NAKANISHI
	COMMISSIONER	RITA WALTERS

EXCUSED

ABSENT:	VICE PRESIDENT	JULIE A. MENDOZA
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ALSO PRESENT: Kris Morita, Interim City Librarian; Patricia Kiefer, Assistant City Librarian; Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney; Roy Stone, President, Librarians' Guild; and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 5/14/09

MOVED by Commissioner Hirano-Nakanishi, seconded by Commissioner Chick, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting held May 14, 2009, be approved.

**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. 2009-24 (C-16)

RESOLVED, That the following contributions to the “Hot of the Press” program for 2009/2010 be accepted from the following donors:

\$6,000 From the Friends of the Westwood Library

\$3,000 From the Friends of the John C. Fremont Branch,
Library Association

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

Recommended Transfer of ProceedsLIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-25 (C-17)

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2005, the Board of Library Commissioners approved the sale of old Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library as surplus property located at 3685 S. Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, 90007, located in Council District 8; and

WHEREAS, on May 23, 2008, the City Council approved the purchase the old Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library by the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA):

RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the transfer of proceeds in the amount of \$3,298,025 from the sale of the old Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library, from the Library Trust Fund 831, within the Library’s Fiscal Year 2008/2009 Budget into the following accounts:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>
\$1,698,025	Library’s Revenue Account, Fund 300, Department 44, Account 4540
\$1,600,000	1998 Library Bond Program

Recommended Approval to Amend Contract
No. 736 for Maintenance of Compact Shelving

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-26 (C-18)

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2005, the Board of Library Commissioners approved an agreement between the Library Department and White Systems, Inc. (Contract No. 736) for the period of June 14, 2006 through June 13, 2009, for the maintenance of the compact shelving at Central Library; and

WHEREAS, the Library Department requests to amend Contract No. 736 to extend the Agreement for one (1) year; and

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

RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the amendment to Contract No. 736 with White Systems, Inc. to be extended for one (1) year, from June 14, 2009 to June 13, 2010, subject to technical changes by the City Attorney and the Interim City Librarian prior to execution; and

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 ACCEPTANCE OF A CENTENNIAL
CLOCK FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF LOS ANGELES

Interim City Librarian Kris Morita reported that as part of their Centennial celebration, the Rotary Club of Los Angeles is donating a free-standing, four-face post clock to the Los Angeles Public Library to be installed in Maguire Gardens. She advised Maguire Properties is in concurrence. The Rotary Club will incur all costs associated with the installation and maintenance thereafter.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Walters stated she has serious problems with installation of anything that is not of a vegetative nature in Maguire Gardens because there is very little green space available for the public. She said there should be a more appropriate location for the clock than a public ground that is used by school-age children, the business community and families.

Commissioner Chick expressed concern about the process for recommending approval with no policy in place and its implication for future decisions. He proposed that before any decision is reached about what to place in Maguire Gardens, a policy should be established so that consideration can be based on policy rather than individual requests.

David Bland, Centennial President for the Rotary Club of Los Angeles, stated he embarked on this request over a year ago. He said the donation of the clock commemorates the Rotary's 100 years of community service. Mr. Bland pointed out that the Rotary Club is a significant partner to the City, the library, County, and many organizations in downtown Los Angeles. In addition, Mr. Bland indicated that some of the projects they are involved with include the L.A. Marathon, Reading by 9, programs at Debs Park, their work with schools such as Tenth Street Elementary and Rotary House, a homeless service center in downtown Los Angeles.

Commissioners Walters and Chick thanked the Rotary Club for their many years of service. The Commissioners informed Mr. Bland that the Board has historically been very careful about making decisions on issues in connection with their public buildings or public grounds that would last for a long time. They articulated their concern that installation of the clock may set a precedent to install other items in Maguire Gardens.

Responding to a question from the President about ownership of Maguire Gardens, the Business Manager stated Maguire Properties, Inc. owns the property but the Los Angeles Public Library has a perpetual public easement as long as a library operates in this location.

BOARD ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Chick, seconded by Commissioner Walters and unanimously approved that the report be tabled and referred back to staff. Further, that staff develop a policy for the use of space in Maguire Gardens.

ORAL REPORT: SECURITY UPDATE

Chief David Aguirre, Office of Public Safety, stated that incident reports from 72 branches are reviewed daily with the Business Office, and he assigns officers as needed to adjust to specific incidents. He indicated some of the types of calls received by OPS include patrons wandering in unauthorized areas, graffiti and arguments regarding use of library computers. The Chief said the OPS Library Section completed training with the LAPL Archangel Unit on Security Officer Terrorism Awareness, and they plan to train Senior Librarians on handling adverse situations.

Indicating it would be valuable to have a deeper understanding of security issues, President Wieder requested incident reports for an approximate three-month period at a future meeting.

Commissioner Walters, the Board's representative on the Office of Public Safety Oversight Committee, stated the Department of General Services provides reports for the city departments it oversees with respect to security, and the library's data is very promising in comparison therewith. Chief Aguirre concurred noting the majority of incidents are nuisance related.

The Interim City Librarian added they can share security reports that happen in all city departments overseen by OPS to view a representative sample of security-related occurrences.

Public Hearing

Roy Stone, President of the Librarians' Guild, stated security issues fluctuate. He spoke of the importance of the Board reviewing the incident reports and advised that the Commissioners should request a detailed report of any events of interest after a summary is received. Referencing a newspaper article, Mr. Stone said the Central Library had the highest theft rate of personal property than any location in central Los Angeles last year. He added that at the Central Library and branch libraries, such as the Goldwyn Hollywood Regional and Will and Ariel Durant Branches, there are a variety of other serious security problems as well.

Mr. Stone pointed out OPS officers respond quickly. However, if they are not nearby, librarians do what they can to help keep the public and staff safe while they wait for assistance. If there is no law to enforce security issues, Mr. Stone remarked, many times officers will say they can't do anything about a situation. Lastly, he mentioned the new non-trespassing ordinance has helped and training of security and library personnel is also very important.

The Commissioners spoke about patrons being vigilant when they bring personal property into the library and how signs placed at work tables asking visitors to please watch their belongings is helpful.

Further, President Wieder encouraged the development of a close-working relationship of branch libraries with their local law enforcement agency such as the case with the West Valley Regional Branch.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS
AND REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING

Book Budget Revenue Generating Ideas (Matters Pending)

The Interim City Librarian referred to the letter she sent inviting members of the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee or their representative to the Library Commission meeting on June 11, 2009. At this meeting the gold card concept will be revisited, which was a suggestion brought forth by the Councilmembers at the May 20, 2009 Committee meeting.

Library Awards Dinner

Ms. Morita congratulated the Library Foundation of Los Angeles on the tremendous success of the Library Awards Dinner held May 27, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

ATTEST: _____

Tyree Wieder
President

Gladys L. Senac
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be approved:

June 11, 2009