

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

JUNE 11, 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
VICE PRESIDENT JULIE A. MENDOZA
COMMISSIONER RITA WALTERS

EXCUSED
ABSENT: COMMISSIONER ROBERT A. CHICK
COMMISSIONER MARSHA HIRANO-NAKANISHI

ALSO PRESENT: Kris Morita, Interim City Librarian; Patricia Kiefer, Assistant City Librarian; Councilmember Tom LaBonge; Jennifer Rivera, Legislative Deputy to Councilmember Janice Hahn; Shannon Lawrence, Mayor's Office; Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney; Jaki Wagner, CAO's Office; Roy Stone, President, Librarians' Guild; and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 5/28/09

MOVED by Vice President Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Walters, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting held May 28, 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 Vice President Mendoza and unanimously carried that the following resolutions be adopted:

Recommended Acceptance of GiftsLIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-27 (C-19)

RESOLVED that the following contributions to the "Hot of the Press" program for 2009/2010 be accepted:

\$3,000 From the Friends of the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library

\$3,000 From the Friends of the Palms-Rancho Park Library

FURTHER RESOLVED that thank you letters be sent to the Friends expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners for the generous financial contribution to the Los Angeles Public Library.

Recommended Approval of
General Manager's Expense AccountLIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-28 (C-20)

RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners hereby authorizes the City Librarian or designee to receive an advance or be reimbursed for miscellaneous business-related expenditures such as business luncheons, taxi fares, parking fees, etc., in an amount not to exceed \$3,500 for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that said amount be encumbered in the Office and Administrative Expense Account No. 6010, Library Fund No. 300.

Recommended Approval of
Trust Fund Status ReportLIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-29 (C-21)

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Commissioners approves the establishment of trust accounts as non-budgetary funds and donations become available to the Library:

RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the attached report on the status and planned expenditures of the various accounts in Library Trust Fund No. 831, dated June 5, 2009.

Recommended Change in the
Non-Resident Library Card Fee

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-30 (C-22)

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2009, the California State Library informed the Library Department that the California Library Services Act (CLSA), Section 18731, stipulates that public libraries participating in the Universal Borrowing Program may not charge lending fees to residents of any California jurisdiction maintaining a public library:

RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners affirm Los Angeles Public Library's participation in the State of California Universal Borrowing Program; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners rescind the non-resident library card fee for patrons residing within the State of California.

OUT OF ORDER

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF THE FINAL
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT OF THE PUBLIC ART
PROJECT FOR THE PLAYA VISTA BRANCH LIBRARY

Julianna Cheng, Director of Library Facilities, reported that the Plaza Vista Branch Library opened five years ago and was built as part of the 1998 Bond Program. She said for a variety of reasons the original public art project was not able to be completed. Since the Playa Vista Branch has no public art project, a selection panel was convened and Anne Marie Karlsen was selected as the artist.

Anne Marie Karlsen, artist and resident of the area for 25 years, stated her artwork was inspired by the physical location of the library and the history of Playa del Rey/Westchester communities. The proposal, titled "Flyway", calls for two teal-colored art glass windows to be installed in the entrance lobby and children's room. Both glass images of a Swallow and a Snowy Egret are photomontages of the plants and animals from the Ballona Wetlands juxtaposed with images from the Howard Hughes Airport (once located on the Playa Vista development site) and local aviation history as well as historic photos of the surrounding communities. She said the artwork can be read like a book and visitors will be engaged in a process of exploration and discovery.

The Vice President joined Commissioner Walters in complimenting Ms. Karlsen for incorporating the history of the area into her work.

The President requested that there be information available about the images in the glass windows as that would provide a wonderful learning tool for the children visiting the library.

Thereafter, it was MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Vice President Mendoza and unanimously carried that the following resolution be adopted:

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-31 (C-23)

WHEREAS, the Playa Vista Branch Library is a 10,500 s.f. facility built as part of the 1998 Library Bond Program which opened on March 13, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the original public art project by Linda Kroff was approved by the Board of Library Commissioners on October 9, 2003. For a variety of reasons, the artist was not able to complete her project and the Department of Cultural Affairs terminated her contract in 2006. A new artist selection panel was convened from which Anne Marie Karlsen was selected by the Department of Cultural Affairs; and

WHEREAS, artist Anne Marie Karlsen proposes two tea-colored art glass windows to be installed in the entrance lobby and children's room. Both glass images of birds are photomontages of the plants and animals from the Ballona Wetlands juxtaposed with images from the Howard Hughes Airport and local aviation history as well as historic photos of the area. The 8'6" high and 8' wide window in the lobby features the image of a Swallow and an inspiring quote; and the 9' high and 2'6" wide side window in the children's room features a Snowy Egret, that will also be visible from the reading room; and

WHEREAS, the project was approved by the Department of Cultural Affairs on May 21, 2009 and funds are available from the 1998 Library Bond Program:

RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the Final Design Development Plans for the Public Art Project by artist Anne Marie Karlsen for the Playa Vista Branch Library.

RECOMMENDED ADOPTION OF
THE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010

Kyle Millager, Business Manager, reported that the Library's adopted FY 2009-10 budget is \$134,630,543, which consists of an operating budget of \$82,514,926 and \$52,115,617 in related costs. This represents a 4.4% increase in the operating budget. These increased funds are earmarked for utilities, building maintenance, security,

custodial, natural gas, and fuel and fleet services. Therefore, the budget moves \$11.7 million from General Services Department to the Library's operating budget to support these costs. It will be necessary to transfer these funds to the Department of General Services at regular intervals in the coming fiscal year.

Ms. Millager stated the proposed budget also includes continued funding to support equitable public service hours allowing the Central Library and 8 regional branch libraries to be open seven days, 60 hours/week and the 63 community branches to be open six days, 52 hours/week.

The Business Manager added that the Library materials budget has been reduced by \$1,605,846 (or 19%) from the current fiscal year and 25 vacant positions have been deleted due to the City's fiscal constraints. The Library also sustained a 10% Shared Sacrifice reduction to the salaries account in the amount of \$6.4 million. She said this deficit will be addressed through the implementation of a mandatory work furlough program to be discussed in detail in the next board item.

During the discussion, Commissioner Walters and President Wieder expressed concern that the Board Report on the Fiscal Year Budget for 2009/2010 did not incorporate closing of the Central Library and 71 branches for 26 days in connection with the work furlough days for full time civilian civil service employees.

The Interim City Librarian advised that the work furlough program is not finalized and offered to continue the item to the Board meeting on June 25.

BOARD ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Vice President Mendoza and approved by unanimous consent that the recommended adoption of the Library Department Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 be continued to the meeting of June 25, 2009.

RECOMMENDED APPROVAL OF ENHANCED
OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT LAPL

Interim City Librarian Kris Morita stated that at the January 30, 2009 meeting of the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee meeting, Councilmembers Tom LaBonge and Janice Hahn discussed the idea of implementing a "library gold card" as a method to solicit donations from the public. The gold card membership would provide discount benefits and/or borrower privileges for persons making donations to the Los Angeles Public Library. On March 12, 2009, the Board disapproved the gold card

concept expressing concern that the card presented a two-tier service and two cards might be confusing to the patrons. Following a meeting in March of the Arts Committee, the Council Committee members asked the Board to revisit the gold card proposal. She introduced Councilmember Tom LaBonge, who was present to speak on the item.

Councilmember Tom LaBonge, Fourth District, thanked the Board for their public service and commended Kris Morita on a wonderful job as Interim City Librarian. He said there has to be a reset in the economy because of the dark economic times and shrinking government dollars. The Councilmember stated public institutions such as the Los Angeles Public Library need public assistance in order to continue to be successful. He felt an important concept of the card, besides raising money, would be that the card makes a statement that the donor was supportive of the library. He does not, however, want a two-tier service but does feel we need to figure out a way for the public to be more supportive of our public institutions. He voiced support of the concept of "Bucks for Books", a pilot program proposed by library staff, and donations requested via the library's Web site. Councilmember LaBonge emphasized that if you ask, anything can happen!

President Wieder thanked the Councilmember for attending. She referenced issues raised relative to the gold card concept at the March 12, 2009 Board meeting including that it would create a two-tier membership, the library not having the opportunity to offer incentives the way some other institutions might be able to, and not having the manpower to solicit or implement fundraising since this function is a very specialized kind of activity. Additionally, she spoke of issues previously discussed concerning the inequality in the amount of money that branches are able to raise. The President underscored that there are people in the community who clearly are ready to help. She met a high school student who as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award was delivering 1,000 books to her local branch. The student picked this community service project because the library meant a great deal to her.

Councilmember LaBonge called attention to the importance that all neighborhoods should have the same equality. Moreover, he agreed that there should be a solid wall of separation for employees as far as fundraising, but he reiterated we do need to find a vehicle for the public to help public libraries.

Vice President Mendoza raised concerns about the reduction of \$1.6 million for the materials budget for next fiscal year. She said it is important to instill in young people the value and dignity of giving as a way to let them know the worth and importance of what they are receiving and that programs and services cost money to operate. She said LAUSD has 700,000 kids and if every child donated \$2 that would cover the deficit. The Vice President said she does not want to put the burden on the child but wants to find creative ways to get young people to give, for example a campaign about promoting more use of services with the message "you get tutoring for free, but consider giving back with \$1".

The Vice President likes the concept of the gold card. She concurs with Commissioner Walters that there should not be a dual system but believes in acknowledging a contribution with something concrete such as a gold seal or a sticker in recognition of their personal contribution. She supports adding donors' names to the virtual donor wall on the library Web site. Lastly, Vice President Mendoza called attention to the importance of getting people to understand that because of the reset what has been given to people historically, services and wonderful facilities, will no longer work with the system in place today.

Commissioner Walters extended greetings to Councilmember LaBonge and expressed her appreciation for his dedication in helping others and his enthusiasm about the City. The Commissioner said the idea of a card is not appropriate on several levels including creating a dual structure in the library system. She stated if people are going to give they don't need gold card or a card with a gold seal because it would be a differentiation in the library. Furthermore, now is not the time to start talking to the schools about every child donating money. The Commissioner pointed out there are a record number of school children enrolled in the free breakfast and lunch programs because their parents are out of work, there will be no summer school and school book budgets are being cut.

Commissioner Walters supports the recommendations that staff has proposed, indicating it is more fitting with the mission of the library. She said a quiet display of signage at the checkout or at the information desk about "Bucks for Books" is appropriate. In addition, people can view the virtual wall without having to visit the library, noting last year people visited the library's Web site more than 130 million times.

In response to the Councilmember's inquiry about donations via the library's Web site, Peter Persic, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, said to increase awareness of existing fundraising opportunities as well as whatever new form of giving becomes available a "Support the Library" graphic will be added to the rotating banner on the home page. Clicking on this graphic will take the viewer to a new "Support the Library" Web page, which lists and provides links to the many options for supporting the library. Staff is currently exploring an option that will allow people to use PayPal to make a donation directly online.

The President reiterated there is that population who use the library and would be more than willing to put in some dollars. In closing, she said it was imperative that staff work with the Foundation because they have their own on-going fundraising campaigns. It will have to be clearly outlined how we separate those two efforts and funding received.

Councilmember LaBonge concurred with the President that the people value the library very much. He asserted that any money donated should go directly to the library and steps should be taken so the library's budget base is always there regardless of the money raised. Commissioner Walters emphasized we should be very thoughtful in this fundraising process. She and President Wieder concurred that any money raised should not be used to supplant the government and tax base responsibility to fully fund the Los Angeles Public Library.

Public Comments

Jennifer Rivera, Legislative Deputy to Councilmember Janice Hahn, stated the Councilmember is very supportive of the gold card concept. She said individuals who participate in making a donation should receive some type of reward or recognition. She said any type of recognition on the library card, a different type of library card, or just a sticker would show the donor's support for the library.

President Wieder thanked Ms. Rivera for attending and asked her to express the Board's appreciation to Councilmember Hahn for her consideration of the library.

* * *

After further discussion, the Councilman requested that this item be continued indicating he would like to work with the Chief Legislative Analyst and return with a recommendation that would incorporate Councilmember Hahn's ideas and the Board's suggestions.

* * *

Roy Stone, President of the Librarian's Guild, stated he does agree this issue needs to be thoughtfully discussed. He would like to see a local committee set up by the Interim City Librarian, which would include librarians, a union representative and other people she chooses. Mr. Stone pointed out that while there may be 130 million hits on the library's Web site, those are not 130 million different people. It would be a smaller amount of real dollars.

The Councilman said a representative from the Guild would be good and that a working group would be established.

BOARD ACTION:

Moved by Councilmember Walters, seconded by Vice President Mendoza and unanimously approved to continue the item.

RECOMMENDED RECEIVE AND FILE
REPORT RE IMPLEMENTATION OF
MANDATORY WORK FURLOUGH PROGRAM

Interim City Librarian Morita reported that to help address the \$529 million shortfall in the FY 2009-10 Budget, most City Departments sustained a 10% reduction in their salary accounts; for the library that equates to a deficit of \$6.4 million. Starting July 1, 2009 there will be a minimum deficit of \$205,000 each pay period and from January 1 through June 30, 2009 there will be a deficit of \$350,000 each pay period.

Ms. Morita advised that the Mayor and City Council approved an Emergency Resolution and Reduced Work Schedule Ordinance that provides for the implementation of 26 furlough days. The CAO indicated that to the extent feasible most City Departments (excluding proprietary Departments) would be closed for business on the second and fourth Friday of each month. The Library Department will follow this recommendation because it relies on services by other city departments such as the General Services Department who provide custodial, security, and building maintenance, and the Information Technology Agency who is responsible for Citywide telecommunications issues. Additionally, during the last twelve months library staff has been conducting patron user surveys, which show the lowest number of people visited the library on Friday.

In conclusion, Ms. Morita stated operationally, Library Administration is working on a multitude of issues including the adjustment of staff schedules, notifying the public of the change in service hours through the media, library Web site, flyers and new signage, changing due dates for books and other library materials, etc. Although the 72 library facilities will be closed on the days indicated above, the public can still obtain a variety of services through the 24/7 Web site at www.lapl.org.

President Wieder said she supports the concept of being consistent with all library facilities closing on the same day so there will be less confusion for the public.

Thereafter it was MOVED by Vice President Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Walters and unanimously carried that the following resolution be received and filed:

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-32 (C-24)

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council approved an Emergency Resolution and reduced work schedule ordinance that provides for the implementation of 26 furlough days for full-time civil service civilian employees during Fiscal Year 2009-10; and

Board Resolution (Cont.)
No. 2009-32 (C-24)

WHEREAS, all full time employees shall be placed on a work schedule of nine-8 hour days (72 hours per pay period) for the term of the work furlough program. The 1982 City Council policy on alternative work schedule has been rescinded; and

WHEREAS, all City departments (excluding proprietary Departments) will be closed for business on the second and fourth Friday of each month; including the Central Library and its 71 branch libraries:

July 10, 2009	November 13, 2009	March 26, 2010
July 24, 2009	November 25, 2009	April 9, 2010
August 14, 2009	December 11, 2009	April 23, 2010
August 28, 2009	December 24, 2009	April 30, 2010*
September 11, 2009	January 8, 2010	May 14, 2010
September 25, 2009	January 22, 2010	May 28, 2010
October 9, 2009	February 12, 2010	June 11, 2010
October 23, 2009	February 26, 2010	June 25, 2010
October 30, 2010*	March 12, 2010	

*Additional furlough days

RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners receive and file the report on the implementation of the Mandatory Work Furlough Program.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS
AND REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING

City Controller Audit

It was announced that the City Controller released the audit for the Library Department. Ms. Morita indicated the response by the Library Department would be scheduled for the Board meeting of June 25, 2009.

New Assistant Business Manager

The Interim City Librarian introduced Eloisa Sarao who will be assuming the responsibilities and duties as the Assistant Business Manager due to the recent retirement of Ruby Turner.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ATTEST: _____

Tyree Wieder
President

Gladys L. Senac
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be approved:

June 25, 2009