

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

JULY 30, 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 11:05 a.m. on the above-written date.

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

EXCUSED

ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: Martin J. Gomez, City Librarian; Kris Morita, Asst. General Manager; Patricia Kiefer, Assistant City Librarian; Dov Lesel, City Attorney's Office; Jaki Wagner, CAO's Office; Roy Stone, President, Librarians' Guild; and staff.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2009-2010

MOVED by Commissioner Chick, seconded by Commissioner Hirano-Nakanishi and unanimously carried that Tyree Wieder and Julie A. Mendoza be re-elected President and Vice President, respectively, for Fiscal Year 2009/2010.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 7/16/09

MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Commissioner Chick, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting held July 16, 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 resolution be adopted:

Recommended Transfer of FundsLIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2009-43 (C-33)

WHEREAS, Martín J. Gómez was confirmed by the City Council on June 24, 2009, as the permanent City Librarian for the Los Angeles Public Library:

RESOLVED that Board of Library Commissioners hereby authorizes Martín J. Gómez to sign documents as the City Librarian.

Recommended Receive and File
2009/2010 Organization Chart

BOARD ACTION:

Unanimously adopted a motion to receive and file the Library Department's Organization Chart for Fiscal Year 2009/2010.

ORAL STATUS REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES

City Librarian Gomez introduced the new President of the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, John F. Cooke. Mr. Gomez said they are very pleased to have Mr. Cooke at the helm of the Library Foundation since he has been integral to its success as one of the founding members in the early 1990's and Chairman of the Library Foundation Board for four years. Mr. Cooke is a 30-year veteran of the media industry and most recently was President and Chief Executive Officer of the investment firm, Western Territories Group, LLC. Previously, he was Executive Vice President for External Affairs at the J. Paul Getty Trust and Senior Executive at the Walt Disney Company. The City Librarian indicated John Cooke has served on several boards including the American Film Institute, the U.S.C. Annenberg School for Communication, U.C.L.A. School of Public Affairs, Skirball Cultural Center and the St. John Health Center Foundation.

Mr. John Cooke said it was a pleasure to come before the Board in his capacity as President of the Library Foundation. He reported that since assuming this new position April 2, he streamlined operations achieving an organization that is lean, organized and well run. The Foundation was facing a deficit but now has positive cash flow for Fiscal Year ending June 30. In addition, he emphasized, for FY 2009/2010 they have created a budget which is positive and very conservative taking into account the difficulty of raising money in the economic downturn.

Highlighting collaborative efforts with City Librarian Gomez and Assistant General Manager Morita, Mr. Cooke spoke of the following areas identified as top funding priorities for the citizens of Los Angeles: children and teens, technology and adult literacy, with a small portion for the ALOUD Program which is a signature event for the Library Department. Lastly, John Cooke spoke of revenue generating opportunities such as the Literacy Feast Dinners, membership renewals and the Annual Awards Dinner, which he indicated would be held in the City of Los Angeles next year.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Walters congratulated Mr. Cooke on the ground he has made up and stated she looks forward to more positive reports. She inquired about the amount of the deficit, the source of funds for the turn around to a positive cash flow, and what impact the stock market decline has had on their endowment funds.

Mr. Cooke responded that potentially as of April 1 there would have been a deficit of \$412,000. The turn around was in large part due to more revenue generated from the Awards Dinner than expected, successful membership drives and cutting expenses. Additionally, the damage to the fund is approximately 25%, which they hope will rebound over the course of time.

President Wieder echoed Mr. Cooke's comments that the categories of children and teens, technology and adult literacy are important to the library and those priorities are mentioned in the 2007-2010 Strategic Plan as well. She indicated staff has been working on activities to reach the Plan's goals including adult literacy, which is an important issue for the Mayor. The President said these priorities are set from the ground up by library staff in working with the needs of their individual communities. While those needs are unique, she commented, they are collective and those categories apply across the board.

Commissioner Chick thanked John Cooke for providing assistance to the library on a pro-bono basis. He said he and President Wieder attended the Quarterly Board Meeting of the Library Foundation, and under John's leadership there has been a change in the Foundation's financial reorganization, financial statements and information

flow. The Commissioner spoke of a new era in terms of information between the Foundation and this Board. He suggested a small plaque in the Library would be fitting to commemorate John Cooke's extraordinary service during this period.

Commissioner Hirano-Nakanishi joined the Board in thanking the President of the Foundation. She complimented Mr. Cooke on the amazing Annual Awards Dinner recently held.

President Wieder stated Mr. Cooke's willingness to work on his own time with the Foundation was a labor of love and is deeply appreciated. She asserted now it's more important than ever for the Commission, the Library staff and the Foundation to work together because of the difficult economic times. In conclusion, the President said citizens always communicate to the Commissioners the important role their local libraries play in their lives.

Mr. Cooke underscored that their focus is about the needs of the Los Angeles Public Library and enhancing the quality of life for the citizens of Los Angeles.

**RECOMMENDED RECEIVE AND FILE
INFORMATIONAL REPORT RE
CULTURAL HERITAGE COLLECTION**

Cecilia Riddle, Director of Branches, stated that at the April 29, 2009 Board Meeting at the Pio Pico Koreatown Branch Library, Vice President Mendoza inquired whether an ethnic heritage collection policy existed. Ms Riddle reported that while there is no such policy in place, requests to establish heritage collections are based on the general criteria as stipulated in Board Policy 1:340, Material Selection Policy, for selecting material including but not limited to significance and value to the collection, suitability of subject and style for the intended audience, space limitations and funding availability. Ms. Riddle noted the authority and selection responsibility is vested in the City Librarian and delegated to professional staff.

Vice President Mendoza said the lack of a cultural heritage collection policy is problematic only from the donor perspective and it puts the burden on the City Librarian. She indicated several years ago a donation of historical documents from El Salvador was donated as a collection to the Pico Union Branch Library because of the large concentration of persons of Salvadorian descent living in that area. She said there was no unveiling of the documents, and thereafter learned from the City Librarian that the collection was not preserved as intended, split and distributed systemwide.

During the discussion, City Librarian Gomez clarified that this issue might be more relevant to the gift acceptance policy rather than a cultural heritage collection policy, insofar as there are pertinent questions in connection with the Gift Policy such as under what terms do we accept a gift, would we be able to maintain it, and whether there would be ongoing support for the collection.

Vice President Mendoza concurred with the City Librarian. She indicated it is very important to notify the donor what the Library intends to do with the gift, including the capacity to absorb the gift and where it is to be allotted so the donor can then make an informed decision whether that is acceptable.

BOARD ACTION:

Moved by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Commissioner Hirano-Nakanishi and unanimously carried that the informational report on the cultural heritage collection be received and filed.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cancellation of Meeting

The President announced that the August 13, 2009 Board meeting is cancelled due to lack of a quorum. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled on Thursday, August 27, 2009, at the Central Library convening at 11:00 a.m.

New Exhibit

The City Librarian invited the Commissioners and public view the "Karsh 100: A Biography in Images" Exhibition which is on display in the Central Library's First Floor Galleries, now through January 23, 2010. Mr. Karsh is best known for the fine art of photographic portraits of national and international dignitaries

Vacation

The City Librarian announced he will be on a previously approved vacation and conference travel from August 3 – August 26, 2009 and noted that the Assistant General Manager will be in charge from August 3 – August 16 and Assistant City Librarian from August 17 – August 26.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

ATTEST: _____

Tyree Wieder
President

Gladys L. Senac
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be approved:

August 27, 2009