

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

APRIL 26, 2012

A Regular meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Pico Union Branch Library, 1030 South Alvarado Street, Los Angeles, CA 90006, convening at 11:00 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT: PRESIDENT TYREE WIEDER
COMMISSIONER EDUARDO TINOCO
COMMISSIONER RITA WALTERS

EXCUSED

ABSENT: VICE PRESIDENT MARSHA HIRANO-NAKANISHI
COMMISSIONER PAULA MADISON

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Kent, Interim City Librarian; Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager; Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney; Kenneth S. Brecher, President, Library Foundation of Los Angeles; Roy Stone, President, Librarians' Guild; and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 3/22/2012

MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Commissioner Tinoco and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the regular meeting held March 22, 2012, be approved as submitted.

REMARKS BY THE HOLLYWOOD AREA MANAGER
AND THE PICO UNION SENIOR BRANCH LIBRARIAN

Hollywood Area Manager

Ruth Seid, Hollywood Area Manager, presented an overview of activities, services and programs at branches throughout the Region. Highlights include the very popular children's and family art classes provided by LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art), architecture lecture series at the Los Feliz Branch, quilting groups at the Fairfax and Washington Irving Branches, and the Bark! program at John C. Fremont Branch where one Saturday a month children can sign up for a 15-minute session to read to a live dog.

Ms. Seid indicated the Hollywood Area is home to Koreatown, where there are more Korean residents than any place outside of Korea. In addition, the Pio Pico Koreatown Branch Library serves this community and has the largest Korean materials collection in the Region.

Senior Branch Librarian

Kathleen Ellison, Pico Union Branch Senior Librarian, stated the Library is frequently used and appreciated by the community. She commented that the Pico Union Branch is the fifth-busiest Library in the Hollywood Region, indicating this densely populated area of the City had been critically underserved until the Branch opened in 2004.

Ms. Ellison said patrons make optimum use of library services and programs such as LACMA Youth and Kids Art Classes, computer workstations, homework center located in the Teen Room, and the Spanish and Korean materials' collection. Lastly, Ms. Ellison underscored that this beautiful Library provides a place for those who, for economic, demographic or language reasons need assistance in improving their lives in Los Angeles.

The Senior Branch Librarian acknowledged Mark Lovasz, Pico Union Adult Literacy Coordinator, and Pamela Karol, Long-Distance Learning English-language tutor from Belmont Adult School who were present.

Mr. Lovasz stated he started out as a tutor at the Pico Union Branch three years ago and is now the Adult Literacy Coordinator. The Branch presently has 15 tutors and 40 students (75% Hispanic, 25% Korean). Mr. Lovasz said this free resource is highly valued by the community.

Ms. Karol indicated she has enrolled 65 students for the Long-Distance Learning English tutoring program. She stated the students take home an excellent DVD educational program, and once a week she provides tutoring on a one-to-one basis at the Branch. She said many of the students have families, may work two full time jobs and are not able to attend classroom-based formal education.

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President Wieder thanked Mr. Lovasz and Ms. Karol for sharing their experiences. She said these individuals are passionate about what they do and is pleased they are able to work with our patrons.

Commissioner Walters advised that LAUSD adult school services are in jeopardy of being eliminated. The Commissioner stated she has been involved in trying to make sure adult school services continue to be available for our communities because those type of resources, as mentioned above, cannot be accessed any place else. She encouraged the public to communicate with the LAUSD School Board or Superintendent to voice their concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS
WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION:

(1)

Alicia Ann Randolph, Librarian II since 2011 at West Los Angeles Regional Branch Library, requested permission to make a presentation and submit a report at the next Board of Library Commissioners' meeting on the Second Civil Rights Movement in the Age of Information Apartheid and Color-Blind Racism. She stated her education afforded her the opportunity to be able to develop ethnographic research methodology skills, which she has been able to apply in her work at LAPL over the last twelve years. She said her report would better help facilitate the dissemination of information to undeserved population.

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On behalf of the Board, President Wieder requested that Ms. Randolph meet with the Assistant General Manager or a member of her staff relative to her proposal.

(2)

Roy Stone, President of the Librarian's Guild, asked the Commissioners to pay close attention and request any reports about a plan by the Mayor and City Administrative Officer (CAO) that has been moving forward concerning the consolidation of the Office of Public Safety (OPS), which is presently part of the Department of General Services, into the Los Angeles Police Department. He said they are very concerned about what the consolidation might do for Security staff response time because the Library Department relies on getting Security officers to come out and assist when they need them. Mr. Stone stated they want OPS dedicated to providing security for the departments they now serve, which includes the Library Department.

In addition, he cited concerns that the Los Angeles Public Library will be lost in the Police Department, and there is no reason to centralize this service into a big bureaucracy. Another concern, he remarked, is the possible termination of OPS personnel who do not meet LAPD requirements. Mr. Stone said there is no assurance that this is a good workable plan that is going to save the City any money, and they personally believe the reason for this proposal is that the Mayor wants to end his term with the 10,000 police officers he promised. In conclusion, he stated Library management is dealing with this, but no meetings were held until the Mayor decided this proposal was moving forward.

The Assistant General Manager indicated the proposed consolidation was introduced as part of the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2012/2013 Budget and is scheduled to be considered by the full City Council in the next few months. In the meantime, she has asked for meetings with the Police Department. A report by the CAO related to this proposal was recently released.

The President asked that the CAO report be presented to the Board at the next meeting. Commissioner Walters requested that staff keep the Commissioners updated on issues as they develop.

CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORTS

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

Recommended Acceptance of Gifts

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2012-16

RESOLVED, that the gift consisting of 8 Huddle lounge chairs, including delivery and installation, valued at \$8,910.88, received from the Friends of the Mid-Valley Regional Library for donation to the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a letter of appreciation be sent to the donor expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for their generous donation.

Recommended Transfer of Funds

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2012-17 (C-13)

WHEREAS, a transfer of funds is necessary to ensure that sufficient resources are available for the remainder of this fiscal year to employ substitutes; and

WHEREAS, the Library Department utilizes substitute librarians, clerks and other staff to fill-in for regular staff who are unable to report to work due to illness, vacation, jury duty or other reasons:

RESOLVED, that \$47,000 be transferred from Account 1010 Salaries-General to Account 1070, Salaries As-Needed within the Library's Fiscal Year 2011-12 Budget, Fund 300, Department 44.

ORAL REPORT RE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012/2013

Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager, reported that the Mayor released his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13 on April 20, 2012. The proposed budget closes an estimated \$238 million General Fund deficit through operational efficiencies, revenue maximization efforts, and expenditure cuts, including the reduction of the Citywide workforce by 669 civilian positions, 231 of which are layoffs. In addition, his budget also establishes a \$211 million Reserve Fund, the largest reserve set aside since 2002.

Ms. Morita indicated the Library Department continues the terms of Measure L, the Charter Amendment approved by voters in 2011, to restore library services to 2009 levels over a period of four years. The proposed budget provides 49 positions to restore Monday and Wednesday evenings and Friday service hours at all 72 branches. This adds 8.5 service hours to each of the branches and 5 hours a week to the Central Library adding 22,000 service hours for the 2012 /13 Fiscal Year. The new schedule commences in October because only nine months funding have been allocated.

Further, Ms. Morita said the Mayor's budget provides personnel funding for: Building a Digital Library, Human Resources Office, Accounting Division, Shipping Division and the Strategic Plan; also included is funding for the projects in the Alterations and Improvement Requests. As previously mentioned, the Mayor's budget package incorporates the consolidation of OPS into LAPD.

In response to Commissioner Walters' question on whether Library staff that had been laid off would get first priority in hiring, Assistant General Manager Morita answered that out of the 24 full time civil service personnel who were laid off, 12 have been hired and 11 rejected their offer. The one left will be offered a job in the fall.

During the discussion, it was pointed out that 64 full-time equivalent exempt employees were laid off, and under the Civil Service provision of the City Charter these employees do not have property interest to their position. Commissioner Walters urged Ms. Morita to conduct outreach efforts so these employees are aware of available positions. Ms. Morita stated they would do that.

Assistant General Manager Morita commended Kyle Millager, Business Manager, on preparing an excellent budget that was easily understood.

RECOMMENDED RECEIVE AND FILE
MTA REGIONAL CONNECTOR PROJECT UPDATE

Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager, advised the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority has issued an Environmental Impact Report on the Regional Connector Project, which is being slated for approval at a Board meeting today. Library staff is monitoring the meeting. She pointed out the Regional Connector is a 1.9 fully underground light rail transit line that will connect the Metro Gold Line to the Metro Blue Line and the future Metro Expo Line.

Ms. Morita reported that the goal of this project is to improve transit travel time, reduce transfers, reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality and create a sustainable light rail transit system. The Regional Connector will directly link the 7th Street/Metro Center Station located at 7th and Figueroa Streets to the Metro Gold Line near Little Tokyo at 1st and Alameda Streets. The project includes new stations downtown and will allow continuous train operations between Long Beach and Montclair and from East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley to Santa Monica without the need to transfer.

Further, as part of the project, construction is slated for Flower Street between 5th and 6th Streets in front of the Central Library. It is possible that construction may close the main driveway off of Flower Street leading to the 24-hour West Lawn Garage and to the Central Library's loading dock. If the driveway is closed, it would dramatically impact our library delivery to all 73 libraries. Also, it is possible that construction may affect the sidewalk, hardscape and landscape of Maguire Gardens. She indicated they have sent a letter to MTA requesting certain mitigation measures such as that the main driveway off Flower street remain open during construction and that after construction is completed the hardscape, landscape and sidewalk be restored to original or better condition. She added a revised report from MTA staff to the MTA Board addresses the Library Department's concerns, and they are hoping the resolution receives approval.

President Wieder emphasized keeping the driveway open to the West Lawn garage is very important. She said staff should closely monitor this Project and keep the Board updated.

BOARD ACTION:

MOVED by Commissioner Tinoco, seconded by Commissioner Walters and unanimously carried that the informational report on the MTA Regional Connector Project be received and filed.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

Interim City Librarian

Kris Morita stated they are thrilled that the Mayor has appointed Susan Kent, former City Librarian (1996-2005), as Interim City Librarian.

Commissioner Walters welcomed Ms. Kent back to the Los Angeles Public Library. President Wieder said they are looking forward to working with her in this transition period while the search for the new City Librarian is underway.

Susan Kent stated her ten years as City Librarian of the Los Angeles Public Library were the best of her career. She stated this Library institution is the most outstanding from her viewpoint because LAPL staff provides the best services.

THEREAFTER, the Board noted and filed the Mayor's communication to the City Council appointing Susan Kent as Interim City Librarian.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS &
REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING**

Visits to Libraries

Commissioner Tinoco stated he enjoyed visiting the following branch facilities:

Chatsworth Branch Library; visited March 10

Robert Louis Stevenson Branch Library; visited March 15

Met staff: Robert Pineda-Silva – Cybernaut
Shirley Ly – the Children’s Librarian
Lupie Leyva – Senior Librarian

Arroyo Seco Branch Library; visited March 30

Met staff: Sylvia Galan-Garcia, Northeast Area Manager

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President Wieder said she understands Board meeting at branches were temporarily discontinued because of finances, but she hopes that can re-occur at some point because such meetings in the community are worthwhile.

Board Meetings in May 2012

The Assistant General Manager stated that the Board meetings scheduled for May would be held at branch sites because the Central Library Roof Project is still ongoing.

President Wieder asked that the pending item relative to the book support at the Sherman Oaks Branch be scheduled for the May 10th meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

ATTEST: _____

Tyree Wieder
President

Gladys L. Senac
Acting Board Executive Assistant

Date to be approved:
May 10, 2012