

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

January 24, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library, 630 West 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071, convening at 11:05 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT: PRESIDENT MARSHA HIRANO-NAKANISHI
 COMMISSIONER RITA WALTERS
 COMMISSIONER TYREE WIEDER

EXCUSED

ABSENT: VICE PRESIDENT PAULA MADISON
 COMMISSIONER EDUARDO TINOCO

ALSO PRESENT: Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager; Roy Stone, President, Librarians' Guild; Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney; and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 12/13/12 Regular Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Commissioner Wieder, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 13, 2012, be approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS

WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION: None.

**CITY LIBRARIAN'S COMMENTS
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Assistant General Manager Kris Morita reported the following:

L.A. Teen Author Reading Night series

The Central Library's Teen'Scape staff will be kicking off today the second year of the popular L.A. Teen Author Reading Night series. There will be readings and a question/answer session with four popular authors, Cecil Castelluci, Jeff Gottesfeld, Leslie Margolis, and Lauren Strasnick

Family Program: “We Shall Overcome”

On Saturday, January 26, the Central Library will be hosting a family program entitled, “*We Shall Overcome*,” starring musician and story teller Makinto, who will present a theatrical interactive show covering the history of African Americans from Africa through slavery, emancipation, civil rights movement through current times.

Citizenship Classes Update

Four new citizenship classes would be starting this month at the Panorama City, Wilshire, and Mid-Valley Regional Branch libraries. These classes are part of the Immigration and Integration Initiative to teach people about the process for obtaining citizenship. In December, over 2,000 people visited or called library staff for information on how to become a citizen.

New Hires Update

The Library has hired 20 new half-time librarians and has promoted 10 principal librarians. The appointments become effective on January 28, 2013. Also, the process has begun to promote 36 new senior librarians by the end of next month.

In response to Commissioner Walters’ question on whether any of the new hires had been previously employed by the Library, Michael Bolokowicz, Human Resources Director, replied that 11 of the 20 new librarians currently work in a different capacity for the Library as exempt as-needed employees either in messenger clerk or clerk typist positions. They were hired from the new certified list of librarians and they are now being moved from part-time as-needed positions into a half-time civil service benefited positions.

L. A. Times News Article on Libraries

Ms. Morita reported on a news article that appeared in the L.A. Times on January 22, 2013. The article, “No dead yet: Libraries still vital, Pew report finds,” discusses the release of a new report by the Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project that found that libraries are still vital even in the digital age. She said the 80-page report titled, “Library Services in the Digital Age” can be found in the Internet and hopes the report can be discussed at a future board meeting.

Strategic Plan Development Update

The process for the development of the new strategic plan has started. The consultant, MIG is currently conducting interviews and in February, they will be conducting several surveys to get input from the public, staff, and stakeholders. The surveys will be conducted online or in person. From the input received, they will start formulating goals, objectives and metrics. It is expected that the completed plan will be presented to the Board in May or June 2013.

CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORTS

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

Recommendation to Accept GiftsLIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2013-1 (C-1)

RESOLVED, that the gift in the amount of \$3,000 from the Friends of Studio City Branch Library for the "Hot Off The Press" Program at the Studio City Branch Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of appreciation be sent to the Friends of Studio City Branch Library expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for their generous donation.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2013-2 (C-2)

RESOLVED, that a gift in the amount of \$2,000 to purchase library materials for the Atwater Village Branch Library be accepted from the Friends of the Atwater Village Branch Library; and

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2013-3

RESOLVED, that a gift of books for the cookery collection totaling \$19,975 purchased by the Culinary Historians of Southern California be accepted and added to the collection of the Science, Technology & Patents Department of the Central Library; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a letter of thanks be sent to the Culinary Historians of Southern California expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the gift, which has augmented a vital part of the collection for the Central Library and the patrons of the Los Angeles Public Library.

Recommended Transfer of National Endowment for
Humanities (NEH) Grant and Gluck Endowment Funds

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2013-4 (C-3)

WHEREAS, the Library Foundation of Los Angeles administers the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant and the Gluck Endowment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the guidelines of the endowments and contractual agreement requirements, the Library Foundation is transferring earnings for Fiscal Year 2012-13 to the Library Department:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Library Commissioners approve the receipt of \$150,000 from the Library Foundation of Los Angeles (LFLA) to be deposited into Library Trust Fund Number 831, as indicated below:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
\$140,000	NEH Grant	Account Number 283, Humanities
\$ 10,000	Gluck Endowment	Account Number 285, Youth Services

Recommended Transfer of Salaries-As-Needed
And Mileage/Transportation Expense Funds

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2013-5 (C-4)

WHEREAS, a transfer of funds is necessary to ensure that sufficient resources are available for the remainder of this fiscal year to staff public service desks and posts to fill-in for vacancies or when staff members are sick, on jury duty or on vacation; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2012-2013, the Library restored Monday and Wednesday night service hours; but due to delays in hiring permanent staff, the Library has had to rely on substitute staffing; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles Administrative Code and labor/management MOUs mandate mileage reimbursements when employees are required to use their personal vehicle to conduct City business. A transfer of funds to the Transportation Expense Account is necessary to reimburse employees for this fiscal year:

RESOLVED, that \$1,225,000 be transferred from Account 1010 Salaries-General to the following accounts within the Library's Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget, Fund 300, Department 44 as indicated below:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
\$1,200,000	Acct. 1010, Salaries General	Acct. 1070, Salaries As-Needed
\$25,000	Acct. 1010, Salaries General	Acct. 3310, Mileage/Transportation

RECOMMENDATION TO RECEIVE AND FILE STATUS
UPDATE ON LIBRARY CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS

Assistant General Manager Kris Morita provided a report on the status of current Library contracts that included information on when contracts expired and when staff plans to submit new contracts/agreements to the Board for approval.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Wieder thanked Ms. Morita for the information provided because it will assist them in their goal to allow enough time for contracts to go through the approval process.

BOARD ACTION

MOVED by Commissioner Wieder, seconded by Commissioner Walters, and unanimously carried that the status update on Library contracts and agreements be received and filed.

ORAL PRESENTATION:
LAPL MAP COLLECTION

Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager, introduced Glen Creason, Adult Librarian II, Map Collection, who would make a presentation on the recent and largest acquisition of maps donated to the Los Angeles Public Library.

Presentation

Mr. Glen Creason displayed some travel maps from the Central Library's Map Collection and provided a very thorough presentation on the recent acquisition of several thousand maps donated to the Los Angeles Public Library. He stated that the addition of these maps has quadrupled the map collection in the Central Library, becoming one of the largest in the nation.

Mr. Creason stated that in October 2012, he received a call from Realtor Matthew Greenberg, who had found an extensive collection of maps in a Mount Washington property, where map collector John Feathers had lived for many years before his passing last year. Mr. Greenberg had been hired by the heirs to the property and had been instructed to throw everything away. He said Mr. Greenberg remembered that he had recently read an article in the L.A. Times about the Central Library's Map Collection and called him about donating the maps to the Library.

Mr. Creason showed pictures of a young John Feathers, who had collected all those maps since childhood, and also showed several photos taken at the property where maps were found throughout the house. He pointed out that the maps were in remarkable condition and included street guides and travel maps from all over the United States, other countries, and many historical treasures including a 1942 Jack Renie Street Guide of Los Angeles, and four of the first Thomas Brothers guides to mention a few.

Mr. Creason said that immediately after visiting the property, he obtained approval from City Librarian John Szabo to accept the donation. Mr. Szabo, who also was a map cataloguer earlier in his career, approved the acquisition. In all, 220 cardboard boxes were packed by a group of movers, library workers, and volunteers and transported to the Library. He mentioned that with the help of volunteers he has started organizing the maps that eventually will bear a Dewey Decimal System number.

Mr. Creason concluded his presentation by stating that he is very pleased that the acquisition of the maps has attracted a lot of media coverage and attention from the public to the Library, to the Map Collection, and to the History Department. He attributed the windfall to Mr. Greenberg, who made the right decision about the maps that will now be preserved for the public to enjoy and use them for research. He also mentioned that the Library invited Mr. Greenberg to discuss the maps' discovery at a recent rare books fundraiser at the Central Library, where he met several of John Feathers' friends who talked about the collector's life.

Board Discussion

Commissioner Walters asked Mr. Creason if he had found among the maps any hotel guides for African American travelers, because for many years African Americans were not welcomed at hotels and motels, and if they wanted to travel, they required one of those guides that included hotels, motels or individual homes that would welcome them.

Mr. Creason replied that the Social Science Department might have a few of those guides as part of their collection; although, his department has materials about Central Avenue because it was made a corridor when there were racial covenants and Alameda was the dividing line between South Gate and Watts.

Board President Hirano-Nakanishi asked how long it would take to archive the entire collection.

Mr. Creason responded that he would like to apply for a grant to catalogue the materials. He said that with help of volunteers he has been able get a rough sort of street guides. Currently, he has eight volunteers who would try to get them in order and do an inventory; from there, they would catalogue and possibly start digitizing some of them.

The Board President asked if some of the work that doesn't required a special skill could be done by service learning student volunteers from colleges.

Mr. Creason replied that in the beginning it could be done that way, but cataloguing has to be done at a professional level.

Commissioner Walters thanked Mr. Creason for his presentation and for sharing his wonderful experience.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS &
REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING

Board President Hirano-Nakanishi reported that she attended “The Dude & The Zen Master” program presented by ALOUD on January 10th at the Japanese American Cultural Center. She said it was a wonderful program.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

ATTEST: _____

Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be approved:
February 14, 2013