

# **MINUTES**

## **BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

**April 28, 2022**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held via teleconference at 11:03 a.m. on the above-written date.

**1. Roll Call:**

<b>Present:</b>	President	<b>Bích Ngọc Cao</b>
	Vice-President	<b>Kathryn Eidmann</b>
	Commissioner	<b>Dale Franzen</b>
	Commissioner	<b>Josefa Salinas</b>

<b>Absent:</b>	Commissioner	<b>Arianne Edmonds</b>
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**Also present via teleconference:** Kren Malone, Director of Central Library Services; Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney; Library staff and members of the public.

- 2. Opening Remarks:** Board President Cao welcomed everyone and noted that City Librarian John F. Szabo and Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman were attending the City Council Budget and Finance Committee Meeting; therefore, Kren Malone, Director of Central Library Services, would introduce the agenda items.

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

- a. Regular Meeting - January 27, 2022: APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Board President Cao to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 27, 2022. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao/Eidmann/Franzen/Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Edmonds).

- b. Regular Meeting - March 10, 2022: APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Commissioner Franzen to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 10, 2022. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao/Eidmann/Franzen/Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Edmonds).

- c. Special Meeting - April 5, 2022: APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Vice President Eidman to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on April 5, 2022. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao/Eidmann/Franzen/Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Edmonds).

**4. Public Comments on Matters**

**Within the Board's Jurisdiction:** The Board heard one general public comment.

**5. City Librarian's Comments**

**and Announcements:** None.

**6. City Librarian's Reports:****Consent Item(s)**

It was moved by Commissioner Franzen and seconded by Vice President Eidmann to approve Consent Items A and B. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao/Eidmann/Franzen/Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Edmonds).

**a. Approval of Findings to Continue**

**Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to AB 361:** APPROVED.

*(Public Hearing was held at the Regular Meeting of October 14, 2021.)*

Determination in accordance with AB 361 Section 3 (e)(3) that, while the state of emergency due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as originally proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020, remains active and/or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, this legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

**b. Acceptance of a gift from Epson of America**

**to Digitization & Special Collections:** APPROVED

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2022-15 (C-10)**

RESOLVED, That a gift to Digitization & Special Collections of the Los Angeles Public Library of three (3) scanners with a market price of \$4,747.00 by Epson America, be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to Epson America for their generous donation.

**Discussion Items****7. Oral Update from the Ad Hoc Committee**

**on Re-imagining Safety & Security**

Vice President Eidmann reported that the Mayor's Proposed Budget released on April 20 includes all the items approved by the Board for the Library Experience Office (LibEx), such as funding of the 12 new positions for the Community Services Representatives. She said the title of this position was originally called Library Experience Ambassador, with the idea to fund civilian positions to serve as liaisons and support for community members in order to transition away from a traditional law enforcement model and toward a supportive services model to address safety and

security at the Library. She noted that the Mayor's Office highlighted LibEx with the following statement, "Launched last year, the proposed budget expands the Library Experience Office and provides additional staffing to provide a more welcoming and safe library experience for patrons. The Library Experience Office engages with patrons who are in need of services, such as housing, mental health, primary care and substance abuse and develops training programs for library staff to enhance customer service, de-escalation and identifying social service needs." She stated that it was very exciting to be one of the featured programs in the budget.

Vice President Eidmann also reported that at its April 13th meeting, the Los Angeles City Council approved the salaries for the classification of Community Services Representative (CSR) Assistant and Community Services Representative (CSR) Trainee as part of the Bridge to Jobs Program. She said that the Personnel Department will start recruitment to build the candidate pool and the Library would assist with that recruitment through partners and contacts to start hiring July 1.

Vice President Eidmann also pointed out that they are also moving forward with the eligibility exam for the hiring of a social worker, which would begin this summer.

### **DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Salinas asked whether the staff that would be hired would have background on anger de-escalation situations or if they would receive training on how to handle those situations.

Vice President Eidmann replied that a four-week onboarding course would be provided, but staff could provide information on the actual length of the training.

Commissioner Salinas inquired about the assignment locations for the 12 new positions and whether this was all part of the Safety and Security Initiative.

Vice President Eidmann stated that the Bridge to Jobs Program hires folks from the local communities and provides them with opportunities for good and long term jobs with the city. She said the training that would be necessary in order to succeed in this program would be provided by the Library. She said these positions are part of the Library Experience Office and that the next committee report could include a discussion on the training.

Commissioner Franzen stated that the committee and staff had been working long and hard to get to the hiring of those positions and asked if in addition to the 12 positions, she could talk about the other things being implemented to get the whole picture.

Vice President Eidmann said that these are the first steps to shifting away from a traditional law enforcement model to a supportive social service model for addressing safety and security of patrons and staff in the library. The Library Experience Office was created and, within its umbrella, has a number of different positions, some of them are contracts with outside third party social services providers, and the use of the RFP process for mental health services, de escalation and social services providers and to provide training for staff; and the hiring of community services representatives to address and prevent safety issues in the library. She underscored that they are not expecting 12 people to cover the entire library system, but the idea is to start with a small

number of people in these roles as a pilot to see what works and what does not work, then make adjustments and hopefully expand.

Vice President Eidmann said she is very encouraged about the direction they are going and all of the work that has been put into this by so many library staff.

**8. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements**

- Next Board Meeting Notice: The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 11:00 a.m., via Teleconference.

**9. Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Bích Ngọc Cao  
President

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Raquel M. Borden  
Board Executive Assistant