

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

July 22, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held via teleconference at 11:04 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

Present:	President Commissioner Commissioner	Bích Ngọc Cao Arianne Edmonds Dale Franzen
Absent:	Vice-President Commissioner	Kathryn Eidmann Josefa Salinas

Also present via teleconference: Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman, Deputy City Attorney Basia Jankowski; Library staff and members of the public.

2. Opening Remarks: None.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting - June 10, 2021: POSTPONED

It was moved by Commissioner Franzen and seconded by Commissioner Edmonds to continue approval of the June 10, 2021 Minutes to the next meeting. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Cao, Edmonds & Franzen). Noes: 0. Absent: 2 (Eidmann & Salinas).

4. Public Comments on Matters Within the Board's Jurisdiction:

The Board heard two general public comments:

- 1) Regarding the Van Nuys Branch Library not being opened to the public since it was closed two years ago for renovations.
- 2) Regarding concerns on the directions on the treatment of the homeless population around the library and the city.

5. City Librarian's Comments

and Announcements: Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman reported the following on behalf of City Librarian John F. Szabo:

- **Vaccination Clinics at Library locations:** In partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Services, Los Angeles Fire Department and non-profits partners, the Library has ten clinics scheduled and are working on offering this service at several other locations. The information can be found on the website. The locations are determined by the partners and Library staff to reach areas with lower rates of vaccination and health services.
- **Status on Reopening of Libraries:** The Library is preparing to provide evening and weekend service to the public at the beginning of August. The Library is following the health orders from the Los Angeles County Health Services for wearing masks indoors regardless of vaccination status.
- **Chinatown Branch Librarian named KNX Helpful Honda Hero of the Week:** Lynn Nguyen, Young Adult Librarian at the Chinatown Branch, was named Helpful Honda Hero of the Week by KNX 1070 News Radio for connecting her community during the pandemic. Lynn created a weekly online career workshop that allows young people to connect with professionals from many different industries, from space engineering to filmmaking. KNX 1070 heard the story and featured her on a podcast.
- **Librarians become citizens with LAPL's New Americans Initiative:** Ramin Naderi, Acting Senior at Venice Branch, and his wife, Toki Gholami from the Westwood Branch Library, took the oath to become U.S. Citizens over the Memorial Day weekend. Ramin said the Library provided them with the materials to prepare and as librarians it gave them the opportunity to connect with the immigrant communities, share their experiences, and provide them a space to connect and learn. Naderi and his wife shared their experience in a blog that is on the Library's website.

6. City Librarian's Reports: None.**7. Oral Update from the Ad Hoc Committee on Re-imagining Safety & Security**

Board President Cao reported that at last week's meeting the committee discussed plans for hiring of social workers and talking to the Department of Aging, since it is the only city agency that hires social workers. They also discussed the progress on bringing contractors on board. She asked Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman to provide more information.

Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman stated that the Library Experience Office has been working with the City's Personnel Department to prepare all the documentation for hiring a social worker and they have reached out to the social worker who is employed by the City of Los Angeles, as well as working with partners they are contracting with to develop a scope of work for the upcoming Requests for Proposals (RFP). Additionally, they have discussed providing support for communities through the

Reimagining Safety mini-grant program. She said that the Library began the new fiscal year, which officially marked the beginning of the Library Experience Office.

Discussion

Commissioner Franzen asked if there would be a physical office for the Library Experience Office for the public to interact with them.

Ms. Broman stated the public has the ability to interact with Library staff and the Library Experience Office, and they are in the process of engaging a firm to help with community outreach, including a survey that has been discussed before and looking at other venues for the public to express their views.

Commissioner Franzen asked how the public would know what the Library is doing and how they are communicating so when issues or solutions come up they are informed and know to go to this new department..

Commissioner Edmonds asked if there would be a public announcement, press release since this is something very innovative and really needed in our Library system.

Ms. Broman said that the Library would be doing more community outreach to engage the public.

8. Letter in support of changes to the Brown Act

Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman stated that earlier in the year the Board had expressed interest in expressing their support for legislation that continues some of the changes made to the Brown Act during the pandemic, specifically the ability to conduct meetings via video conferencing, which has encouraged robust public participation and the ability for commissioners to participate and vote whether they are in or out of their jurisdiction. The letter would be sent on behalf of the Board to the Mayor and City Council with their recommendation.

Discussion

Commissioner Edmonds asked how long it would take for this legislation to be voted on.

Ms. Broman replied that AB703 is one of several different legislative bills that are currently moving through the State. She noted that currently, the Governor announced that the emergency provision to the Brown Act will expire at the end of September.

Board President Cao stated that she would like to move toward having meetings in person again at some point, but would also like for persons to have the ability to participate either in person or via teleconferencing. She pointed out that participation from the public has been high and teleconferencing has encouraged more people to participate.

9. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements:

- The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. via Teleconference.

10. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2021/22

Board President Cao asked for a motion to postpone the Annual Election of Officers until a full quorum is present.

It was moved by Commissioner Franzen and seconded by Commissioner Edmonds to postpone the Election of Officers until a full quorum is present. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Cao, Edmonds & Franzen). Noes: 0. Absent: 2 (Eidmann & Salinas).

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

ATTEST:

Bích Ngọc Cao
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant