

# **MINUTES**

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

**September 24, 2020**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held via teleconference at 11:05 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>Mai Lassiter</b>
	Commissioner	<b>Josefa Salinas</b>

**Absent:** None

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

**2. OPENING REMARKS:** Commissioner Franzen opened the meeting with quotes on courage by Martin Luther King, Jr.; Robert F. Kennedy, and Winston Churchill.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Regular Meeting – August 13, 2020: APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Lassiter and seconded by Commissioner Franzen to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 13, 2020. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Cao, Eidmann, Franzen, Lassiter and Salinas). No: 0. Absent: 0.

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION:**

There were six (6) Public Comments on non-agenda items.

### **5. CITY LIBRARIAN'S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following:

- Staff at Central Library, Emerging Technologies, and the Docents have been working on a virtual tour of Central Library art and architecture, which is now available.
- LA County Registrar Recorder / County Clerk, working with Streets LA, will install ballot boxes at all 73 library locations to collect ballots.
- Latino Heritage Month begins September 14, and programs are being offered online from several branch libraries and Central, all accessible from the Library's website.

This Saturday is the second annual LA Libros Festival, an all-day virtual bilingual book festival for the whole family.

- The LA Made series resumes online this fall this fall, featuring the creative world of Los Angeles, including dance, theater, cooking, arts & crafts, and more.
- Over 500 LAPL staff members participated in Implicit Bias Training during the past month. Staff in the training office worked to proactively offer this training, which will supplement the upcoming training offered by the City to fulfill the Mayor's Executive Directive 27.
- The Los Angeles Times featured Clemencia Morales, an immigrant from Guatemala who recently became a citizen through the Library's New Americans Initiative. The column highlighted the work staff does every day, and the shift to virtual services.

## 6. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORTS:

### Consent Items

#### a. **Acceptance of grant from the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) Initial Grant for the Los Angeles Public Library's Adult Literacy Services, Family Literacy for Fiscal Year 2020/21**

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Vice President Eidmann to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 5 Ayes (Cao, Eidmann, Franzen, Lassiter and Salinas). Noes: 0. Absent: 0.

#### LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-33 (C-19)

WHEREAS, On August 26, 2020, the California State Library announced that the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) Adult Literacy Service program grant application was accepted and was eligible for an initial \$135,540 grant and an additional \$65,025 designated for family literacy; and

WHEREAS, The remaining 10% of LAPL's 2020/21 CLLS award will be claimed after the completion of a mid-year financial and narrative report and confirmation that 75% of the initial grant has been expended. This remaining grant amount is \$15,060 and \$7,225 designated for family literacy. The total award for the fiscal year is \$222,850; and

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Public Library and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles provide matching funds to make LAPL eligible for this grant which is determined by applying a CLLS formula. The formula includes the amount of local dollars expended by the LAPL and the LFLA on Adult Literacy Services in 2018/19 added to a per capita amount based on the adult learners enrolled for tutoring in the Adult Literacy Services program by the Los Angeles Public Library in 2018/19; and

WHEREAS, These funds must be accepted by the Board of Library Commissioners to activate this award:

Library Resolution  
No. 2020-33 (C-19) Continued

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners accept the California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) initial grant of \$135,540 and additional \$65,025 designated for family literacy for the Los Angeles Public Library's Adult Literacy Services for Fiscal Year 2020/21; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the funds be deposited in Trust Fund 419, Account 361.

**7. ORAL REPORT: Ad Hoc Committee on Re-envisioning Security**

**Public Comments**

The Board heard 11 public comments on this item.

**Discussion**

Vice President Eidmann, member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Re-envisioning Safety and Security, reported that the committee held its first meeting last week. She said the committee discussed creating a space for collaboration and input from the full commission, keeping the public informed and allowing for public input and decided to meet twice a month in the weeks in between the Board meetings and report to the Board with updates at every regular Board Meeting to allow for discussion.

Vice President Eidmann provided an overview of the items the committee will be tracking:

- Repurposing the \$2 million dollars moved out of the traditional security budget from Fiscal Year 2020-21 to be used toward alternative approaches. The *Reimagining Safety Initiative* is being led by Kren Malone, Director of Central Library Services, to investigate and develop alternative approaches by exploring a very wide range of strategies and services.
- Development of the Multi-year Plan that limits expenditures on traditional security and policing approaches to safety and security to the maximum extent possible in the course of three or fewer years. An initial draft would be linked to the delivery of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22 in November.
- The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), which is currently due for renewal in December.

Vice President Eidmann stated that Kren Malone, Director of Central Library Services, will provide more detail at a Regular Board Meeting on the types of strategies and services that are being explored as a part of the *Reimagining Safety Initiative*.

### **Discussion**

The Board asked whether there were other sources of funding in addition to the \$2 million dollars taken from the security budget for the *Reimagining Safety Initiative* and how the dollars taken from the budget for LAPD training on racial diversity would be used.

The City Librarian stated that there would be funds available for contracting and hiring for services needed for alternative approaches from unspent funds during closure of library facilities. He clarified that the proposed use of funds in the August 13 Memo, was not all intended to be used for security training. It was also for security cameras, badge access control for central and branch libraries, and security related facilities improvements as noted in the memo. He said those funds, which total \$1,031,000, were projected to be unspent, and more funds from other categories could be available at the end of the fiscal year to spend on alternative approaches.

The Board asked if nurses and social workers would be part of library staff and requested that those hired be reflective of the communities they will serve.

The City Librarian responded that the Library has added the classifications of Social Worker I, II and III to the Personnel Resolution to be able to hire for those positions. The Library is also in conversation with other entities that might be able to provide these services without a financial partnership.

The Board also discussed the importance of hearing from patrons from all community libraries and about sending a survey via email to every patron who has a library card asking their opinion on security and what makes them feel safe when visiting the Library.

The Board also discussed challenges that may be encountered, such as capacity of the agencies to provide the services, bureaucracy on contract process and hiring, and building up the alternative resources for shifting; and lastly, the launching of the new services for which the staff and public would need to be in the libraries to assess their effectiveness and determine where changes would be needed.

## **8. PRESENTATION: Brown Act Review**

Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney, provided an overview of the Brown Act. She reviewed information on the types of meetings and committees that fall under the Brown Act, the types of communications that are permitted and not permitted, and the public's rights for public comments and information, as well as ensuring that all deliberations and decisions be in the meetings for the public to participate.

### **Discussion**

The Board discussed sending a letter from the Board to the State Legislation asking to update the Brown Act rules, particularly teleconferencing rules that would allow the Board to continue holding meetings virtually as well as in person, allow the commissioners to be considered part of the quorum when calling in outside their jurisdiction and delete the requirement about posting agendas by commissioners at their home or hotel. The Board believes this action would benefit the Library, Board members, and the public.

The Board President requested this matter be placed on the agenda for discussion and determine if the entire Commission supports it.

**9. VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-21**

**President**

It was MOVED by Vice President Eidmann, seconded by Commissioner Lassiter, and unanimously carried that President Bích Ngọc Cao be re-elected President for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

**Vice President**

It was MOVED by President Cao, seconded by Commissioner Lassiter, and unanimously carried that Vice President Kathryn Eidmann be re-elected Vice President for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

**11. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Commissioner Lassiter requested that updates on activities and presentations not be included on the agenda unless they are of high importance.
- The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2020, at 11:00 a.m. via Teleconference.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:** The Meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Bích Ngọc Cao  
President

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Raquel M. Borden  
Board Executive Assistant