

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

October 28, 2021

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:

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

Absent:	Commissioner	Josefa Salinas
----------------	--------------	-----------------------

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

2. Opening Remarks: Poet Laureate Lynne Thompson opened the meeting with the poem, *Ghost*, by Kiki Pretrosino.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting - September 23, 2021: APPROVED

It was moved by Vice President Eidmann and seconded by Commissioner Edmonds to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 23, 2021. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao, Edmonds, Eidmann, and Franzen. Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Salinas).

b. Minutes of the Regular Meeting - October 14, 2021: CONTINUED

It was moved by Commissioner Edmonds and seconded by Vice President Eidmann to continue approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 14, 2021, to the next meeting. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao, Edmonds, Eidmann, and Franzen. Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Salinas).

4. Public Comments on Matters

Within the Board's Jurisdiction:

The Board heard one Public Comment on Exhibit A in support of continuing to offer teleconference meetings for the benefit of public participation; and one general Public Comment requesting the Library oppose the ordinance to do sweeps on encampments around libraries.

5. City Librarian's Comments

and Announcements: City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following:

- **Children's Citizenship Ceremony:** On October 27th, the Library, in partnership with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), held an in person Children's Citizenship ceremony for children and their families, representing 11 different nations. Mayor Garcetti addressed the citizens and their families.
- **Financial Planning Week:** The Library held its annual Financial Planning Week with programs ranging from retirement and estate planning workshops, to answering patron questions about credit scores, investments, the importance of savings. Free financial consultations with Certified Financial Planners over the phone and virtually were offered, and City Controller Ron Galperin recorded a video message thanking the library for helping equip patrons to get and stay on a good financial track.
- **Glen Creason, Map Librarian,** retired after a 40-year-career with the Library. The *LA Times* marked the occasion with an article profiling his career, which has spanned from before the 1986 fire to the present day. Mr. Szabo thanked Mr. Creason for his contributions, including the book he wrote on maps featuring the Library's Map Collection.
- **LAPL Staff and Programs in the News:** 1) The *L.A. Times* interviewed librarians across the country, including LAPL Children's Librarian Mara Alpert, about author Gary Paulsen, who wrote the novel "*Hatchet*." *Paulsen* passed away recently and the article discussed his impact on young readers. 2) Viewpoints Radio interviewed Joyce Cooper, Director of Branch Library Services, who spoke on how the library is a community staple and a place to explore, learn and grow and all for free. 3) The REFORMA LA Newsletter, featured Gladis Martinez, Children's Librarian at the Robert Louis Stevenson Branch.
- **LAPL Annual Citywide Friends Symposium:** Themed, "Friends Helping Friends," this event was held virtually last Saturday, coinciding with National Friends of Libraries Week to recognize the 69 Friends of Library Groups and Docents for their advocacy of the Library. Jené D. Brown, recent Friends Liaison and now Director of Emerging Technologies and Collections, led the symposium. Mr. Szabo and Helen Neal from the Library Experience Office provided library updates. The keynote speaker was Charity Tyler, President of the American Library Association's United for Libraries.
- **Armenian Digital Library:** The Library now offers *Vlume*, the largest Armenian digital library with access to e-books, audiobooks and animation series.
- **Book Bike at CicLAvia:** Marking 11 years since the first CicLAvia event was held on 10/10/10, this event returned this month and Children's Librarian Ednita Kelly, initiator of the LA Book Bike, was there promoting library services and signing up people for Library cards. Mayor Garcetti posed for a photo with Ednita along with a couple of young fans and the Book Bike.
- **How Does Your Garden Grow?:** Teens from the Pio Pico-Koreatown and Memorial branch libraries learned how to grow their own vegetables with guidance from Memorial Branch staff. Their love for gardening grew into an advocacy project

through Teens Leading Change Cycle 5. They called their project, Teen Thumbs to Green Thumbs, and involved creating at-home gardening kits that Angelenos can now check out from the Memorial Branch.

- **Family Book Club:** The Education and Literacy Department launched its first Family Book Club to encourage literacy in the home, for which, about 120 families a month receive personalized packets with children's books, activities and book guides created by librarians and literacy coordinators.
- **Storytime at Home:** Throughout the pandemic, Children's Librarians from multiple branches have continued to host online storytimes. The Library offers fun and engaging morning Storytime every Tuesday and Thursday for children aged 0-5.
- **FCC Grant Awarded for Laptop Loan Program:** The Library has been notified that it will receive over \$1.6 million federal grant that it applied for from the FCC from a special fund called the Emergency Connectivity Fund to address digital equity and broadband access in Libraries. The grant will be used to distribute laptops and Wi-Fi hotspots to provide families with access to the Internet at home and to promote LAPL's digital resources. Mr. Szabo said that even prior to this grant, the Library had been regularly adding Wi-Fi hotspots to its inventory to help reduce the digital divide.

6. City Librarian's Reports:

Consent Item(s)

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

a. **Recommendation to Approve Findings to**

Continue Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to AB 361: APPROVED.

(Public Hearing was held at the Regular Meeting of October 28, 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.

Board Action

The Board approved findings to continue teleconference meetings Pursuant to AB361.

- b. Recommendation to accept gift from OneWest Bank on behalf of the Estate of Ms. Liu Yin Ying Wu for the benefit of the Chinatown Branch Library:** APPROVED

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-29 (C-24)

RESOLVED, That the gift of \$174,343.02 received from the OneWest Bank as Ms. Liu Yin Ying Wu's beneficiary, for the benefit of the Chinatown Branch Library be accepted; and deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account 367; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to Ms. Liu Yin Ying Wu's Estate, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

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 several items including the progress on hiring personnel for the Library Experience Office, the Department Budget, and the City's ordinance on vaccination requirements for entering many city facilities, including libraries. She asked City Librarian John F. Szabo to provide more detailed information on these issues.

Mr. Szabo reported the classification of Community Service Representative that exists within the city will be used for the Library Experience Ambassador positions that will be brought in as part of the Bridge to Jobs program. He said that the use of these positions is being approved by the Civil Service Commission today and the EAA Union who represents this class is in support of it. He also reported that soon staff will bring forward for Board approval a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a variety of social services and mental health services and so forth.

Mr. Szabo stated that the City Council recently approved an ordinance on vaccination requirements to enter city buildings, including libraries. The Library is in conversation with other departments, with the Mayor's Office, and the Chief Legislative Analyst discussing the logistics and concerns of that requirement.

Mr. Szabo said that the Library understands the need, objective, and importance of safety, but there are issues of equity as it relates to the unhoused population not being able to produce the vaccination card, paperwork and identification necessary. He noted that the Library offers many services for those communities and brings together social service agencies and nonprofits that serve the unhoused population through The Source.

Mr. Szabo said he is also concerned about staffing and the logistics of the ordinance. The general issue of asking for ID and paperwork and how this might trigger some security issues and incidents in the libraries. He said this concern was shared at the Ad Hoc committee meeting. He also expressed concern about how this might affect the Library's ability to serve the undocumented community.

Vice President Eidmann asked if there was any support the Commission could provide to request an exemption such as a letter of support from the Board.

Mr. Szabo replied that the commissioners' opinions carry weight and pointed out that other city facilities are open in similar ways as the Library, such as Senior Centers, Recreation and Parks, and Animal Shelters. He said those departments have similar concerns as well and they are getting together to figure it out.

Commissioner Edmonds stated that this a very specific matter that feels urgent and asked whether this calls for a committee or convening a meeting to specifically discuss some strategies on how the Board could provide support.

Mr. Szabo noted that the ordinance requirement is going into effect within a matter of weeks, so this is an issue the Library is in conversation with the city on how this would be implemented, and they are figuring it out internally.

Board President Cao agreed that this is an urgent issue and said that she doesn't think this is something that needs to be addressed in a committee, but it will come up at future meetings and it is something the Board will discuss moving forward.

Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman reported that the ordinance goes into effect on Monday, November 8th and enforcement will begin November 29; however, things are changing constantly.

8. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements:

- **Next Board Meeting Notice:** Due to holidays on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of November, the Board of Library Commissioners will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. via Teleconference.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

ATTEST:

Bích Ngọc Cao
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant