MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

July 10, 2014

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 11:04 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT: VICE PRESIDENT BICH NGOC CAO
COMMISSIONER GREGORY BETTINELLI
COMMISSIONER RITA WALTERS

EXCUSED

ABSENT: PRESIDENT JOSEFA SALINAS
COMMISSIONER MAI LASSITER

ALSO PRESENT: John F. Szabo, City Librarian; Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager; Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney; and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Regular Meeting – 6/19/14

MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Commissioner Bettinelli and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 19, 2014 be approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE BOARD’S JURISDICTION: None.

CITY LIBRARIAN’S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Librarian John F. Szabo commented on the following:

- Candice Mack, Senior Librarian, has been elected 2014-15 President-elect of the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA), a division of the American Library Association with more than 5,200 members.

- Driver's License Workshops and informational materials will be provided at LAPL libraries in multiple languages. Mayor Eric Garcetti will announce this new effort today at a community forum and workshop at the Dolores Mission Plaza to inform immigrants about AB60. This bill provides access to a driver’s license for all California residents regardless of immigration status.
- The Library is participating in the Department of Recreation and Parks' Summer Night Lights Program where it promotes library services and sign up people for Library cards.

- The Library will receive a $121,000 Library Services and Technology (LSTA) federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the California State Library. The grant will be utilized to fund the digitization of the Valley Times' photo collection.

- The Photo Friends will be hosting a reception on July 15th to celebrate the opening of a Photo exhibit titled, "Defining Their Identity: The Changing Roles of Women in the Post-War Era as Documented by the Valley Times Newspaper." This exhibition will be on display in the Central Library's History & Genealogy Department.

- On Saturday, August 2, the Library, in partnership with the Mayor's Office and the Council of Mexican Federation, will be providing a workshop at the Central Library on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The event will provide information to first time DACA applicants and to those seeking renewals.

- "Learn How to Become a Farmers Market Vendor" Workshop will be presented by the Central Library's Business and Economics Department on July 8 and 15th.

- The LAPL Summer Reading Program ties with the Mayor's "Summer of Learning" Initiative. This year, the LAPL's Summer Reading Program theme is "Paws to Read." Animal-themed programs are being presented at all library locations.

- A "Conversations with Heroes" program was held at the Studio City Branch Library on June 21. Four veterans shared their WWII experiences with the community. They are members of "Wings over Wendy's," an organization that began with two vets meeting at a Wendy's Restaurant and now has 90 members in the group. Certificates of recognition from Councilmember Krekorian's Office were presented to them and the Museum of the San Fernando Valley recorded the event for its oral histories series.

- A "Homeless Resources" event was held at the Lake View Terrace Branch Library on June 26. Several organizations participated in this event (DMV, housing/shelter services, etc.). The event was sponsored by 39th District Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra, Seventh District Councilmember Felipe Fuentes, Sunland-Tujunga Homeless Working Group, and the San Fernando Valley Homeless Coalition. 250 people received informational packets, toiletries, clothing, etc. Food was served by Hope of the Valley Shelter.

- Citizenship Initiative Update: The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services provided additional training yesterday to branch managers.

- Budget - Personnel: The 51 positions requested in the Budget were approved by the Managed Hiring Committee to be filled in advance of the budget year even starting.
Commissioner Bettinelli asked if the Library had flexibility in reallocating positions within classifications. The City Librarian said there is some flexibility if the Library determines that an employee is needed in another location.

Vice President Cao asked about how often do the homeless resources events occur and how are people finding out about it. The City Librarian stated that the Library has various partnerships with homeless-related service organizations that participate in the events. He said some events are offered at particular branch libraries and some at the Central Library. In terms of promoting the events, Cheryl Collins, Director of Branch Library Services, stated that it is a collaborative effort. For example, the homeless resources event at the Lakeview Terrace was a special event that the Library promoted among patrons in the Lake View Terrace community, which has a large homeless population, and through the partner organizations and the council office.

Commissioner Bettinelli asked how does attendance change in the summer in comparison to the rest of the year. Ms. Collins replied that attendance depends greatly by branch and by location. During the school year, attendance is mostly after school hours; but in the summer, attendance is throughout the day during the week.

CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORTS:

Recommendation to Accept Gift

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2014-25 (C-24)

RESOLVED, That the following donations to the “Hot Off The Press” Bestseller Program be accepted from the following Friends of the Library groups:

$3,000 From the Pacific Palisades Library Association to the Palisades Branch Library

$3,000 From the Panorama City Friends of the Library to the Panorama City Branch Library

$3,000 From the Friends of Studio City Branch Library to the Studio City Branch Library

$3,000 From the Friends of the Sunland-Tujunga Library to the Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library

$3,000 From the Friends of the Library Westchester-Loyola Village Branch to the Westchester-Loyola Village Branch Library

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of appreciation be sent to the friends expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for their generous support.
LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2014-26

RESOLVED, That the gift from the Friends of Westwood Library, consisting of one 4-panel music CD rack, valued at $1,775.66, and one 2-panel music CD rack, valued at $896.34, for the Westwood Branch Library be accepted; 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.

PRESENTATION: SUMMER OF LEARNING AT LAPL

Eva Mitnick, Coordinator of Children Services, gave a presentation on the L.A. Summer of Learning at LAPL. She stated that the L.A. Summer of Learning is the Mayor's Initiative, which he announced at a press conference at the Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional Branch Library. The Initiative involves several City departments and organizations, and offers a website where children can find all kinds of learning opportunities throughout the city and earn digital badges. She said the Library is offering three badges connected to the Summer Reading Club.

Ms. Mitnick reported that at the Los Angeles Public Library, the L.A. Summer of Learning includes STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) workshops for children ages 8 to 13. She noted that teaching STEAM programs works well in libraries because libraries are available after school to present hands-on learning opportunities to kids. She said kids come to the STEAM program because they have fun while making robots and learning about circuitry and become interested in those subjects. She said kids also work with their peers in STEAM workshops and learn about collaboration. She provided statistics from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) that showed the need to help students become proficient in the subject of science. She said that agencies like libraries are perfectly positioned to offer this type of learning.

Ms. Mitnick stated that the Early Literacy Initiative is also incorporated into STEAM by encouraging vocabulary building during the workshops and parent engagement. The STEAM programs are offered with many partners such as Iridescent Learning, L.A. Makers, and many more. She read responses to surveys submitted by participants: 53% of the kids were boys - historically, it has been mostly girls who sign up for library programs; 94% loved or really loved the programs; 85% said it was true or very true that they want to learn more about science. They also checked out many science books. She said the Library has sell out crowds for all the STEAM programs.

Ms. Mitnick introduced Children's Librarians Brooke Sheets and Joanna Fabicon from the Children's Literature Department. They spoke about the various STEAM workshops presented at the Central Library and showed a picture slide of photos taken during the workshops for preschoolers and elementary school children. They said their goal was to convey to the children that everyone can be a scientist. They reported that kids and parents alike were very excited about manipulating the tools. They found that this was the first time for parents or kids alike to play with instruments of science such as a microscope, and to
experiment or hold science tools. They said kids' vocabulary was expanding with early literacy concepts and learning words such as gravity and developed observational skills.

Commissioner Bettinelli thanked the presenters and Commissioner Walters praised the Ms. Sheets and Ms. Fabicon for their enthusiasm.

PRESENTATION: MAYOR'S SMALL BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAM

Richard Kraus, Subject Specialist Librarian, Business and Economics Department, gave a presentation on Library resources available for entrepreneurs. He reported that the Library is working in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Economic Development in offering a series of workshops titled, "Small Business Entrepreneurship: Doing Business in L.A." to introduce resources provided by City of Los Angeles and regional partners that provide assistance with small business development.

Mr. Krauss stated that Mr. Frank Aguirre, Business Development Specialist with the Mayor's Office of Economic Development, presents the program and partners include the Chamber of Commerce from the various communities, local neighborhood councils, Work Source centers, and the Community Development Department. He said every participating organization is contributing in getting the word out.

Mr. Krauss stated that people interested in starting their own business can get the information and resources necessary at the Los Angeles Public Library, from how to write a business plan, find funding sources for their business, learn about protecting their ideas and products to grow specific types of businesses. Library resources include online services (E-books, E-media, list of suggested websites), books, magazines; business, technical and trade journals, directories, CDs, DVDs; programs and events, computer terminals, and free Wi-Fi at all library locations.

Mr. Krauss also provided a sample packet to the Board Members containing informational material given to participants at the workshops. He concluded by stating that the Library means business and "the LAPL Library Card can be one of the keys to help open the doors to your business."

Vice President Cao asked what are some of the kinds of businesses that people use Library resources for. Mr. Krauss replied that he has received questions on how to open a food truck business, natural wood furniture, health exercise equipment, restaurants, etc.

Commissioner Bettinelli asked if there was a section on the website containing the information provided in the packet. Mr. Krauss answered that the LAPL website has links to resources and information contained in the packets provided at the workshops. He added that in the new budget, there is funding to develop a business section portal.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.
COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING:

Commissioner Bettinelli commented on the Minutes from June 19, 2014, where the City Librarian reported that majority of the city's internet traffic comes to the Los Angeles Public Library. He said the data is very compelling on the need people have for information and resources from the Library.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

ATTEST: ________________

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Bich Ngoc Cao  
Vice President  

Raquel M. Borden  
Board Executive Assistant

Approved: August 14, 2014