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 11:05 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT:    PRESIDENT    MARSHA HIRANO-NAKANISHI
            VICE PRESIDENT   PAULA MADISON
            COMMISSIONER    RITA WALTERS

EXCUSED
ABSENT:    COMMISSIONER    EDUARDO TINOCO

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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 3/14/13 Regular Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Vice President Madison, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held March 14, 2013, be approved as submitted

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 3/28/13 Regular Meeting

MOVED by Vice President Madison, seconded by Commissioner Walters, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meetings held March 28, 2013 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 reported the following:

Science Day - “Last Days of the Dinosaurs”
On March 30, the Children’s Literature Department celebrated Science Day at the Central Library with a program themed, “Last Days of the Dinosaurs.” This program, presented in collaboration with the California Science Center, was an incredibly successful event, with 339 people attending. He said children had a great time with a life size replica of a T-Rex head.
Atwater Village Branch Library celebrated its 25th Anniversary
On April 4, the Atwater Village Branch Library had a special ceremony to celebrate its 25th year in the current building. A certificate of special recognition from the Board was presented to Patricia Desmarais, President of the Friends of the Atwater Village Branch Library, for all her support. Mr. Szabo reported that it was a wonderful celebration that was well attended by members of the community, Neighborhood Council representatives; Arsen Melikyan from Councilmember Eric Garcetti’s Council District 13th Office, and Field Rep. Eric Menjivar from the Office of 43rd District Assemblymember Mike Gatto.

Financial Fitness Fair
On April 6, more than 200 people attended the “Financial Fitness Fair” at the Central Library. Financial counselors provided assistance in filing income tax returns, applying for public benefits, and advised on debt consolidation, credit counseling, and more. The counselors also spoke on the subjects of money management, debt consolidation, home ownership, and so forth. Mr. Szabo stated that this event was part of the Library’s financial literacy initiative that is being emphasized systemwide and on the website with the theme “Money Matters,” which is the title given to all financial literacy programs offered by LAPL.

Mr. Szabo also reported that he had the opportunity to present to City Council information on all the efforts the Library is doing with this initiative. He thanked Library staff for planning these great programs, because there is a real need for these types of programs in the communities and it is wonderful that the Library can offer them. He said the Library also benefits tremendously when patrons attend these events and then learn about other programs, such as the Citizenship Initiative, children programs, and many other services.

Tax Preparation Assistance at Van Nuys Branch Library
Over 400 people have been assisted with tax preparation at the Van Nuys Branch Library. This service is being provided in partnership with AARP through mid-April. Mr. Szabo said he wished this assistance could be provided at all branch libraries.

Iridescent Learning Science Workshops
Mr. Szabo reported that in April the Library is partnering with Iridescent Learning, a nonprofit science education organization, to offer a five-week science education workshop at the Exposition Park and Junipero Serra Branch Libraries. He said engineering instructors from the University of Southern California (USC) would teach participants about scientific methodology and science concepts with hands-on experience by using household items.

Commissioner Walters complimented the two branch libraries for providing the science workshops. She said many years ago USC offered science classes for children during summer. She believes that exposure to science is what students need in both of those neighborhoods and said she was delighted that the Library would be providing that exposure.
In response to President Hirano-Nakanishi’s question on whether AARP and IRS had approached the Library to do more of these programs, Mr. Szabo said that the Library contacts them to let them know that they are welcome to provide assistance and that the Library is very interested in partnering with them on tax assistance programs.

The Board President suggested that students from colleges of business could provide these kinds of services also.

Vice President Madison advised that the Library communicate with the sponsoring groups such as AARP and IRS volunteers programs in a letter from the City Librarian or Board President stressing out how grateful the Library is and how thankful patrons are for those services and talk about expanding them.

CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS

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

Recommendation to Accept Gifts

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2013-14

RESOLVED, that the gift consisting of four (4) lounge chairs, valued at $4,336.02, received from the Friends of the Studio City Branch Library to the Studio City 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.

****

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2013-15 (C-12)

RESOLVED, that the gift in the amount of $3,000 from the Friends of Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library for the “Hot Off The Press” Program at the Palms-Rancho Park Branch Library be accepted; and

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 donation.
RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE
REVISION OF BOARD POLICY
SECTION 1:340-MATERIALS SELECTION

City Librarian John F. Szabo stated that the recommended revisions to the Materials Selection Policy, which sets the guidelines for acquisition of collections in all formats, were necessary to update language, delete outdated terminology, and to include new and emerging technology and formats, such as e-books and e-audiobooks. Additionally, it would allow for selection of self-published works because the Library wants to make room for this type of work. Mr. Szabo indicated that a staff committee had reviewed and recommended the revisions, which recognizes the increase and quality of new self-published materials and adapts the Materials Selection Policy accordingly to enable the Library to acquire these new formats.

**Board Discussion**

Board President Hirano-Nakanishi asked if the Library had a decentralized acquisition system that gives a budget to branch librarians for them to select that would make sense for their communities or if it was a centralized system.

Mr. Szabo responded that LAPL leans heavily on the side of being decentralized in terms on deciding what goes on the shelves; therefore, selections are done principally at the front line level. For example, staff at the Mark Twain Branch Library is more tuned in to that community and interests and what they use on the shelves. However, acquisitions are done centrally, with the understanding that there are certain efficiencies to be achieved from ordering materials centrally. Also, certain collections and formats are purchased centrally, such as subscription services, e-audio books, e-books, online and other online materials and services.

Board President Hirano-Nakanishi asked whether the Library used any metric in particular to allocate funding to the branch libraries and how it is decided how much goes to each branch library and how much stays centrally.

Peggy Murphy, Principal Librarian, Collection Services, replied that Branch Library Services has information on all of the branch libraries, such as how many people used the branches and their circulation totals, so that each branch receives an amount that is commensurate with the population that they serve; then, eventually a budget amount is allocated for children, young adults and adult collections for each branch.

The Board President asked if branch libraries with less number of patrons received less funding.

Ms. Murphy replied that there is a certain level of budget allocation for each branch, except for regional branch libraries or branch libraries that are heavily used might receive more funds.
In response to Vice President Madison’s inquiry on whether a branch that is heavily used might get a similar allocation as a branch that is not heavily used, Ms. Murphy stated Branch Library Services could answer the question in regard to the exact formula for allocation, but the distribution is pretty even across the board.

Mr. Szabo offered to report back on the materials distribution budget, but he noted that circulation was not the only factor for determining use of materials, because materials could be heavily used at some branch libraries but not circulated as much, while other branch libraries could have collections heavily circulated.

Vice President Madison stated that it might not be easy to customize the budget for 72 branch libraries but that is what everyone is striving to accomplish and said that she would like to get a report on how the process works.

Commissioner Walters asked the City Librarian if the circulation system of moving books from branch to branch helps alleviate the concern about who gets the materials.

Mr. Szabo responded that he likes to say that LAPL has one collection that resides at 73 locations because the courier team moves 40,000 items a day across the city, which paints the picture of branch libraries with no walls in terms of collections. He said patrons make use of multiple branches because different branch libraries have different collection strengths and programs.

**BOARD ACTION**

Thereafter, it was MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Vice President Madison, and unanimously carried that the revision to the Board of Library Commissioners Policies, Section 1:340 Materials Selection Policy, be adopted.

**PRESENTATION: LANGUAGE LEARNING RESOURCES**

City Librarian John F. Szabo introduced Senior Librarian Joyce Cooper who is the new senior librarian in charge of overseeing the International Languages Department at the Central Library and she would present an overview of the incredible language learning resources provided by the Los Angeles Public Library.

**Presentation**

Joyce Cooper, Senior Librarian, reported that the International Languages Department currently offers language learning materials in 86 languages that are offered in many different formats, such as CD sets, DVD, videos, dictionaries, books, e-books, and e-audiobooks, etc; as well as on line learning programs such as Mango & Powerspeak. These two programs are the emphasis of her presentation.
Ms. Cooper stated that both Mango and Powerspeak are web-based language instruction programs offered for free online by LAPL. She explained the teaching methods and features of these two programs. She said Mango offers basic courses and it is a great program for the casual language learner, someone who is traveling and wants to learn basic phrases to get by, and for new immigrants who would like to learn basic verbal English language skills. She said Mango is more traditional and relies on repetition and rote memorization, mostly audio-based, although there is a visual component as well and has a mobile application for iPhones and Androids.

Ms. Cooper reported that Powerspeak offers language courses for English speakers as well as English courses for Spanish and Mandarin Chinese speakers. She noted that Powerspeak’s teaching methods are more interactive with gradual immersion and has video and audio components, game-like activities, and offers more practice and digging deeper features. She indicated that this program is great for the more serious learner, someone who would like more intensive approach to language learning, including grammar, conjugation and punctuation, and for new immigrants who would like to learn basic verbal English skills.

Ms. Cooper provided usage statistics on both programs: Mango was acquired in November 2012 and has had 2,538 visits so far this fiscal year, an average of 800-900 visitors per month. Powerspeak was acquired in March 2010, and has had 3,166 visits, an average of 400-500 visitors per month. She stated that online language learning databases complement the physical collection of learning materials, and they are convenient and provide flexible access for patrons, help the LAPL stay relevant as patrons can use their smart phones and other portable devices to access the databases on the go.

Vice President Madison asked if either of those two programs were designed toward younger people or if it determined that they learn foreign language in school.

Ms. Cooper replied that both programs are great for students, especially for high school students because they complement what they learn in school.

Commissioner Walters commented that she is reading Chief Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s book and in it she used some words in Spanish and readers can refer to an appendix to see the translation.

The Board President thanked Ms. Cooper for her presentation.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS:

Received and filed letter from the Mayor, dated March 29, 2013, to City Council Re: the appointment of Mr. Adam Nathanson to the Board of Library Commissioners for the term ending June 30, 2013, and the subsequent term ending June 30, 2018.

The Board Secretary reported that City Council has until May 17, 2013 to confirm Mr. Nathanson’s appointment.
COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING

Next Board Meeting

Board President Hirano-Nakanishi said she would not be able to attend the Board meeting on April 25. Vice President Madison would preside the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

ATTEST: 

__________________________
Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi
President

__________________________
Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be approved: May 9, 2013