M I N U T E S
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

June 27, 2013

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Fairfax Branch Library, 161 South Gardner Street, Los Angeles, CA 90036, convening at 11:04 a.m. on the above-written date.

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

EXCUSED
ABSENT:    COMMISSIONER  EDUARDO TINOCO

ALSO PRESENT:  Kris Morita, Asst. General Manager; Roy Stone, President, Librarians’ Guild; Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney; Friends of the Fairfax Branch Library; and staff.

CITY LIBRARIAN ACCEPTING AWARD

Board President Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi stated City Librarian John F. Szabo was not present today because he was in Chicago at the American Library Association Conference accepting an award from the Urban Libraries Council for the Immigration Citizenship Initiative. He will also be participating in a discussion panel about the Initiative.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL – 5/9/13 Regular Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Commissioner Nathanson, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 9, 2013, be approved as submitted.

CONTINUANCE APPROVAL – 6/13/13 Regular Meeting

MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Commissioner Nathanson, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 13, 2013, be continued.
Hollywood Area Manager

Paul Montgomerie, Hollywood Area Manager, reported that the Hollywood Area is made up of 13 branches, and highlighted the following branch libraries in the area: The Will and Ariel Durant Branch has one of the largest collections of Russian books; Pio Pico-Koreatown has the largest collection of Korean titles with over 14,000 volumes; the Wilshire Branch has a large Bangladesh and Hindi community and is investigating the possibility of developing a collection for those languages; the Frances Howard Goldwyn-Hollywood Regional Branch has a special collection of Hollywood memorabilia including historical photos, theater programs and movie posters.

Mr. Montgomerie announced that there are seven new Senior Librarians, four newly hired reference librarians and seven new clerks in the Hollywood Area. He noted that this is the first time in many years that the Hollywood Area is almost fully staffed.

Mr. Montgomerie spoke on the many diverse programs offered by the Hollywood Area libraries. For example, the Atwater Branch has a 6-session program where new immigrants get an introduction to American culture such as using buses, Medicare and applying for social security. He pointed out that the Hollywood Area has over 700 volunteers, including 10 active Friends of the Library groups.

He concluded his presentation with the announcement of a monument unveiling at the Memorial Branch Library last Monday. He said the monument is a Los Angeles Public Library sign that originally stood on the east garden of the old Central Library, which was recently discovered by Councilman Tom LaBonge at a Recreation and Parks yard in Griffith Park, more than 20 years after its removal. Present at the unveiling were City Librarian John F. Szabo and Councilmember Tom LaBonge. The event was well attended and reported on a number of television stations.

Senior Branch Librarian

Roy Stone, Senior Librarian, Fairfax Branch Library, reported that the Fairfax Branch Library was built as the 61st branch and it began service on August 1963 in a 5,000 s.f. building on this site. He said the Fairfax Branch was rebuilt as part of the 1998 Bond Program and the community was greatly involved in the architectural plans. The branch reopened on September 2005 to the joy of the neighborhood and from the time it was opened it has had a consistently high use.

Mr. Stone reported that the Fairfax Branch serves three public and three religious elementary schools; and seven religious middle and high schools and serves a community that is predominantly Caucasian but it also has East Indians, African-Americans, Latinos, Koreans, Chinese, Mongolians and Orthodox Jews.
Mr. Stone indicated that the branch has a small but very hard working Friends group. Members present at the meeting today were Friends President Shirley Thompson, August and Rima Memuna, Eva Holtzman, and Gloria Hamm. He also introduced Joyce Button, a volunteer who has worked faithfully at least once a week since 1992.

Mr. Stone commented that he has been assigned at the Fairfax Branch since the early 1990’s; and in his other job, as the Librarian Guild’s President, he reminds new librarians how important their work is because they make a difference in people’s life everyday and the community a better place.

Board President Hirano-Nakanishi thanked the staff and the members of the Friends group for hosting the Board Meeting and giving them an opportunity to share their place.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE BOARD’S JURISDICTION: *Taken Out of Order*

Teri Markson, Senior Librarian at the Panorama City Branch Library, who until two months ago was the Children’s Librarian at the Fairfax Branch, said she had the pleasure of working with Grace Friedman for many years and she was a role model to her. She indicated that Ms. Friedman inspired her so much because of her dedication to children and to children’s librarianship.

Ms. Markson stated that she felt very fortunate to have worked in a branch where the Friends were so supportive.

CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS: *Taken Out of Order*

RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT ANNENBERG FOUNDATION GRANT

Board President Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi thanked Vice President Paula Madison for recommending the Los Angeles Public Library to receive the grant.

Vice President Paula Madison stated that the funds come from the amazing Annenberg Foundation, which was originally instituted by Walter Annenberg, U.S. Ambassador to England. Also, thanks to her friend Wallis Annenberg, who asked her some years ago to serve on the Audit Committee for the Annenberg Foundation. She said that one of the benefits is that Audit Committee members are asked to identify charitable or public organizations that might need funds so she asked that the $100,000 grant be given to the Los Angeles Public Library to provide a discretionary fund for the City Librarian to fund special needs projects.
Vice President Madison mentioned that generally it is a total of $100,000 and it can be split among different institutions; however, upon hearing last year of some of the opportunities and hurdles that LAPL is still facing, she thought that the best thing to do was designate a fund for the city librarian to use where he sees the need.

Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager, thanked Vice President Madison for her generosity.

Commissioner Walters thanked her colleague for stepping in and directing the funds to the Library. She asked if there was a list of plans for expenditure of those funds.

Ms. Morita replied that the City Librarian would identify what his plans are for those funds.

It was MOVED by Commissioner Nathanson, and seconded by Commissioner Walters, and carried by a vote of 3-0, that the following resolution be adopted. Commissioner Madison recused from voting. She is also a member of the Annenberg Foundation:

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2013-27 (C-22)

RESOLVED, that the Board of Library Commissioners hereby accepts a grant in the amount of $100,000 from the Annenberg Foundation which will be used to provide a discretionary fund for the City Librarian to fund special needs, projects, and opportunities in order to enhance the work of the Los Angeles Public Library; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the funds be deposited in the Library Trust Fund 831, Account No. 295, entitled “Annenberg Foundation Grant”.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Board of Library Commissioners be authorized to execute the Grant Agreement to authorize the acceptance of the funds.

RECOMMENDATION TO ACCEPT LIBRARY SERVICES TECHNOLOGY ACT (LSTA) GRANT AWARD

Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager, recommended acceptance of Library Services and Technology Act grant of $77,000 to implement a new project called, “Full STEAM Ahead.” This project will introduce science, technology, engineering, art, and math to children ages 8-13. The grant will be implemented in Central Library and at 12 branch libraries in low-income communities, and it is for a one-year period, ending June 2014.
**Board Discussion**

The Board President asked if the locations had been selected and what process was used to choose them; Commissioner Walters asked for the names of the locations where the program will be presented.

Ms. Morita introduced Diane Olivo-Posner, new Senior Children’s Librarian, and asked her to talk about the grant. Ms. Olivo-Posner informed the Board that the program would be implemented at the Central Library and 12 branches libraries selected by their economic standing and the location.

Ms. Morita added that the information would be provided at the July 11 Board Meeting because Principal Librarian Eva Mitnick, who is in charge of the program and worked on the grant, is attending the American Library Association Conference in Chicago this week.

Commissioner Nathanson said that being new to the Board he would like to understand what the program is specifically and how the funds would be divided, such as staff training, etc.

Ms. Olivo-Posner replied that the information the commissioner is asking for is broken down in the grant application, specifically, in the budget (library materials, workshops, etc.)

Vice President Madison asked the City Attorney, procedurally, if the Board could receive the reports in advance of the meeting.

Ms. Jankowski said they could receive supporting materials in advance.

Commissioner Walters asked that the information on the list provide the locations, expenditures per location, type of expenditures, timeline for the project, and what the program is about.

**BOARD ACTION**

Commissioner Walters asked that the list of where these expenditures are going to be made be mailed or e-mailed to them before they vote on July 11 to accept it. She asked the Board continue this item until July 11th.

Vice President Madison requested that all future Board Reports submitted to the Board should contain more detailed information in anticipation of questions the Board might ask. She felt that it would not have been necessary to continue this item, which delays the grant approval and its implementation.

Ms. Morita stated that the information will be provided for the July 11th meeting and the commissioners will receive the information ahead of time. No expenditures will be made prior to Board approval.
Assistant General Manager Kris Morita stated that, in accordance with Board Policy, staff recommends the Board approve initiating the process for the dedication of the Fairfax Branch Library in recognition of Grace Friedman.

Ms. Morita said this recommendation is in response to requests received by the Board of Library Commissioners from Congress members Janice Hahn, Adam B. Schiff, and Henry Waxman, Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield, Councilman Paul H. Koretz, the Jewish Libraries of Southern California, and a resolution from the Friends of the Fairfax Branch Library, all requesting that the Fairfax Branch be dedicated in honor of to Grace Friedman, who died in August 17, 2012.

Ms. Morita reported that Ms. Friedman was a very active member of the community and a long time volunteer at the Fairfax Library. She served as President of the Fairfax Branch Library for 30 years and ran the group’s weekly book sale. She was also a librarian for the Adat Ari El Religious School library for 34 years.

Ms. Morita stated that the criteria and procedure for recognition in branch facilities were stated in Board Policy 1:312 Recognition in Branch Facilities (She read the policy). The Library staff recommends initiating the process to consider dedication of the Fairfax branch in recognition of Grace Friedman.

The following Public Comments were heard by the Board in support of the dedication:

**Public Comments**

(1)

Jonathan Friedman, son of Grace Friedman, spoke about his mother’s involvement in the Library and how it went beyond the Fairfax Branch and extended to the Central Library and immediate community. He said her vision and service was never narrowly focused. She assisted at the Central Library when it was damaged by fire and was one of the Save the Books volunteers, including sorting smoke and water damaged books after the fire.

Mr. Friedman stated that in all of Ms. Friedman’s library volunteer work, she brought to bear her professional training as a librarian as well as her specialization in children’s literature and the immense scope of her own reading. She was a founding member of the Association of Jewish Libraries of Southern California, and served as an election day volunteer for more than a quarter of a century in both county-run elections and L.A. City elections where she was the precinct inspector.
Mr. Friedman commented on the importance of volunteers in our City, as the commissioners well know, because they contribute their time to manage our City’s business. He noted that most volunteers receive nothing more than an occasional certificate and perhaps a luncheon invitation. Therefore, he told the Board they have an opportunity to send a message to volunteers throughout L.A. that their efforts really are appreciated and they can do that by approving the proposal to dedicate the Fairfax Branch Library in honor of his mother, Grace Friedman. He believes this will honor somebody whose length and breadth of service to this branch and the wider community was truly extraordinary.

Jeff Seymour, friend and neighbor, said it was an honor to be here to speak about his friend Grace Friedman. He said what she meant to him and to literally hundreds and hundreds of others is something that he will always cherish. He said that much of his love for books, activism well before he went into government, and leadership came to him by observing Grace. He noted that most of us grow into our names but not Grace, she was born with her name and there is something to be said about people like that. He stated that he couldn’t think of a greater tribute or legacy than the Board taking action in dedicating this branch in memory of Grace Friedman. He hopes that they will and looks forward to the day when they can come here and dedicate that moment together.

Gloria Hamm, President of Friends of the Fairfax Library, greeted and welcomed the Board to the Fairfax Library. She talked about her first meeting with Grace Friedman. She said that one day she came to this branch looking to volunteer her time, and when she walked into this library, she immediately ran into this elderly woman sitting at a table selling books.

Ms. Hamm said that she was greeted warmly and she started calculating, first meetings, first impressions, so she got a G meaning good and then as they talked she got an R for receptive. She said she liked Grace’s mannerism and gave her an A for admirable, and a C for caring about this place. By the time Grace had showed her around and asked her to volunteer, it was an a-ha! moment because she did want her and the distance from her house was two minutes away, so she agreed to volunteer and she came back two days later. Ms. Hamm said it was an “E”xcellent meeting and it all spelled the name of Grace.

**Board Discussion**

Commissioner Walters said that she was honored by Grace Friedman’s years of service to the City and this library. She said that she had to tell about the years when Grace first volunteered at this branch it wasn’t the beautiful place that it is now. Ms. Walters thought it was an awful place but she was glad that it was replaced with this lovely building.
Commissioner Walters recalled that when the branch was designed to replace the previous one, it was too similar to the one they had torn down, and the people in the area got together and Grace Friedman was among those protestors whose protests resulted in this lovely building. She said that was something that hadn’t been mentioned this morning about Grace’s contribution to the Fairfax Branch.

Commissioner Walters expressed her personal appreciation to family members and friends of Grace Friedman who are here because we hear so many things about Los Angeles that give us pause but we don’t hear enough about the Graces of our City. She said Grace is certainly an example of what we would want our neighbors to be. It says to the rest of us, here is a person who loved her environment, her neighbors, and serving all of the people of the city, making all Los Angeles a better city.

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

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2013-28**

WHEREAS, Grace Friedman was a long time member of the Fairfax community and supported the Fairfax Branch Library where she volunteered for the Service to Shut-Ins program, was President of the Friends of the Fairfax Branch Library for 30 years and ran the Friends’ weekly book sale. She served the Fairfax community as an election day volunteer, running a precinct for more than 25 years and was the librarian at the Adat Ari El Religious School library for more than three decades; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Commissioners received letters from Members of Congress Janice Hahn, Adam B. Schiff and Henry A. Waxman, Assemblymember Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember Paul Koretz, and the Association of Jewish Libraries of Southern California, as well as a resolution from the Friends of the Fairfax Branch Library, requesting that the Fairfax Branch Library be dedicated to Grace Friedman:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Library Commissioners initiate, in accordance with Board Policy 1:312, the process to consider dedicating the Fairfax Branch Library in recognition of Grace Friedman.

**PRESENTATION: FRANCES HOWARD GOLDWYN-HOLLYWOOD REGIONAL BRANCH SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**

Assistant General Manager Kris Morita introduced Larry Nash, Librarian III at the Frances Howard Goldwyn-Hollywood Regional Branch Library, who would make a presentation about the treasures of the Goldwyn-Hollywood Regional Branch Special Collection.
**Presentation**

Mr. Larry Nash stated that one of the great pleasures of working at the Goldwyn-Hollywood Regional Branch Library is the special collection and it was great to be able share it with them. He said that after the destruction of the previous library from arson fire in 1982, the new library was built on the same location and a new collection, including the special collection room was created. He noted that due to the branch fire, they lost the special collection that included D.W. Griffith’s notebooks, Charlie Chaplin’s films scripts, and over 100 years of publicity materials, theater programs and rare books.

Mr. Nash said that the Library received help from the Hollywood Community who came together to create a new library. Those involved were Orson Welles, who was the “Voice of the Hollywood Library” in radio and television public announcements; and Johnny Carson who wrote to friends and associates for help.

Mr. Nash reported that the new collection contains materials representing Hollywood in film, television, performing arts, and community history; donations of books and magazines from the Alfred Hitchcock family and the widow of William Wyler. He pointed out that many of the special collection materials are out print, rare, and inscribed titles. He spoke about Herbert Brenon, film director from the silent film era, most notably his 1924 film script Peter Pan, which is part of the special collection.

Mr. Nash presented a Power Point and spoke extensively about the current special collection, including film posters and lobby cards. He also spoke about its usage and their importance to writers, film students, and other industries related to film. More recently, Costume Designer Gilbert Adrian’s sketches from 1930’s MGM were published in the book, “Hollywood Sketchbook: A Century of Costume Illustration” by Deborah Nadoolman Landis, who obtained the sketches from our special collection.

**VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

**REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING**

**Next Board Meeting**

The Board President announced that the next Board Meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2013, at the Central Library.

**Strategic Plan Presentation**

Commissioner Adam Nathanson asked if the commissioners would get an opportunity to review the strategic plan before it is scheduled for approval or if that meeting will be the first time they will get to discuss it.
The Board President answered that the City Librarian intends to call each of them so they have an opportunity to really have a conversation with him.

Commissioner Walters pointed out to the Board President that her response about the City Librarian calling each one of them separately might constitute a serial meeting.

Deputy City Attorney Basia Jankowsk said she would advise the City Librarian not to contact Board members individually, but he can certainly call one or two of them, but not enough that a quorum is formed.

Commissioner Walters recalled that when they did the previous strategic plan, they received the plan in rough draft several meetings ahead of when the adoption occurred. She also asked the City Attorney if the City Librarian had the option of calling a special meeting for discussion of the plan before it comes to them for its approval.

Ms. Jankowski responded that a special meeting could be held as long as it is a public meeting.

Commissioner Nathanson asked if the Board could receive the materials five (5) business days before the meeting. He said that should be sufficient time and that it is normal protocol with other board meetings that he has participated in.

Assistant General Manager Kris Morita stated that the plan may not be ready by July 11, but staff would provide the strategic plan in sufficient time for the Board to review it in a rough draft form.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Commissioner Nathanson thanked Mr. Jonathan Friedman for introducing him to Ms. Grace Friedman through his presentation and thanked Mr. Jeff Seymour for coming and speaking about her also. He said he would look forward to attending the dedication.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

ATTEST: __________________________

Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant

APPROVED: July 11, 2013