MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

February 27, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Mark Twain Branch Library, 9621 South Figueroa Street, Los Angeles, CA 90003, convening at 11:08 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT:

PRESIDENT    JOSEFA SALINAS
VICE PRESIDENT  BICH NGOC CAO
COMMISSIONER  MAI LASSITER
COMMISSIONER  RITA WALTERS

EXCUSED

ABSENT:

COMMISSIONER  GREGORY BETTINELLI

ALSO PRESENT:  John F. Szabo, City Librarian; Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager; Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney; Roy Stone, President, Librarians’ Guild; and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Regular Meeting –2/12/14

MOVED by Vice President Cao, seconded by Commissioner Walters and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 12, 2014 be approved as submitted.

REMARKS BY THE CENTRAL SOUTHERN AREA MANAGER
AND THE MARK TWAIN BRANCH SENIOR LIBRARIAN

Central Southern Area Manager

Kren Malone, Central Southern Area Manager, welcomed the Board to the Mark Twain Branch, one of 13 branches within the Central Southern region. She reported that the region has five Literacy Centers (Exposition Park Regional, Wilmington, Jefferson, Junipero Serra and Watts Branch). Throughout the year, the librarians perform outreach activities to approximately 250 schools and numerous community organizations within the region. There are over 170 volunteers and 9 Friends Groups who, along with a dedicated staff, contribute time, energy and ideas while supporting their local libraries.

Ms. Malone also talked about the various programs and collaborative partnerships to provide a variety of innovative programs and workshops for the communities, including the “Created Equal” film series developed by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This program uses the power of documentary films to encourage community discussion of America’s civil rights history. She also reported on the “STEAM Ahead” Program, a partnership with organizations throughout...
Los Angeles that provide children, teens and their families activities that explore science, technology, engineering, art and math and it has been well received by patrons throughout our region. Exposition Park Regional Branch Library partners with Youth Worksource and with the Concerned Black Men of Los Angeles to offer a mentoring workshop series entitled “Welcome to Manhood” which is aimed at providing life lessons to young adult men. At the Jefferson Branch, parenting workshops conducted by the Children’s Bureau of Los Angeles continues to bring new families into the library.

Ms. Malone also informed the Board about Veteran Resource Centers that have been established at three branch libraries in the Central Southern Area through the Calvets grant initiative to provides resources and assistance to veterans within the community. She noted that with the help of Calvet volunteers and a Library State grant that provided funding for library materials, the Exposition Park Regional Library could be considered a flagship for veteran resources and assistance. She also spoke about the Affordable Health Care enrollment events held every Saturday at several of branch libraries. Currently, Ascot, Wilmington and Mark Twain are hosting those events and have reached over 300 patrons so far.

Ms. Malone concluded her presentation by stating that staff continuously promotes LAPL resources and services that support the LAPL’s mission to promote cultural diversity, educate, and empower the communities they serve.

Senior Branch Librarian

Senele Rios, Senior Librarian, Mark Twain Branch Library welcomed the Board to the Mark Twain Branch Library, which is celebrating 11 years in this new building that was built in 2002. She pointed to a display of photos and history of the branch locations from 1928 to the Present.

Ms. Rios introduced the following staff who were present at the Meeting: Salvador Topete, Young Adult Librarian; Michael Baradi, Adult Librarian; Bronislav Meyler, Children's Librarian; and Andrea Brackett, Clerk Typist. Also, but not present at meeting, three Messenger Clerks: Tyiesha Hooper, Guillermma Rodriguez, Miriam Tepox, and Clerk Typists Michele Rodgers and Mark Teran. She stated that staff is very thankful for the hiring and transfer opportunities that have brought in new staff.

Ms. Rios reported that the Mark Twain Branch serves a community that is predominantly African-Americans and Latinos. She noted that the staff is more representative of the community and having Spanish-speaking staff is very helpful. She highlighted some of the wonderful work done by staff and spoke about the many programs provided at the branch, such as the adult programs that include Covered California; New Computer Basics/Craigslist Job Searching, Alzheimers Workshops; and a Senior Movie Matinee program that is funded by the Friends group.

Ms. Rios also mentioned several Young Adult Programs such as the Student Zone, which had over 500 students attending programs last year; the STEAM Ahead Program that recently presented a robotics series, and the Young Adult Blind Book
Date. She announced that for Teen Tech Week in March, the Young Adult Librarian is working on a QR Scavenger Hunt that will use technology. She stated that the Children's Librarian is also very active with school visits and children programs.

Ms. Rios thanked the Board for visiting the Branch and informed them that all staff members are very proud to be serving this community.

Board President Salinas thanked Area Manager Kren Malone and Senior Librarian Senele Rios for their presentation. She stated that she would like more information on the program presented by Concerned Black Men of Los Angeles.

Commissioner Lassiter asked about the attendance to the STEAM programs throughout the 13 libraries and asked how the program is advertised. Ms. Malone replied that the program is offered at four branch libraries in the Central Southern Area and they average about 25 participants per program. The program is promoted through social media, flyers, online calendar, and general outreach.

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

CITY LIBRARIAN’S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The City Librarian reported that he attended the following events:

The Next Californian: Immigration and Demographics

Mr. Szabo reported that he spoke at Inner City Arts in downtown L.A. at a program sponsored by Southern California Grantmakers, titled “The Next Californian: How Immigration Reform and Changing Demographics Will Impact Our Region.” He said it was an opportunity to talk about LAPL Citizenship Initiative to an audience representing various foundations, local and national organizations interested in immigration and naturalization. Dr. Manuel Pastor, USC Professor and a well-known person on the topic of immigration, was the moderator and Dr. Linda Lopez, Chief of the Office of Immigrant Affairs, from the Mayor’s Office also participated. He said that he received very favorable feedback from the audience and it was a great opportunity to talk about the wonderful history that public libraries have had in helping new Americans integrate into the communities.

USC Program Discussion on Governance, Policy and Leadership

Mr. Szabo also reported that on February 13, he spoke at the University of Southern California (USC) Bedrosian Center at an event titled “Lunch with a Leader,” Conversations about governance, policy and leadership, where the topic of discussion was the future of public libraries, innovation, and differences between academic versus public libraries. He said that this was also another event where he had the opportunity to share about the great work the Los Angeles Public Library is doing.
City’s Open Data Initiative

Last week, City Controller Ron Galperin and Councilmember Paul Krekorian held an event at the Valley Plaza Branch to talk about the City’s Open Data Initiative. He said the Mayor and the City Council are very enthusiastic about this initiative in which all city departments will be participating.

Mr. Szabo highlighted several events at the following libraries:

- The Central Library partnered with Artworks LA, a non-profit organization that combats the high school dropout crisis by creatively engaging alternative high school students to the arts. Twice a year, the Central Library hosts art exhibits and public performances from Artworks L.A. students. Last Thursday, 200 students from six area high schools presented their visual and performance arts interpretation of Homer’s “The Odyssey” in the Library’s Auditorium. He said this is a fantastic partnership that brings a significant number of students into the Library.

- The Jefferson Branch Library hosted a presentation on the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum. Mr. Loyd Clayton was the presenter and it was well attended. He said the Library welcomes program opportunities with the Clayton Museum.

- The Los Feliz Branch Senior Librarian Pearl Yonezawa has been working in partnership with the Local Business Improvement District to offer a series of programs titled “Architecture and Beyond” at the Los Feliz Branch Library. A recently presentation by Richard Stanley on the development of automobile design was attended by 52 people.

- The Palms-Rancho Park Branch presented a Created Equal Program with Dr. Melina Abdulah, Professor of Pan-African Studies at CalState L.A., and Ace Antonio Hall, actor and writer, who discussed the PBS documentary the “Abolitionist”.

- The Westwood Branch Library had 86 people attend the Baby and Toddler Storytime.

- The Will and Ariel Durant Branch Library offered a program on the history of gospel music that was presented by Dr. Jacqueline Codgell Djedje.

Covered California update

Covered California continues to be offered at LAPL libraries on Saturdays through the end of the enrollment period. The Library has hundreds of people coming in seeking assistance of certified enrollment counselors to enroll in the health insurance exchange. Mr. Szabo stated that he was absolutely delighted to host this program.
Investing in Working Families

Mr. Szabo announced a new partnership with the Mayor’s office to present a program in the area of financial literacy, titled “Investing in Working Families”. Financial Fitness program events will be held at the Central Library, Exposition Park Regional, Pio Pico-Koreatown, and Van Nuys Branch libraries on April 5, 12, 19 and 26. The events will be promoted through website, social media, flyers and the Mayor’s Office will be assisting as well.

The Board President thanked Mr. Szabo for the information.

CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS:

Recommendation to Accept Gift

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2014-5 (C-4)

RESOLVED, that the donation in the amount of $1,250 from LMNO Productions to the Studio City Branch Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of acknowledgment be sent to the donor expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for their generous donation.

Recommended Transfer of Funds
From the Library Foundation of Los Angeles
To the Library Department, Trust Fund 831

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2014-6 (C-5)

WHEREAS, the Library Foundation of Los Angeles administers the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant and the Maxwell H. and Muriel S. Gluck Endowment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the guidelines of the endowments and contractual agreement requirements, the Library Foundation is transferring earnings for Fiscal Year 2013-14 to the Library Department:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Library Commissioners approve the receipt of $160,000 from the Library Foundation of Los Angeles (LFLA) to be deposited into Library Trust Fund Number 831, as indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>From</th>
<th>To</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>150,000</td>
<td>NEH Grant</td>
<td>Account No. 283, Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 10,000</td>
<td>Gluck Endowment</td>
<td>Account No. 285, Youth Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recommendation to Approve Amendment
To Contract No. 736 with White Systems
For Compact Shelving Maintenance

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2014-7 (C-6)

WHEREAS, On October 6, 2005, the Board of Library Commissioners approved Contract No. 736 between the City of Los Angeles, Library Department and White Systems, Inc., the only firm that responded to the Request for Bids (RFB). The contract was approved for a three-year period, June 14, 2006 through June 13, 2009; and

WHEREAS, White Systems is the sole provider of maintenance services for the brand and model of compact shelving; therefore, since May 28, 2009, the Board has approved extensions of the contract for one year periods; and

WHEREAS, The Personnel Department previously determined that City employees do not have the expertise to perform the work required and Library Human Resources concurs with the previous findings; and

WHEREAS, Funds are available in the Library’s Contractual Services Account to cover the services:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves Amendment No. 3 to Supplemental Agreement No. 1 to Contract No. 736 with White Systems, Inc. to extend the term of the contract to June 13, 2015, pursuant to the provisions of City of Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 10.5 (b) 2; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Librarian and City Attorney be authorized to make technical changes to the amendment prior to execution; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the President of the Board of Library Commissioners be authorized to execute the amendment upon receipt of the required approvals.

PRESENTATION ON LAPL
MULTILINGUAL COLLECTIONS

City Librarian John F. Szabo introduced Joyce Cooper, Senior Librarian in the International Languages Department, who will make a presentation of the Los Angeles Public Library’s multi-lingual collections at the Central Library and system-wide.

Joyce Cooper, Senior Librarian, provided some historical background and gave a thorough review of the collections and services offered by the Central Library’s International Languages Department. She stated that staff is composed of members who speak Mandarin Chinese, French, Korean, Armenian, Russian and Spanish. Also, there is Central Library staff members that have language expertise in Arabic, Armenian, Cantonese Chinese, German, Italian and Russian.
Ms. Cooper reported that the multilingual collection is comprised of over 261,000 books, audios, CD’s, DVDs, videos, magazines and newspapers. The core of the department’s materials includes poetry, drama, history, biography and fiction in 29 different languages. The language collections are current and historical in scope. General interest collections in the following languages are being currently developed: Armenian, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese. The largest collection of books is in Spanish at about 49% of the total (75,000 books, of which 2,500 are to learn Spanish). She said the languages that are most in demand, in descending order are: Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Persian (Farsi), and Japanese. The collection also includes Native American languages such as Cherokee and Navajo, African dialects, and other native languages from South America.

Ms. Cooper stated that the branch libraries have their own language collections but the International Languages Department provides assistance in developing those collections. She also spoke about the various sources for purchasing materials. She indicated that the International Languages Department staff also provides language expertise to the branch libraries and attend various outreach community events where they are able to communicate and provide information to the patrons who don’t speak English. She provided some examples of the outreach and services libraries provide to non-English speakers:

- The Angeles Mesa Branch spends about 20% of its adult materials budget on materials in Spanish. They do outreach to Spanish-speaking parents in the local schools and a lot of their publicity materials are in English and Spanish.

- The Exposition Park Regional Branch Library offers English conversation classes, which has Spanish-speaking and Korean-speaking patrons taking the same class; and its staff in the Adult Literacy Program does a lot of community outreach.

- The Vernon Branch Library has a large population of immigrants from Mexico and Central America, many of them don’t know what a public library is, so staff goes to the community, to parent conferences and to non-profits in the community to explain in Spanish what a library is and the services it provides.

- The El Sereno Brach has a Spanish-speaking support group on Tuesday evenings for families with mental health issues that is attended by over 30 people. She said this is a very valuable service they are providing to the community.

- The Pacoima Branch has a pilot program for Covered California Assistance Program and has a Department of Social Service Eligibility worker twice a week to help Spanish-speaking patrons with resources they need.

- The Senior Librarian at the Cypress Park Branch does outreach beyond community centers, head starts, and schools, she also goes to local dentist offices and local health centers to talk about the Library services and to provide flyers.

- The Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch has the largest Korean Language collection in the system. They do a lot of programming in Korean and a lot of their programs are centered on helping new immigrants learn about U.S. customs.
Ms. Cooper concluded her presentation by stating the staff is able to promote Library services to non-English Speakers at large scale events, such as Univision’s Educational Fair that was by approximately 4,000 people attended last year at the University of Dominguez Hills. Also, LéA-LA-Feria del Libro is another event where they reach out to Spanish speakers. She stated that they also attend the Citizenship fairs.

The Board President thanked Ms. Cooper for her presentation. Commissioner Walters also thanked Ms. Cooper for the information provided and congratulated her for doing a great job spreading that information.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING: 

Libraries with Facebook pages

The Board President thanked Mr. Szabo for providing information to the Board via e-mail containing the list of the libraries with Facebook accounts and the number of library cardholders per library. She said the information is very useful in determining the distribution of library cards and where they to put more library cards on people’s hands.

Sunday Hours Opening Events Information

Commissioner Walters thanked Mr. Szabo for providing the information and photos on the outcome of the events held on January 12 celebrating the opening of the Sunday hours.

Branch Meetings

The City Librarian announced that the next Board Meeting for March 13, 2014, would be held at the Cypress Park Branch Library in the Northeast Area.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

ATTEST: ________________

Josefa Salinas
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant

Date to be approved: March 13, 2014