MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
March 26, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Ascot Branch Library, 120 W. Florence Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90003, convening at 11:01 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; Esther Glaze, Vice President, Ninth District Unity Neighborhood Council; and staff.

REMARKS BY THE CENTRAL SOUTHERN AREA MANAGER AND THE ASCOT BRANCH SENIOR LIBRARIAN

Central Southern Area Manager

Kren Malone, Central Southern Area Manager, welcomed the Board to the Ascot Branch. She reported on the various programs and services that the branch libraries in the region provide. She also spoke about collaborative partnerships that have resulted in a variety of innovative and creative programming and workshops for the communities.

Ms. Malone highlighted some of the upcoming programs in the region: The Vernon Branch will be hosting Poet Laureate Luis J. Rodriguez on April 25 at their Teen Poetry workshop event; Harbor City-Harbor Gateway Branch and Watts Branch libraries will offering small business workshops and financial literary programs for teens including financial aid workshops; the Mark Twain and John Muir Branch Libraries are working in partnership with Esperanza Housing to host a series of nutritional workshops.

Ms. Malone concluded by stating that region is looking forward to the 100th Anniversary of the Vernon Branch in September.
Senior Branch Librarian

Ellen Tanner, Senior Librarian, Ascot Branch Library provided a brief history of the Ascot Branch. She said the branch was established almost 94 years ago and moved to its current location 2004, a new 10,500 square foot facility constructed with Library Bond funds. She pointed out that special artwork in the branch consists of seven neon light pieces that capture the history of the community and the importance of time. To date, the Ascot Branch remains a hub of the community and currently the Neighborhood Council conducts their monthly meetings there. She introduced Esther Glaze, Vice President of the Ninth District Unity Neighborhood Council.

Ms. Tanner reported on the various programs and services provided by the staff at the branch. The summer reading club programs bring in more than a hundred children each week; the annual Dr. Seuss birthday party included a visit from the Cat in the Hat; a “Know Your Digits” health fair provided information on high blood pressure prevention, hosted a free turkey and food give-away by Chapter TWO, a gang prevention and intervention organization; a Women’s History Month-Sojourner Truth program, STEAM programs for young adults included astronomy programs, digital preschool storytimes, as well as many other programs for adults, children and teens.

Ms. Tanner stated that upcoming programs will include Young Adult Chess and Chat programs, a series of paper collage classes, a Girls Club sponsored by Chapter TWO, adult computer classes, Earth Day programs and a special bunny storytime for families featuring a photo op with the famous rabbit.

Ms. Tanner said the Ascot Branch assists patrons in a variety of requests including locating employment opportunities, starting a new business, filing unemployment claims or finding low income, senior or Section 8 housing. She said there are nine area schools served through the Student Zone computers and homework help resources. From the clerks to the librarians, she said the staff works diligently to match the patron with the requested information or resource and to welcome them to the Ascot Branch Library.

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

CITY LIBRARIAN’S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Garcetti appoints new Deputy Mayor

Mayor Garcetti recently appointed Barbara Romero as the new Deputy Mayor of City Services, to whom the Library reports. She replaces Doane Liu, who is now Chief of Staff at the Port of Los Angeles.
Mayor’s Launches “OurCycleLA” Program to Donate Computers to OIC Program

Last month, Mayor Garcetti launched “OurCycleLA” program that donates salvaged city computers to the non-profit organization Los Angeles Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC). The OIC refurbishes, reloads them with software and makes them available to low-income participants who otherwise would not able to afford them. Several libraries offer the OIC training sessions that qualify participants to receive a refurbished computer. Citywide, over 7,000 computers and keyboards have been donated to the OIC programs.

Will & Ariel Durant Branch celebrates 10th Anniversary

On Saturday, April 4, the Will and Ariel Durant Branch Library would be celebrating its 10th Anniversary on its new site and facility. The community, state and local representatives will be in attendance.

Book Bike Events

Last week, Children’s Librarian Ednita Kelly took the Book Bike to the 103rd Streetscape event in Watts to give out free books and promote library services. Councilmember Buscaino, Council District 15, loves having the Los Angeles Public Library’s Book Bike at events in his district and likes to ride it as well. The Book Bike is so popular that other councilmembers regularly request for Ednita Kelly to bring the Book Bike to their district community events, festivals, fairs, CicLAvia, etc. so the library is looking into obtaining another one.

Van Nuys Branch Outreach in Jury Rooms

Acting Senior Librarian Kevin Hasley at Van Nuys Branch is capitalizing on the library’s proximity to the government complex where the Van Nuys Superior Court is located to go to the jury rooms to talk about library services and resources.

April is National Poetry Month

The Library will be offering a great variety of programs throughout the system and in partnership with Urban Word LA it will be providing poetry, spoken word and hip-hop workshop series for teens with professional poets and performers. Teen poets will have a chance to enter into the 2015 Los Angeles Youth Poet Laureate contest. Current Los Angeles Poet Laureate Luis J. Rodriguez will be attending many of the poetry events planned for this month at several library locations.

The Big Read LA Program

Yesterday, the City Council launched “The Big Read in LA Program,” which is a community wide effort to read the same book. The main sponsors are the Cultural Affairs and the Library Department and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. This year’s book is "Into the Beautiful North" by Luis Alberto Urrea. The Library will be offering Big Read programs at several library locations.
Other events highlighted, included:

- April is National Financial Literacy Month: Many library locations will provide programs, including Introduction to Banking Services, Home Buyer workshops, Access to Capital, Money for College Students, and many other programs that highlights the importance of financial literacy and financial habits. The Library works closely with the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development to plan these programs.

- Studio City Branch hosted the “RocketJump Film School” that offered a seven-week series of workshops that was attended by 78 people.

- Volunteer Recognition: April is National Volunteer Month and the Library every year recognizes its very robust volunteer program with over 5,000 people volunteering in a variety of capacities throughout our 73 libraries.

Vice President Cao thanked Mr. Szabo for the information provided.

**CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS:**

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

**Recommended Acceptance of Gift**

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-14 (C-12)**

RESOLVED, that the gift of $3,000 received from the Friends of the Los Feliz Library for the “Hot Off The Press” Bestseller Program at the Los Feliz Branch Library be accepted; and

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

**Recommended Approval of Exhibition Agreement with the Los Angeles Unified School District**

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-15**

WHEREAS, The Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL), in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Arts Education Branch, would be presenting “LAUSD K-12 Visual Arts Exhibition,” from May 1 to May 23, 2015, in the atrium levels of the Central Library; and
Library Resolution
No. 2015-15 (Cont.)

WHEREAS, The exhibition highlights the work of over 200 students in drawing, painting, photography, media arts and mixed media an exhibit of art pieces made by students from kindergarten to 12th grade, representing all LAUSD Board of Education Districts. This exhibit will encourage families, students and teachers to visit the Central library and learn about LAPL’s excellent resources and programs:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners authorize the City Librarian to enter into an agreement with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to present the exhibition: “LAUSD K-12 Visual Arts Exhibition”; and

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

RECOMMENDATION TO INITIATE THE PROCESS TO CONSIDER NAMING THE ASCOT BRANCH LIBRARY IN HONOR OF POET WANDA COLEMAN

City Librarian John F. Szabo stated that, in accordance with Board Policy, staff recommends the Board approve initiating the process for the naming of the Ascot Branch Library in honor of Wanda Coleman. This request is in response to letters received from Mr. Austin Straus, husband of the late Wanda Coleman, and Dr. Jennifer D. Ryan, noted expert on Ms. Coleman’s work.

Mr. Szabo stated that the criteria and procedure for recognition in branch facilities were stated in Board Policy 1:312 Recognition in Branch Facilities, states that the Board may dedicate a branch library in memory of an individual and approve the design and placement of a plaque within the library.

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-16

WHEREAS, Wanda Coleman, who died November 22, 2013, was a world famous poet and often called the “unofficial Poet Laureate of Los Angeles and “the LA Blueswoman.” Ms. Coleman was a native Angeleno growing up very near the site of the current Ascot Branch Library. Los Angeles Times book critic David L. Ulin wrote that Coleman was “the conscience of the L. A. literacy scene – a poet, essayist and fiction writer who helped transform the city’s literature when she emerged in the early 1970’s”; and
WHEREAS, The Board of Library Commissioners received letters from Mr. Austin Straus, husband of the late Wanda Coleman and from Dr. Jennifer D. Ryan, a noted expert on Ms. Coleman’s work, who is an associate professor of English at Buffalo State, State University of New York, requesting the Ascot Branch Library be dedicated in recognition of Wanda Coleman:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners initiate, in accordance with Board Policy 1:312, the process to consider dedicating the Ascot Branch Library in recognition of poet Wanda Coleman.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING: None.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

ATTEST: ___________________ 

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Bich Ngoc Cao          Raquel M. Borden
Vice President          Board Executive Assistant

Approved: May 14, 2014