A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Silver Lake Branch Library, 2411 Glendale Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90039, convening at 11:12 a.m. on the above-written date.

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

EXCUSED
ABSENT:  COMMISSIONER  MAI LASSITER

ALSO PRESENT:  John F. Szabo, City Librarian; Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager; Arletta Maria Brimsey, Deputy City Attorney; and Library staff.

Vice President Cao started the meeting, pending the arrival of President Salinas.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR FY 2015-16

It was MOVED by Commissioner Bettinelli, seconded by Commissioner Walters, and unanimously carried that the Election of Officers be postponed to the next meeting when all Board members are present.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Regular Meeting – 7/9/15

Vice President Cao noted that Deputy City Attorney Arletta Maria Brimsey had submitted grammatical revisions for pages 2, 6, 7, and 8.

MOVED by Commissioner Walters, seconded by Commissioner Bettinelli and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 9, 2015 be approved.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Regular Meeting – 8/27/15

Vice President Cao noted that Deputy City Attorney Arletta Maria Brimsey had submitted grammatical revisions for pages 2, 3, 6, and 7.

MOVED by Commissioner Bettinelli, seconded by Commissioner Walters and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held August 27, 2015 be approved.
REMARKS BY THE NORTHEAST AREA MANAGER
AND THE SILVER LAKE BRANCH SENIOR LIBRARIAN

Northeast Area Manager

Sylvia Galan-Garcia welcomed the Board back to the Northeast Area. She stated that the region has the unique distinction of having the oldest branch and the newest branch in the library system, Benjamin Franklin and Silver Lake, respectively. She said the Silver Lake Branch, which opened in 2009, is a ‘Green’ building designed to have minimal impact on the environment and it is the most technologically sophisticated facility with a mechanical book sorting machine and state-of-the-art automated self-check-out machines.

Ms. Galan-Garcia reported on the programs, initiatives, and collaborative partnerships in the region. She mentioned that all Northeast branch libraries have programs planned for Latino Heritage Month (September-October). They will include craft programs, film showings, and group book discussions. She introduced Lisa Palombi, Senior Librarian at the Silver Lake Branch.

Silver Lake Branch Librarian

Lisa Palombi, Senior Librarian, noted that in 2009, for the first time since the Hyperion Station Branch closed in 1952, the Silver Lake Branch began servicing the Silver Lake community. People from all around the world come to visit the Silver Lake Branch for its technology and its architecture. The facility was designed by Architect Barry Milofsky, a resident of Silver Lake. He incorporated modern architecture themes to reflect the styles of Richard Neutra and Rudolph Schindler. He also paid attention to the placement of the building on this particular corner, maximizing the views, adding bookish details, and designing every inch, right to the street. The public art project, which incorporates quotes of famous Silver Lake residents, was designed by Christina Ulke. Her artwork is titled “Twenty-Two Thoughts Meet at a Corner” and consists of five pieces that feature text about Silver Lake’s unique cultural scene, the eclectic mix of modernism, pop culture, and art.

Ms. Palombi stated that the Silver Lake Branch has 26 public computers (3 Catalog, 3 Quick Connect, 4 Kidspath, 16 full service reservation); 3 self-check-out machines, LAPL to Go app for self-checkout with security kiosk; and a collection of about 55,000 items. A piano is located on the second floor and the optimal acoustics has expanded the branch’s reputation as being an exemplary venue for musical performances. The branch services a community with population of 23,970 and area schools include three preschools; five elementary schools and a variety of charter and magnet schools within those campuses; and six middle and high schools.

Ms. Palombi noted that the Friends of Silver Lake Library group, aka FOSSL, was established three (3) years before the building opened and its members were participants during design and construction discussions. The Friends run a bookstore, conduct membership drives, fundraise, and volunteer for bigger events. They have been integral in the development of adult programming that reflects the needs of the community and have
connected performers, historians, speakers, and authors with the branch. Furthermore, the Regional Friends Group, spearheaded by Friend Susan Lipman, is planting seeds for new Friends groups at each Northeast branch. They have shared their expertise and donated books in hopes of improving services at all of the branches in the region. They are also quick to donate books to other causes that support reading.

Ms. Palombi also noted that the Silver Lake Branch currently has five STAR Readers, two therapy dogs, a music composition teacher, and a growing Teen Volunteer Corps supervised by Young Adult Librarian Danica Sheridan. Many performers who reside in the community have gifted free concerts. The branch collaborates with the Library Foundation of Los Angeles, Silver Lake Neighborhood Council, co-sponsors with the History Collective programming for the NEH grant program Created Equal and for LGBT Heritage; MOMS of Silver Lake, and with performing arts groups, such as the BUSTed Storytellers, QueerWise Storytellers, and the Ashgrove Foundation

Ms. Palombi acknowledged branch staff: Danica Sheridan, Young Adult Librarian; Erica Silverman, half-time Adult Librarian II. Support staff include: Clerk Typists and Messenger Clerks Gay Tsubaki, Joyce Tan, Patrick Magallanes, Karla Leal, Samson Rodriguez, Rafael Velazquez and Renee Elle. She concluded by stating that the Silver Lake Branch has a strong social media presence, using Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to reach the community.

Board President Salinas thanked Area Manager Sylvia Galan-Garcia and Senior Librarian Lisa Palombi for their presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE BOARD’S JURISDICTION: There were no requests for public comments.

CITY LIBRARIAN’S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Yesterday, Mayor Garcetti held a press conference at the Central Library to address the extreme heat conditions and reminded people about city facilities, including the Library, being cooling centers.
- The Mid-Valley Regional Branch will be closed for approximately three weeks due to flooding damaged that occurred on September 8 when a fire suppression system pipe broke.
- There are now 16 graduates of Career Online High School and 4 students who are close to graduation. We hope to have a graduation ceremony soon. As a result of LAPL’s leadership on this initiative, the State Library is providing a $1 million to fund COHS scholarships to benefit patrons of library systems throughout the state.
- The State Library will be awarding scholarships through its Public Library Staff Education Program of up to $5,000 to library employees with bachelor’s degrees who wish to pursue a Master’s Degree in Library Science and to support staff for certification. Four LAPL employees who received those scholarships are: Tommy Vinh Bui, Messenger Clerk; Anita Marie Martinez, Library Assistant; Kristin Meagan Peers, Clerk Typist; and Karen Ter-Sarkisian, Messenger Clerk.
• The Library hosted Library Journal’s “Lead the Change” leadership development for 60 LAPL staff and 30 L.A. County Public Library staff.
• On September 17 (Citizenship Day), the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will present citizenship certificates to 80 children at a ceremony at the Central Library at 11:00 a.m. A naturalization information session will be held that evening at the Pio-Pico Koreatown Branch Library.
• September is National Library Card Month. The Library is doing outreach and promotion about the value of a library card through social media and other means.
• Latino Heritage Month is September 15-October 15. The Library currently has 75 programs planned throughout the system.
• The Mayor has issued his Budget Policy Directive for Fiscal Year Budget 2016-17. The proposed budget is due to the Mayor’s Office on November 20th.

Board President Salinas arrived at the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

• Budget Reserve Fund: The City Council’s Budget and Finance Committee recommended that funds be established for a Library Reserve Fund. Additionally, at a recent Commission meeting, the Board made a similar recommendation, thus, such a report will be submitted at its next meeting.

CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS:

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

Acceptance of Gifts

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-43 (C-35)

RESOLVED, That the gift of $7,000 received from the Sherman Oaks Friends of the Library to purchase library materials for the Sherman Oaks Branch Library be accepted; and

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

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LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-44 (C-36)

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

• $6,000 From the Friends of the Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library
• $6,000 From the Friends of Westwood Library
• $3,000 From the Friends of the Atwater Village Branch Library
• $3,000 From the Panorama City Friends of the Library
Library Resolution
No. 2015-44 (C-36) Cont.

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

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LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-45 (C-37)

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve the acceptance of funds from the Central Alameda Neighborhood Council in the amount of $1,990 for the benefit of the Vernon – Leon H. Washington Jr. Memorial Branch Library; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the funds be deposited into Library Trust Fund 831, Account 323 for the Vernon – Leon H. Washington Jr. Branch Library.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Central Alameda Neighborhood Council, expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for this generous donation.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE THE NAMING OF THE CHILDREN’S AREA OF THE BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BRANCH LIBRARY IN RECOGNITION OF CARLA SANGER

City Librarian John F. Szabo stated that this particular request was submitted by the Mayor’s Office and a letter of support was submitted from Deputy Mayor Barbara Romero that was received during the three-month public input period. He informed the Board that Deputy City Attorney Maria Brimsey had pointed out that the Board Policy requires that the recommendation for naming library facilities or areas within libraries facilities be submitted in writing. He asked Deputy City Attorney Maria Brimsey to elaborate on this issue.

Discussion

Deputy City Attorney Arletta Maria Brimsey explained that the issue is with the initial request in relation to Board Policy 1:312, Sections A and B. Section A-1, states that “A written recommendation must be submitted to the Board of Library Commissioners to include a justification for the proposed dedication”; and B, states that “recommendations for naming a community room or area of the library may be accepted and processed in accordance with the procedures in 1:312A above.” She stated that the request for the naming of the Children’s Area at the Benjamin Franklin Branch in recognition of Carla Sanger was initiated by a verbal request, which does not meet a requirement of the Board policy.
Mr. Szabo stated that there was e-mail exchange regarding the naming of the Benjamin Franklin’s Children’s Area in honor of Carla Sanger, from which a Board Report was prepared. He pointed out that there is a letter of recommendation from Deputy Mayor Barbara Romero from the Mayor’s illustrating that the Mayor’s Office supports this action. He said the other alternative would be to start the process again.

Deputy City Attorney Arletta Maria Brimsey stated that other request on today’s agenda is to name the community room in the San Pedro Regional Branch in recognition of Phil Scott, which was received writing; however, the letter does not have the word “recommendation.” She advised the Board to consider the term “recommendation” interchangeable with “request” since both are proposals, thus providing leeway to satisfy the conditions.

Mr. Szabo asked the Board for an exception from Board Policy and approve the Carla Sanger item, since the requirement of posting on the website for public input had already been done and there had been ample communication with the Mayor’s Office prior to submitting the staff recommendation to the Board. He stated that regarding the Phil Scott request, since it is in the initial stages of the process, staff can request another letter from the requesting party with the appropriate wording, if necessary.

Board President Salinas asked Deputy City Attorney Arletta Maria Brimsey if the Board were to decide to make an exception this time from Board Policy for this particular item, if that action would set a precedent to approve other verbal requests. Deputy City Attorney Maria Brimsey replied that it could.

Board President asked whose responsibility was to make sure that these requests were appropriate and followed policy before they are presented to the Board. Mr. Szabo replied that this was an unusual request that came quickly directly through the Mayor’s Office.

Deputy City Attorney Arletta Maria Brimsey stated that when someone wants to initiate a naming request, staff should inform them about the policy and the proper format. Mr. Szabo replied that staff can certainly make sure that in the future the protocol is followed.

Board President Salinas stated that Ms. Carla Sanger accomplished a lot for the LAUSD schools while serving as the President of LA’s BEST and she is deserving of recognition. She said she was surprised that only one letter was received for someone who did so much.

Board President Salinas asked the Board members if their thoughts are to make a policy exception or to continue the items so staff can notify the requesting party to re-submit the request in writing or disapprove the recommendation.

Commissioner Bettinelli supported moving forward with the approval of the naming of the Children’s Area in honor of Carla Sanger.
Board President Salinas stated that based on the advice from Deputy City Attorney Arletta Maria Brimsey, she asked for a motion to approve an exception to Board Policy 1:312-A-1 to consider the verbal request from the Mayor’s Office to name the Children’s Area of the Benjamin Franklin Branch Library in recognition of Carla Sanger, as acceptable.”

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-46

WHEREAS, On May 14, 2015, the Board of Library Commissioners approved to initiate the process to consider naming the Children’s Area at the Benjamin Franklin Branch Library in honor of Carla Sanger. Ms. Sanger was President and CEO of LA’s BEST (Better Educated Students for Tomorrow), helped write and advocate for the passage of Proposition 49, and established the “Beyond the Bell” program which was a groundbreaking and innovative after-school program launched by LAUSD; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with Board Policy 1:312, the Library solicited responses from the public and received a letter of support from Deputy Mayor Barbara Romero in support of the naming:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners name the Children’s Area of the Benjamin Franklin Branch Library in recognition of Carla Sanger.

RECOMMENDATION TO INITIATE THE PROCESS TO CONSIDER NAMING THE MEETING ROOM OF THE SAN PEDRO REGIONAL BRANCH LIBRARY IN RECOGNITION OF PHIL SCOTT

City Librarian John F. Szabo stated that a letter had been received from the Friends of the San Pedro Branch Library requesting the dedication of the San Pedro Branch Community Room in honor of Phil Scott.

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2015-47

WHEREAS, Phil Scott who died on July 18, 2015, was a long time and well known member of the San Pedro community. He coached, mentored and taught youths in San Pedro. For many years he, along with his wife of 55 years, managed the monthly book sales for the Friends of the San Pedro Library; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Library Commissioners received a letter from the Friends of the San Pedro Library requesting that the San Pedro Branch Library Meeting Room be dedicated in recognition of Phil Scott:
Library Resolution
No. 2015-57 (Cont.)

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners initiate, in accordance with Board Policy 1:312, the process to consider naming the San Pedro Branch Library Meeting Room in recognition of Phil Scott.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING:

Amnesty Week Outreach Plan

Board President Salinas thanked Peter Persic, Director of Public Relations and Marketing, for e-mailing the outreach plan outline for informing the public about the Amnesty Week program. She asked about the possibility of having bins to make it easier for people to return books. She offered her assistance in getting the word out.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board President thanked everyone for the amazing work they do. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

ATTEST: ________________

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Josefa Salinas
President

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Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant

Approved: September 24, 2015