MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
January 28, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Chinatown Branch Library, 639 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, convening at 11:00 a.m. on the above-written date.

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

EXCUSED:  

ABSENT:  

ALSO PRESENT:  John F. Szabo, City Librarian; Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager; Arletta Maria Brimsey, Deputy City Attorney, General Counsel; Sharon Lowe, Sr. Projects Deputy, Council District 1; Bill Chun-Hoon, member, Friends of the Chinatown Branch Library; and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Regular Meeting – 12/10/15

MOVED by Commissioner Salinas, seconded by Commissioner Walters, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 10, 2015 be approved as submitted.

REMARKS BY THE CHINATOWN BRANCH SENIOR LIBRARIAN

Shan Liang, Chinatown Branch Manager, welcomed the Board to the Chinatown Branch and provided background information about the Chinatown Branch Library and spoke about the several programs and services offered at the branch. In the last fiscal year, more than 260,000 patrons visited the Chinatown Branch and more than 600 programs were provided in English, Chinese or Vietnamese to young children, teens, adults and senior citizens in the community.

Ms. Liang stated that the branch is currently offering year-round reading programs for children from K to 6th grade with more than 200 children joining the club each quarter and it is sponsored by the Friends of the Chinatown Library. The branch also has a Teen Council program with 45 registered high school students who attend our monthly meetings and volunteer in the branch on a regular basis. The branch partners with local and
government organizations to meet the needs of the community. For example, it partners with the Asian American Advancing Justice to provide citizenship classes to the Chinese community and with the Los Angeles County Department of Social Services to provide one-on-one help for those who need assistance navigating through the health insurance system. In one year, they helped more than 900 families enroll in healthcare through the Affordable Care Act.

Ms. Liang pointed out that the Friends of Chinatown Branch Library was formed even before the branch was in existence and their generosity and support helps the branch offer extra services to the community. Most recently, the Friends Board approved funding to purchase laptops for the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) programs. They also fund annual scholarships to high school graduates and graduates from Evans Adult School. In the last 30 years, the Friends of the Chinatown Branch Library has awarded a total of 379 scholarships to 288 high school students, 85 Evan’s Adult School students and 6 Library graduate school students.

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

CITY LIBRARIAN’S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following:

1. **Career Online High School (COHS) Graduation:** On January 26, the Library held the first COHS graduation ceremony at the Central Library for 28 students. Approximately 100 family members attended as well as Mayor Eric Garcetti, State Librarian Greg Lucas and Board President Bich Ngoc Cao. Currently, 124 students are enrolled in this program and the State Library is funding 55 additional scholarships. Mr. Szabo stated that LAPL is the first public library to offer this accredited program, which has led to 49 other libraries to offer it. He thanked the Library Foundation for funding this program.

2. **ConnectED Library Card Challenge:** Mr. Szabo said that he attended a meeting at the White House where superintendents, mayors, and library directors from across the country met to discuss how school districts and libraries will work together to ensure that every student has a library card. Mr. Szabo said LAPL is engaged with LAUSD on addressing this program and in making sure that every child knows all about the resources that public libraries offer.

3. **Children’s Citizenship Ceremony:** On January 14, the Library, working with USCIS, hosted another ceremony at the Central Library where 89 children from more than 27 countries received Citizenship certificates. Board President Bich Ngoc Cao attended this wonderful event. Mr. Szabo said the Los Angeles Public Library is the first library in the country to launch this program and because of it, libraries all over the country are now participating in this program.
4. **New Exhibit:** “Firsts, Seconds and Thirds: African American Leaders in Los Angeles During the 1960’s and 70’s from the Rolland Curtis Collection.” This photo exhibit is on display in the Central Library’s History Department. The Library received a generous grant from the Haynes Foundation to process this exhibit. Rolland Curtis, who was Field Deputy to City Councilman Billy Mills and Mayor Tom Bradley, documented history of the African American in Southern California.

5. **Amnesty Program for Overdue Books:** From February 1 – 14, patrons who have overdue books can return them to the library and their fines will be forgiven. If books have already been returned and there are overdue fines, the patron can bring it to the attention of the library staff and the fines will be forgiven. Mr. Szabo reported that ads have been featured on Dash buses and a tremendous amount of social media and emails have been sent out to library patrons.

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Vice President Bettinelli asked if the Library had assisted when LAUSD had to close schools down for the day and if the Library had the ability to deal with similar situations. Mr. Szabo replied he didn’t have the data but the Library immediately notified city officials and LAUSD that the libraries were open that day.

In response to Commissioner Lassiter’s question on what was the goal or percentage for Library cards sign ups, Mr. Szabo said the goal was for every child to have a library card. Currently, the Library is talking to LAUSD about the process and an agreement with LAUSD will be developed to get library cards in the hands of students. He said the plan is to start with the LA’s Best school programs.

Commissioner Lassiter suggested to contact the California Association of Independent Schools to get them included.

Commissioner Salinas asked if parochial schools would be included. Mr. Szabo replied they would be included as well.

**CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS:**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the Consent Calendar.

It was MOVED by Commissioner Salinas, seconded by Commissioner Walters, and unanimously carried that the following resolutions be adopted:
Acceptance of Gift

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2016-1

RESOLVED, That the gift from the Friends of the Playa Vista Branch Library, consisting of the reupholstering of eight chairs, valued at $5,034.65, for the reading room at the Playa Vista Branch Library be accepted; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

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Acceptance of 2015 ALSC Curiosity Grant
for the Pio Pico-Koreatown Branch Library

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2016-2 (C-1)

RESOLVED, that the Board of Library Commissioners approve acceptance of the American Library Association – 2015 ALSC Curiosity Grant award of $7,489.78 for the Pio Pico Koreatown Branch Library; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the funds be deposited in Fund 831, Code 326.

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Recommendation to Approve Exhibition Agreement with
the American Holocaust Memorial Museum for the “State
of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda” Exhibition

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2016-3 (C-2)

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners authorize the City Librarian to enter into an agreement with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to present in the Central Library Getty Gallery the exhibition: “State of Deception: The Power of Nazi Propaganda,” from March 10, 2016 to August 21, 2016; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, To authorize the City Attorney and the City Librarian to make technical changes to the Agreement prior to execution.
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA)
WITH THE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION
AND PARKS FOR THE USE OF PORTION OF THE
CHINATOWN BRANCH LIBRARY PROPERTY

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the proposed agreement between the Los Angeles Public Library and Department of Recreation and Parks for the use of the adjacent 10,760 square feet of Library property for a park. He said that the project, currently referred to as the Ord and Yale Street Park, the Alpine Recreation Center Expansion Project and the Vertical Park Project, will be an improvement that will serve the Library well and the community because it will give the Library opportunities to provide programs there.

Mr. Szabo stated that there has been great involvement from the city government and the community and he thanked to everyone involved in the process.

Public Comments

(1)
Sharon Lowe, Sr. Projects Deputy, Council District 1, spoke in support of the project. She said the project will benefit the patrons who visit the Library because people including seniors and students currently walk up and down the slope of the dirt road of the undeveloped area adjacent to the branch. She said the Chinatown Branch Library is a second home for the Chinatown community and every child in Castellar Elementary School has a library card.

Ms. Lowe stated that the park will provide a safe connection for the residents who use the Library by transforming a blighted site into something useful. She said the park project is a concept that has been in the planning process for a while and the community has been very involved in giving their input on the planning and design at six community-based planning workshop meetings. She showed renderings of the proposed park and pointed out that the theme goes well with the Chinatown community and it will be an active cultural recreational destination.

Ms. Lowe stated that several departments have been involved in this project: Department of Recreation & Parks, Housing, Planning, Building and Safety, Bureau of Engineering, Bureau of Street Services, City Administrative Office, Chief Legislative Office, and Department of General Services. She said Council District 1 hopes that Library Commissioners would give its support and approval for the project.

(2)
Dr. Bill Chun-Hoon, member, Friends of the Chinatown Branch Library and former principal of Castellar School, spoke in support of the project. He stated that west of the branch is an unimproved and unsightly hillside that is full of brush and weeds that can be seen by visitors and residents.
Dr. Chun-Hoon asked that the Library Commission agree to the proposal for a recreation park, which will also improve the Library’s property. He said the proposed project includes a stairway leading from Hill Place to the intersection of Yale and Ord Streets, so that students and residents on the western section of Chinatown will have a safe access to the Library and through to Chinatown’s commercial core.

**Presentation**

Rebecca Abano, Bureau of Engineering, Project Manager for the Alpine Recreation Center Expansion Project, stated that the City had hired a landscaping architect consultant to design a plan for the undeveloped existing site to convert it into a park with a joint agreement with the Library. She used a power point presentation to show the design, size and property lines. She noted that the park will include gates, fencing, lighting and restrooms.

**Board Discussion**

Commissioner Rita Walters had several questions in regard to parking, and whether cars would be cutting through the park and, if so, how could that be prevented.

Ms. Abano replied that the park will be gated and they anticipate people walking to the park. She said that parking will not be provided in the immediate area. Those who drive to the park would park on the street.

Commissioner Walters asked if there would be signs posted that no cars are permitted. Ms. Lowe responded that the Council Office is fully aware that it is a high density community with very little parking available. She stated that the street can’t be closed because the residential buildings at the end of the street need access.

Commissioner Walters asked the City Librarian if it was possible to arrange for her a walk around the area of the proposed park to see the streets they have been talking about. Ms. Lowe said she would be happy to give her a tour.

Deputy City Attorney Arletta Maria Brimsey noted that the revisions had been made to the Board Report, Memorandum of Agreement and Resolution, and asked that Board approved those items as revised.

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

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2016-4 (C-3)**

WHEREAS, the Library Department (hereinafter referred to as the “Los Angeles Public Library” or as “LAPL”) owns property located at 639 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, known as the Chinatown Branch Library; and
WHEREAS, the Department of Recreation and Parks (hereinafter referred to as “RAP”) owns the property adjacent to the northern portion of the Chinatown Branch Library which RAP desires to improve for use as a park for recreational purposes, currently referred to as the Ord and Yale Street Park, the Alpine Recreation Center Expansion Project and the Vertical Park Project; and

WHEREAS, such northern portion of the Chinatown Branch Library (such northern portion is further described herein and is hereinafter referred to as “PREMISES”) is currently vacant, unimproved property that is not being utilized for any Library purpose; and

WHEREAS, LAPL and RAP recognize that the proposed uses of the PREMISES described as approximately 10,760 square feet of land located at the northern portion of the Chinatown Branch Library, identified as Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN) 5408-017-904 and 5408-017-905, would best serve the public at this time by providing recreational and Library purposes and desire to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA); and

WHEREAS, RAP has the ability and resources to improve and maintain the PREMISES for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, in return for assisting the Department of General Services in clearing up the Library’s title to the Teed Street property and for improving and maintaining the PREMISES, RAP desires to use such PREMISES for recreational purposes; and

WHEREAS, the improvements to the PREMISES proposed by RAP would allow the PREMISES to also be used by LAPL for Library purposes; and

WHEREAS, LAPL and RAP recognize that the proposed uses of the PREMISES would best serve the public at this time by providing recreational and LAPL purposes and desire to enter into an MOA; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles City Charter Section 534 grants the Board of Library Commissioners full control over all Library sites:

THEREFORE, RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners hereby approves the use of the northern portion of the Chinatown Branch Library by RAP for joint recreational and Library purposes, subject to the terms and conditions of the MOA; and
Library Resolution
No. 2016-4 (C-3) Cont.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approves
the MOA between LAPL and RAP for the improvement, use and maintenance of the
northern portion of the Chinatown Branch Library agreeing to the terms and conditions
therein.

APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT AND THE
LIBRARY FOUNDATION OF LOS ANGELES

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2016-5 (C-4)

WHEREAS, The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of
Los Angeles Public Library and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles expired on
October 31, 2015:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve a new three-
year term Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Los Angeles
Public Library and the Library Foundation of Los Angeles .

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS &
REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING: None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

ATTEST: _________________  _____________________________
             Bich Ngoc Cao                                        Raquel M. Borden
               President                                                Board Executive Assistant

To be approved: March 10, 2016