

MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

February 11, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Harbor City-Harbor Gateway Branch Library, 24000 S. Western Avenue, Harbor City, CA 90710, convening at 11:05 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT:	PRESIDENT	BICH NGOC CAO
	VICE-PRESIDENT	GREGORY BETTINELLI
	COMMISSIONER	MAI LASSITER

EXCUSED

ABSENT:	COMMISSIONER	JOSEFA SALINAS
	COMMISSIONER	RITA WALTERS

ALSO PRESENT: John F. Szabo, City Librarian; Kris Morita, Assistant General Manager; Arletta Maria Brimsey, Deputy City Attorney, General Counsel; Pat Colby, President, Friends of the San Pedro Regional Branch Library; Ryan Ferguson, Field Deputy, Council District 15; and staff.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: There were no minutes for approval.

**REMARKS BY THE HARBOR CITY- HARBOR
GATEWAY BRANCH SENIOR LIBRARIAN**

John Pham, Senior Librarian, welcomed the Board to the Harbor City-Harbor Gateway Branch Library and provided background information about the Branch and spoke about the many programs and services that are offered to the community.

Mr. Pham stated that the branch has four STAR volunteers who read to children four days a week. For teens, the branch recently held two career workshops coordinated by L.A. Youth at Work. More of these workshops for teens will be offered in June. Also, a group of students from Narbonne High School meet at the library once a month to perform live music; about 30-40 students and patrons come to see them every time they perform.

Mr. Pham said the branch partners with other organizations to offer programs for the benefit of the community. They include a series of Citizenship classes which will offer "Citizenship Works," a new pilot program that is part of the Step Forward LA campaign. Financial programs, small business workshops, and ongoing monthly workshops for low income families to buy discount computers coordinated by "Los Angeles OIC Computer Training Center Program" are offered at the branch. In the past three months, 32 patrons have participated in the workshop and received computers. Three more workshops are booked for

the next three months. The branch has also teamed up to work with Providence Little Company of Mary Hospital to offer a series of six workshops to assist patrons to sign up for health insurance through the Affordable Care Act. About 50 people have been assisted at the branch. It will offer another series of Health Workshops in April.

Mr. Pham concluded his presentation by highlighting the following branch programs in celebration of African American Heritage Month: “The Jackie Robinson Story 42” movie on February 13; “Slave Spirituals on Clarinet” live music performance on February 20; and an African drumming workshop performance by Marcus Miller’s Drums on February 23rd.

**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. Update on Amnesty Program for Overdue Books: Mr. Szabo reported that the Library received a tremendous amount of publicity for this program. As of yesterday, more than 38,000 overdue materials had been returned and over 9,600 people can use their library cards again. Coverage included social media feeds, e-mail blasts to LAPL card holders, messages on library check out receipts, banners on all 2,700 public computers, print (LA Times, Daily News, La Opinion, Daily Breeze, OC Register, LA Weekly, Wall Street Journal); online and television (ABC, NBC, and CBS affiliates, as well as channel 35, Smithsonian online, and it was mentioned in Late Night with Seth Meyers); on the radio (Mega 96.3, KNX am, KPCC and KCRW); LAUSD’s website and teachers. Mr. Szabo thanked all the library staff for promoting this program in their local communities. The Amnesty program will end on Valentine’s Day.

Vice President Bettinelli asked about the number of outstanding items and the total amount of fees relinquished. Mr. Szabo replied that 132,000 items were overdue and a total of \$400,000 in fees had been waived. He said the Library had three goals: Getting materials back for others to use, giving people access to the library again, and goodwill.

Vice President Bettinelli congratulated the City Librarian and staff for the success of the program.

2. Homeless Services: “The Source”, which includes L.A. Homeless Services Authority, L.A. County Department of Mental Health, Department of Public and Social Services, and the Department of Health Services, meet together on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Central Library to provide homeless patrons with referrals, vouchers, and other services. They have distributed hygiene kits, bus tokens, gift cards to 99 Cents stores, and process applications for the Coordinated Entry System. Mr. Szabo stated that there was information about the Library and our efforts in the homeless plan approved by the County and City this week.

3. African American Heritage Month is being celebrated in the Library with a variety of programs such as films, exhibits, and programs for children, teen, and adults. All of these programs can be found on the Library's website. The Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day are also being celebrated.
4. "Read-Along with LAPD": The Library has trained five LAPD officers to be STAR volunteers. The officers will read to children two hours each week starting at the Vermont Square and the Vernon Branch libraries. LAPD Officers have been trained on the five early literacy practices; talking, singing, playing, reading, and writing. The Library looks forward to expanding this partnership with more LAPD Officers.
5. Teen Parenting Workshops: this new program was started at the Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library with a grant received by Ruma Gonzalez, who is the Young Adult Librarian at that branch. She is working with partners to provide Teen Parenting Workshops for new teen parents including financial literacy. There were donations to give a new, free car seat to each of the participants. Funding came from the Friends of the Library, as well as the California State Library, and the Southern California Library Cooperative.
6. Eva Mitnick, Director of Central Library Services, has been named Chair of the 2017 Pura Belpre Award Committee. This is a national literary award that presents the Pura Belpre Award to a Latino/Latina writer or illustrator whose work best portrays celebrates Latino cultural heritage experience in an outstanding work of literature for children and youth. Along with the Newberry, Caldecott, Coretta Scott King Award, this is a very prominent award.
7. The White House had a regional convening on New Americans. Mr. Szabo said the library was invited to participate and the Mayor spoke there. He said the Library was mentioned at this day-long gathering so many times that it probably was the third most spoken word behind citizenship and immigration at this gathering. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service highlighted the work libraries are doing, and it was highlighted by White House staff and the Mayor as well.

CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORTS:

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

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

Acceptance of Gifts

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2016-6 (C-5)

RESOLVED, That a gift of \$10,000 from Patricia F. Kulha Trustee, Patricia F. Kulha Trust, for donation to the John C. Fremont Branch Library be accepted; and

Library Resolution
No. 2016-6 (C-5) Cont.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of appreciation be sent to the Trustee of the Patricia F. Kulha Trust expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for the generous gift.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2016-7 (C-6)

RESOLVED, That the gift of \$7,500 received from the Friends of the Mid-Valley Regional Branch Library to purchase library materials for the Mid-Valley Regional 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.

Approval of Transfer of Funds
from the Library Foundation of
Los Angeles to the Library Department

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of the transfer of funds from the Library Foundation of Los Angeles to the Library Department.

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2016-8 (C-7)

RESOLVED, that \$6,500 be transferred from the Library Foundation of Los Angeles and deposited in the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Library Department Budget, Fund 300, Account 9010, Library Materials, from the following funds:

- \$3,000 from the Muriel Pollia Foundation fund to maintain and develop the Asian Religion and Philosophy Collection of the Central Library;
- \$3,500 from the Righteous Persons Foundation Fund to maintain and develop the Judaism Collection of the Social Science/Philosophy/Religion Department of the Central Library; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that these funds will be used in accordance with the guidelines specified by the Muriel Pollia and Righteous Persons Foundations.

RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE NAMING
OF THE MEETING ROOM AT THE SAN PEDRO
REGIONAL BRANCH IN HONOR OF PHIL SCOTT

City Librarian John F. Szabo reported that after the Board approved to initiate the process to name the San Pedro Regional Branch in recognition of Phil Scott at the September 10, 2015 Board Meeting, in response to a request received from Ms. Pat Colby, President of the Friends of the San Pedro Library, the Library requested public input for a three month period. He reported that Board office received 105 responses from the public during that three-month period, 104 in support and 1 opposed.

Mr. Szabo stated that the recommendation for the naming has received overwhelming support from the community and recommended its approval.

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

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2016-9

WHEREAS, On September 10, 2015 the Board of Library Commissioners approved the initiation to consider naming the meeting room at the San Pedro Regional Branch in recognition of Phil Scott in response to a request received from Ms. Pat Colby, President of the Friends of the San Pedro Library; and

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, In accordance with Board Policy, the Library solicited responses from the public for three months and received a total of 105 responses, 104 support, 1 opposed to the naming of the meeting room at the San Pedro Regional Library in recognition of Phil Scott. Those who wrote in support of the naming spoke of Mr. Scott's positive impact on the community and the inspiration he provided to several generations of San Pedro youth:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners name the meeting room at the San Pedro Regional Branch Library after Phil Scott.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS &
REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING: None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

ATTEST: _____

Bich Ngoc Cao
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant

To be approved: March 10, 2016