MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

April 28, 2016

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held at the Central Library, 630 West 5th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90071, convening at 11:02 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT:

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

EXCUSED

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER MAI LASSITER

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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Regular Meeting – 4/14/16

MOVED by Commissioner Salinas, seconded by Commissioner Walters, and unanimously carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 14, 2016 be approved as submitted.

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. Los Angeles Central Library: A History of its Art and Architecture, is a new book published through local publisher Angel City Press. Mr. Szabo stated that during a Commission Meeting, Councilman LaBonge who was visiting with Mr. Arnold Schwartzman talked about having a book about the Central Library, which resulted in this book written by Stephen Gee with historical photographs taken by Mr. Schwartzman. Mr. Gee will be at the Central Library on Saturday, April 30th for a book signing. The book is available at the Library Store.
2. **New Library Card**, designed by artist Shepard Fairey, was launched on April 19th at a press conference attended by Mayor Garcetti and Board President Bich Ngoc Cao. Mr. Szabo stated 100,000 library cards have been printed, and over 6,000 were issued in the first week. He said discussions are being held about having a contest for children to submit designs for a library card.

3. **National Volunteer Month**: The Library has an incredible group of approximately 7,000 volunteers. The City Council recognized Library volunteers with a special proclamation and Library volunteers presented the City Council with a “check” for $4.6 million dollars, representing the value of volunteer hours. Three Volunteer Recognition Breakfasts events were held at the Central Library and at Baldwin Hills and Panorama City libraries.

4. **Science Day Program**: The 10th Annual Science Day Program at Central Library was a success. Over 600 people attended this program for children that is based on the STEAM theme (Science Technology Engineering and Math). The children tried on virtual reality headsets, 3D printing, and Robotics. The Children’s Librarians and the Friends of the Children’s Literature Department also helped sponsor the event. Science Day programs have also been held at the various branches.

5. **West Valley Regional Branch**: Members of the AARP Tax Foundation were on site from February 1st through tax day to assist patrons with their tax returns. A total of 492 tax forms were completed through this effort.

6. **Money Matters Initiative**: Neighborhood Housing Services of LA County presented a homebuyer workshop at the Vernon Library where 50 people participated. The Silver Lake Branch held a workshop on Fundamentals of Investing. The Sherman Oaks Branch held a program on Identity Theft, staying safe on-and-off-line.

7. **National Poetry Month**: U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera was at the Library for an Aloud program. Poetry Programs, Youth Poet Laureate, Poetry Workshops were also held at Pacoima and Hyde Park-Mariam Matthews Branch libraries. The Mark Twain Branch hosted three poetry events. Benjamin Franklin will host the Los Angeles Literary Round Table, which is a gathering point for poets and writers.

8. **Benjamin Franklin Library**: At the Mayor’s Office request, the Benjamin Franklin Branch Library is being used as a community information center for issues related to the Exide Battery Plant. Staff from the City’s Division of Toxic and Substance Control have been there on Saturdays in the last two months to answer questions from the community, and staff from the Health Department were there to take blood tests, answer questions, and hand out information packets. A total of 59 blood tests were given. Mr. Szabo stated that this was a great way for the Library and staff to help out with a community issue and thanked the Library staff for a job well done.
9. **Platt Branch Library**: The Library hosted a program with Sandy Banks, Pulitzer Prize Winner with the LA Times. 129 people attended the program.

10. **Pico Union Branch Library**: Held an event in celebration of the 100th Birthday of Beverly Cleary. Fifty five participants attended the program.

11. **Wilmington Branch Library**: Children’s Librarian Marc Horton hosted an incredible ukulele program titled, “Uke Can Do It!” Mr. Szabo invited the Board members and audience to watch a video on social media that displays the youth of Wilmington perform in a ukulele orchestra.

**CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS:**

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

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

**Approved Acceptance of Gift**

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2016-18 (C-14)**

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

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

**Approved Participation and Right of Entry Agreement with Department of Water and Power**

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2016-19 (C-15)**

RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approved the Participation and Right of Entry Agreement between the Library Department and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for the Installation of Electric Vehicle (EV) Level 2 Charging Stations at Branch Libraries; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve the no-cost upgrade to the existing charging units at the five (5) branch libraries under LADWP’s rebate program; and
Library Resolution  
No. 2016-19 (C-15) Cont.  

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Library Commissioners approve the installation of EV chargers at additional branch libraries pursuant to the LADWP Charger Rebate program; and  

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

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the President of the Board of Library Commissioners is authorized to execute the Agreement.  

ORAL DISCUSSION: MAYOR’S PROPOSED  
BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17  

City Librarian John F. Szabo provided an overview of the Mayor’s Proposed Budget for the Library Department, which includes all of the packages approved by the Board. He said a significant piece of the budget is an initiative of $1.5 million dollars to provide services, programs, materials and for the acquisition of one Tech-Mobile and two Bookmobiles to service the homeless and other underserved populations.  

Mr. Szabo stated that the Library is working with Alisa Orduna, Director of Homelessness Policy in the Mayor’s Office to provide mobile library services to transitional housing facilities, shelters and other city agencies that service the homeless. He said the idea is to use the bookmobile and tech-mobile as an opportunity to do outreach with partner organizations such as Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA) and Department of Health Services (DHS) to have their staff go on these vehicles to do the outreach to help homeless individuals as well as provide library services.  

Mr. Szabo stated that one of the questions staff was asked during in the Budget and Finance Committee meeting yesterday was whether the Library staff was going to be assisting with entering homeless individuals in the coordinated entry system. He clarified that the Library staff work would be more like what they do with the Immigrant Initiative, for which they provide information, help facilitate services and connect them to the partners who provide the actual services.  

Mr. Szabo stated that there is also funding for more security and the positions that the Board approved are also in the budget as is technology. He thanked the Mayor for his support.
Discussion

Vice President Bettinelli said he was under the understanding that for the Central Library building, specifically, the repair and replacement of elevators had been addressed in last year’s budget and $1.6 million in the current budget, but this proposed budget has another $1.7 million for the next fiscal year for the same purpose.

Eloisa Sarao, Assistant Business Manager, responded that the Central Library has 11 elevators and 12 escalators. Funding requests for their modernization started in last fiscal year’s budget (FY 2014-15) for seven (7) elevators and two (2) escalators. For the current fiscal year (2015-16) funding was requested for four (4) escalators. In the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17, funding is being requested for (4) additional escalators. For Fiscal Year 2017-18, funding will be requested for the last two (2) escalators. She said four of the seven elevators approved for modernization in FY 2014-15 have been completed and work on the other three will begin in the fall of 2016.

Vice President Bettinelli asked if homework had been done on the cost to maintain this building because revenue will be capped but the expenses will keep growing.

Mr. Szabo replied that staff is working on our multi-year plan for anticipated capital costs. He noted that during the recession some very necessary repairs and upgrades were not made. The escalators and elevators modernization and repairs have not been done since they were installed. There are also cleaning and preservation expenses for this building.

Commissioner Salinas, referring to page 725 of the Mayor’s Proposed Budget asked if the 19 positions of Librarian I will they be removed because those positions would be upgraded to Librarian II.

Michael Bolokowicz, Director, Human Resources, replied that the pay grade change does not cut down the number of positions the Library will hire. He said the CAO and Library decided to reclassify them as Librarian II’s because Librarian I’s will automatically advance from Librarian I to II after serving a certain time in class.

Mr. Szabo stated that it was done for budgeting purposes so as not to under budget.

In response to Commissioner Salinas’ question about the number of librarians that will be hired. Mr. Bolokowicz stated that the intent is to fill all 49 approved positions in the budget; of those 49, 9 are new librarian positions.

In response to Vice President Bettinelli’s inquiry about the expenses for homeless services, Mr. Szabo said some expenses will be recurring such as staffing, vehicles maintenance, gas, promotional materials, technology updates, and other operational expenses. Mr. Szabo stated that some services will be provided in partnerships with multiple agencies.
Board President Cao asked about the timeline for the mobile services program. Mr. Szabo stated that funding begins July 1, but it will take some time to procure the vehicles. Other services will be provided as soon the new fiscal year begins.

Commissioner Bettinelli recommended that be plenty of outlets and charging stations be installed.

ORAL PRESENTATION: THE LIBRARY’S “MADE IN L.A.” INITIATIVE

Alicia Moguel, Principal Librarian, Engagement and Learning Division and John Frank, Senior Librarian, Will and Ariel Durant Branch, spoke about the new pilot program series titled, “Made in L.A.” (MILA). MILA provides entertainment and cultural programs aimed to educate and inspire individuals in the areas of literature, arts, and music. Ten “Made in L.A.” marquee events are premiering at the Central Library’s Taper Auditorium and approximately 45 events are taking place at branch libraries throughout the city from March through June 2016.

Ms. Moguel stated she and Mr. Frank sit in the MILA committee along with Karen Pickard-Four, East Valley Area Manager; Christina Young, Librarian II, and Wendy Westgate, Librarian II, both from the Engagement and Learning Division. She said the MILA committee members reach out to artists, musicians, authors, playwright, and others in the cultural landscape of L.A. and select the program participants. Program options include conversations, performances, workshops, plays, stand-up comedy, photography exhibits, etc. The committee strives for a diverse group that would represent LA’s cultural community.

John Frank, Senior Librarian, Will and Ariel Durant Branch, spoke about the various MILA events and their success. He highlighted several of them such as “Uncabaret,” which delighted a near capacity audience to the Central Library, many of them first time library visitors; Tangerine Director Sean Baker brought his Spirit Award Winning Independent Film to the Taper Auditorium to a crowd of more than a hundred who enjoyed a screening of the film followed by a question and answer session with the director. He said Golden Bridge Choir, Independent Shakespeare Company, Poet Mike Sonksen and the Veterans’ Artists Alliance are some of the many participants. He invited the Board to attend a show featuring Oscar Nominated Actress Jennifer Tilly in “Blunt Force.” He said the committee has also commissioned a multi-media opera based on the 110 Freeway.

Vice President Bettinelli asked what had been the inspiration for the program.

Ms. Moguel said they were inspired by all the talent that is such as a part of the Los Angeles and how that could be incorporated into a library setting.
Commissioner Salinas asked if the series would always run from March through June. Ms. Moguel replied that it will for this year because they had a short time to develop it but they hope to develop more for next year.

Commissioner Salinas asked how the committee reaches out. Ms. Moguel replied that committee members reach out through personal connections and some that heard about the program came to them, which resulted in having a good variety of performances to select from.

Mr. Frank noted that he had run a theater before so he had connections in that area and some of the contacts resulted by just calling and reaching out through Facebook. He said the committee had more talent to select from than they had room.

VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS: None.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING: None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

ATTEST: ________________

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Bich Ngoc Cao  
President
Raquel M. Borden  
Board Executive Assistant

Approved: May 12, 2016