MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

June 22, 2017

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 11:15 a.m. on the above-written date.

PRESENT:  PRESIDENT  BICH NGOC CAO
           VICE-PRESIDENT  KATHRYN EIDMANN
           COMMISSIONER  JOSEFA SALINAS

EXCUSED

ABSENT:  COMMISSIONER  MAI LASSITER
          COMMISSIONER  RITA WALTERS

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

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL: Regular Meeting – 6/8/17

MOVED by Commissioner Salinas, seconded by Board President Cao, and carried that the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 8, 2017 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. The Retirement of Assistant City Librarian Kris Morita: Mr. Szabo announced that Assistant City Librarian Kris Morita is retiring after 34 years of service to the city. He invited the Board members to the retirement celebration honoring Ms. Morita for her dedicated service to this institution. He stated that Ms. Morita’s love for the Library is reflected in her work and she has been a part of so many Library initiatives and milestones. The event will take place on July 20th from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
2. Summer Reading & Summer Lunch Programs: Mr. Szabo stated he had helped serve lunch yesterday to children and teens participating in the Summer Reading/Lunch Programs. To date, over 2,000 lunches have been served at 14 library locations and more than 1,400 programs are being offered system wide. He thanked staff and teen volunteers who help with the program. He said the Library encourages children all over LA to enroll and participate in the Summer Reading program. Adults are also invited to participate in the Summer Reading program.

3. Partnership with the Los Angeles Dodgers: Mr. Szabo said that Dodgers’ Manager Dave Roberts read to children at the Arroyo Seco Branch Library in Highland Park. He noted that many of the Dodgers’ players have been engaged in this partnership and have done various events at several library locations. He stated that he is very proud of the partnership and how it has been growing and strengthening over time.

4. The Library acquires a third Book Bike: This new book bike will be in the San Fernando Valley, based at the Mid-Valley Branch. The first book bike was acquired by the San Pedro Regional Branch through a mini grant received by Children’s Librarian Ednita Kelly. The second book bike is in the Northeast Region at the Arroyo Seco Branch. Mr. Szabo gave recognition to Ms. Kelly for the idea because it has become a fantastic outreach tool for the Library. He also thanked the Library Foundation for the initial book bike funding through the Library’s IDEAS Mini-Grant program.

5. HIV and AIDS Awareness Month: The following libraries are working with health agencies and health non-profit organizations to have HIV test screenings at their locations: Edendale, El Sereno, Exposition Park Regional, Harbor City/Harbor Gateway, Goldwyn Hollywood, John Muir, Pico Union, Silver Lake and Westchester.

6. Councilmembers’ Inauguration Ceremonies: The Library has been invited by many councilmembers to participate in their inauguration ceremonies. Library staff will be there to sign up people for library cards and to promote library services.

7. Glass Artist and Sculptor Therman Statom is the artist who created the three whimsical chandeliers that hang in the Tom Bradley Atrium. He is a great friend of the Library and was at the Central Library last Saturday for a program and to install student artwork created by Clinton Middle School for display in the Rotunda.

8. Pride Month: Mr. Szabo thanked Library staff for celebrating Pride Month in various ways, from book displays to public programs. On June 24th, the Platt Branch will present a program on the Herald Examiner Photo Collection and how the LGBTQ community was written about and portrayed from 1944 to 1989. On June 25th, the Library will host a program with RuPaul at the Central Library as part of the LA Made series. Teens in Teen’Scape did a wonderful craft and program creating a piece of artwork bulletin board honoring and remembering Keith Haring’s work and advocacy.
CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS:

City Librarian John F. Szabo reviewed the Consent Calendar and recommended its approval.

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

Approved Acceptance of Gifts

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-23

RESOLVED, that the gifts from the following donors be accepted as indicated below:

$5,572.24 From the Friends of the Chatsworth Branch Library
(Value of three book and video displays)

$1,213.70 From the Friends of the Jefferson Branch Library
(Value of audio visual equipment)

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a letter of thanks be sent to the donors expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for their generous support.

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LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-24 (C-22)

RESOLVED, that the gifts for the “Hot Off The Press” Bestseller Program be accepted from the following Friends Groups:

$3,000 From the Friends of the Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library for the Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library

$3,000 From the Sherman Oaks Friends of the Library for the Sherman Oaks Branch Library

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a letter of thanks be sent to the donors expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board of Library Commissioners and staff for their generous support.
LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2017-25 (C-23)

RESOLVED, That the gift of $1,300.00 received from the Midtown North Hollywood Neighborhood Council for the benefit of the North Hollywood Regional Branch Library; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the funds be deposited in Trust Fund 831, Account 170 – North Hollywood Regional Branch Library;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a letter of thanks be sent to the Midtown North Hollywood Neighborhood Council expressing the grateful appreciation of the Board and staff for the generous gift.

Adopted Amendment to the Library Personnel Resolution for Fiscal Year 2017-18

Amendment to Page 9, Note f of Schedule A, Library Personnel Resolution for Fiscal Year 2017-18 adopted on June 8, 2017:

“f. Twenty-two (22) positions when regularly assigned to perform duties as Senior Librarian in charge of a Regional Branch, in charge of the Catalog Department or Access Services, in charge of a Central Library Subject Department, Photo Collection, and Digitization and Special Collections shall receive salary at the second premium level rate above the appropriate step rate of the salary range prescribed for the class.”

Recommendation to approve License Agreement With the Library Foundation of Los Angeles for Use of Works of Art and Trade Names: WITHDRAWN

ORAL PRESENTATION: EXPANDING ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

Susan Broman, Director, Emerging Technologies, stated that the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) is working on the various pilot projects to introduce new technologies with the goal to expand access to technology services to patrons. She introduced Edwin Rodarte, Librarian II, Emerging Technologies, to elaborate on those projects.

Edwin Rodarte, Librarian II, provided an overview of the pilot projects that Emerging Technologies is currently working on. Two of them are “Tech2Go” and “Hotspots to Go”. They consists of iPad minis and hotspot devices that patrons can check out for three weeks, like they do with books. The following four branch libraries
each will receive 18 iPads Minis for the Tech2Go pilot program: Chatsworth, R. L. Stevenson, Sylmar and Vernon. The “Hotspots to Go” pilot program consists of portable hotspot devices that patrons can check out to access the Internet at home. Each of the four branch libraries participating in this pilot project have received 10 devices: Cahuenga, Mark Twain, Pacoima, and Baldwin Hills. The Library has partnered with AT&T and T-Mobile to have Internet coverage for those devices. To date, they have been checked out 254 times in approximately three months and there are already 83 holds for the devices.

Mr. Rodarte reported that the Library is also working on two grant funded projects, Virtual Reality (VR) and SimplyE. The State Library awarded a grant to LAPL to acquire VR equipment for communities where access to this technology might not be available. The Pio Pico- Koreatown and Watts Branch Libraries, as well as the Central Library will have VR equipment so people can create their own 360 experiences. This equipment is not currently available but it will arrive at any moment. The LAPL has also been selected to be part of a grant to implement a product here in California called SimplyE. This is an app developed by the New York Public Library to give library cardholders the ability to search and borrow e-books, audio books, magazines all in one app rather than switching from app-to-app. Because of licensing concerns, this service is not available yet but is getting closer.

**Discussion**

Board President Cao asked how patrons were finding out about these programs and Vice-President Eidmann asked how the locations had been selected for the pilot projects.

Mr. Rodarte replied that the libraries participating in the pilot projects have signs posted at their locations and on the website. The locations were identified through Branch Library Services and librarians; and the factors were based on low income communities and good signal coverage.

Commissioner Salinas asked if the Library anticipates growing this project, and if so, by how much and when could they expect stats on how good it performs.

Ms. Broman replied that the pilot stats are being looked at. She said the Library is interested in seeking funding and thanks to partnerships the Library has been able to acquire the equipment with zero funding. The devices are very low cost but it is the monthly cost that adds up.

Vice-President Eidmann asked if there had been any conversations with Facebook or foundations of tech companies about donating or providing lower costs devices.

Mr. Rodarte replied that the California State Library has a contract partnership with Facebook that resulted in about 100 libraries participating in this grant funded project, but no tech companies have been reached out locally.
Board President Cao stated she knows many VR creators and offered to ask them to come to speak at the Library. Ms. Broman welcomed her offer.

Mr. Szabo reported that he had informed the Mayor’s office about this initiative and spoke last year to the Mayor’s Tech Council about opportunities in donating or helping the Library obtain some of this technology.

Mr. Szabo thanked Ms. Broman and Mr. Rodarte for their presentation.

**VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS**: None.

**COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING**: None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

**ATTEST**:

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Bich Ngoc Cao             Raquel M. Borden
President                  Board Executive Assistant

Approved: July 27, 2017