MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

August 8, 2019

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

1. ROLL CALL

Present:  President  Bích Ngọc Cao
            Vice-President  Kathryn Eidmann
            Commissioner  Josefa Salinas
            Commissioner  Dale Franzen

Absent:  Commissioner  Mai Lassiter

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Broman, Asst. City Librarian; Basia Jankowski, Deputy City Attorney; and staff.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting – June 13, 2019:

It was MOVED by Vice President Eidmann, seconded by Commissioner Franzen to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 13, 2019 as submitted. Motion passed 3/4 (Commissioner Salinas abstained).

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

4. CITY LIBRARIAN’S COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman reported the following on behalf of City Librarian John F. Szabo:

- “Undesign the Redline” Exhibit: This interactive exhibit illustrates the history of racial segregation and systematic housing discrimination against non-whites during the 1930’s. It uses powerful narratives, historical documents, timeline, modern events, maps, photographs, and activities to shed light on how intentional discriminatory practices have been structured and institutionalized and continue to influence racial attitudes displacements, gentrification and the homelessness crisis. It also gives the opportunity for people to write their own stories and participate in the conversation, and hopefully, inspire a vision for change. This exhibit will be on display through September 30th at the Central Library’s Lower Level 1 of the Bradley Wing.
• **Drag Queen Storytime**: The West Valley Regional Branch hosted Drag Queen Storytime with Pickle on July 26 that gathered about 70 people. At the event, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield presented both Pickle and the branch with certificates of recognition thanking them for hosting the event in that community. There were a few protesters; however, library staff, LAPD and LAPL Security Services expertly managed the interactions and the crowd had a great time. The Library has hosted Drag Queen Storytimes for the past two years at 13 library locations, with two more coming up; one today at Central Library and tomorrow at the Los Feliz Branch. Ms. Broman said the program sends out a beautiful message of acceptance and tolerance.

• **Summer Programs**: The Library encourages children, teens, and adults to come to the library to continue reading and learning throughout the summer by offering hundreds of programs and events such as the Summer Lunch, Your Author Series, STEAM workshops on Rocket Making and Space Exploration with representatives from NASA and JPL, and on how grow micro greens at home, make a summer journal, disappearing ink, slime, ice cream, and so much more. She thanked the Librarians for making summer memorable for all participants.

• Felipe De Neve Branch Library celebrated its 90th Anniversary with a special event and birthday cake on August 6.

• **L.A. Dodger Storytime**: More than 100 children wearing Dodger caps and shirts packed into the Edendale Branch Library for Dodger’s Storytime on August 5th. Pitcher Ross Stripling, who is known to be an avid reader, read a children’s book, answered questions about baseball and led everybody in singing “Take Me Out to the Ball Game.” Library card artist Gajin Fujita attended as well to get kids excited about reading at the Library. Many of the children were from the nearby Echo Park Recreation Summer Camp. There have been 10 Dodger Storytimes throughout the summer thanks to the partnership with the L.A. Dodgers Foundation.

***

Vice President Eidmann stated that she has been taking her son to Baby and Toddler Storytime at least once a week at the Silver Lake and Edendale Branch Libraries. Both of them are completely filled every time. The Edendale Branch has a bilingual story time in English/Spanish. She said it is a wonderful program.

5. **CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORTS**:  

   **Consent Items**

   Asst. City Librarian Susan Broman reviewed the Consent Calendar and recommended its approval.
It was MOVED by Commissioner Salinas, seconded by Commissioner Franzen and unanimously carried that the following resolutions be adopted:

A. **Recommendation to accept gifts**

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2019-30**

RESOLVED, That a gift consisting of one (1) Bourne table with power, two (2) ottomans, four (4) Moon chairs and four (4) Smith System stacking chairs, valued at $5,681.68, received from the Friends of the Platt Library to the Platt Branch Library be accepted; and

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

***

**LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2019-31**

RESOLVED, That a gift consisting of one (1) Bourne table with power and six (6) Smith System stacking chairs, valued at $2,762.62, received from the Friends of the Northridge Library and the Northridge East Neighborhood Council to the Northridge Branch Library be accepted; and

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

**Discussion Items**

There are no items for discussion.

6. **PRESENTATION: Diversity and Inclusion Apprenticeship program**

Jené Brown, Principal Librarian from the Engagement & Outreach Department, provided an overview of the LAPL’s Diversity and Inclusion Apprenticeship program, a paid summer mentorship program for high school and college students who are interested in learning more about careers in the library field. She stated that LAPL decided in 2018 to develop the “Diversity and Inclusion Apprenticeship Program” after participating in the Public Library Association’s (PLA) “Inclusive Internship Initiative” in 2017.

Ms. Brown said that through this program the apprentices have the opportunity to connect with one another and learn from Library mentors about the multiple facets of library life, from administration to programming to user services. She reported that in 2018, LAPL received 107 applications for seven internship placements. Those seven
apprentices were paired with Mentor Librarians to receive professional one-on-one training on library operations, management, collection development and programming and worked on mentored projects which included a PSA in Spanish for Library Card Sign-Up Month, a college resources program, a community garden, an “All-Around the World” language learning program, and a Queer & Trans People of Color Young Adult Book Club.

Ms. Brown said for 2019 eight apprentices were assigned mentors at the following libraries: Cahuenga, Encino-Tarzana, Exposition Park-Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Regional, Harbor City-Harbor Gateway, Los Feliz, Westchester-Loyola Village and at Central Library’s Young Adult Services and Teen’ Scape. They participated in key programs and activities including a master class series on library operations, services, programs, initiatives, and resources; met with directors of Branch Library Services and Central Library Services and had one-on-one time with the City Librarian. They were introduced to academic and special libraries that included field trips to Loyola Marymount University (LMU) Library, University of Southern California (USC) Library, and the California African American Museum Research Library. They also worked on a capstone connected learning project by creating a program/project that met a community need.

Ms. Brown stated that to determine if objectives and goals have been met, the library stays connected with former interns/apprentices; some have become library employees as messenger clerks and ultimately will become librarians upon completion of library school. She said she presented this program at the California Library Association Conference last year where it drew interest from other public libraries. LAPL has also received written recognition from national leaders and colleagues; most recently, from the Executive Director of the Public Library Association.

Ms. Brown quoted City Librarian John Szabo, who said “Libraries not only want but need workforces filled with librarians who represent the communities they serve.” She shared that while visiting the Harbor City-Harbor Gateway Branch Library last Thursday, she observed a young boy approach Apprentice Tahj Boyd, who had just conducted a STEAM program teaching about magnetics and LAPL’s resources to about 30 children from the local Boys and Girls Club, and he told Tahj, “You look like me!” Tahj sat down and read books and chatted with the boy. She said this interaction clearly showed that having staff that reflects the young boy’s image and likeness is impactful, meaningful and necessary, and that is the goal of this program.

Ms. Brown stated that her goal for 2020 is to have 20 apprentices. Also, she would like the Library to develop a similar program for current library employees who are also interested in a career in librarianship. She introduced mentor librarians and apprentices present at the meeting.

Commissioner Franzen asked the three apprentices present to speak about their experience in the program, whether they will become librarians or not, and two things they learned from this apprenticeship.
Miria Bower, apprentice assigned to the Westchester-Loyola Village Branch with mentor Librarian Teresa Mons, stated that she came into the program already knowing that she wanted to become a librarian. She said she received very good advice from her mentors and the program has provided her with a much more real world perspective.

Selena Castaneda, apprentice assigned to the Edendale Branch, said the program definitely inspired her and she is very excited about going to library school. She mentioned that she has signed up for a lower division library science course on research methods offered by East Los Angeles Community College.

Kasey Solomon, apprentice at Central Library’s Teenscape with mentor Candice Mack, said this program has thought her the behind-the-scenes operations of the library; how many people it takes to accomplish day-to-day operations, which patrons don’t get to see. She said she will be a junior at the University of California Irvine this fall and she is not considering librarianship, but she is encouraging her friends to pursue this profession.

Commissioner Franzen said it is so great to see so much enthusiasm and congratulated Ms. Brown for the amazing job she and the mentors are doing with this program.

7. **VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

8. **COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS & REVIEW OF MATTERS PENDING:**

   **Remembering Toni Morrison**

   Commissioner Franzen took a moment to acknowledge the great contributions of Toni Morrison, who passed away recently. She said Toni Morrison was a literary titan and one of the first African American women that went into literary editing and became one of the greatest authors of all time with books like *Beloved* and *Jazz and Blues.*

   **Appointments to Board Policies and Procedures Committee**

   Board President Cao appointed Commissioner Salinas and Commissioner Franzen to fill the two vacancies in the Board Policies and Procedures Committee and thanked them for volunteering.

9. **Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2019-20**

   **President**

   It was MOVED by Vice President Eidmann, seconded by Commissioner Franzen, and unanimously carried that President Bích Ngọc Cao be re-elected President of the Board for Fiscal Year 2019-20.
Vice President

It was MOVED by President Cao, seconded by Commissioner Salinas, and unanimously carried that Vice President Kathryn Eidmann be re-elected Vice President for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

**ATTEST:**

_______________________                    _______________________
Bích Ngọc Cao               Raquel M. Borden
President                   Board Executive Assistant

Approved: October 10, 2019