

MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Regular Meeting
December 10, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held via teleconference at 11:03 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. ROLL CALL:

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

Also present via teleconference: City Librarian John F. Szabo, Assistant City Librarian Susan Broman, Library staff and members of the public.

2. OPENING REMARKS: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting – September 24, 2020: APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Commissioner Franzen to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on September 24, 2020. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao, Franzen, Lassiter, and Salinas); 0 Noes; 1 Absent (Eidmann):

b. Minutes of the Regular Meeting - October 8, 2020: APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Commissioner Franzen to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 8, 2020. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao, Franzen, Lassiter, and Salinas); 0 Noes; 1 Absent (Eidmann):

c. Minutes of the Special Meeting - October 8, 2020: APPROVED

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Commissioner Lassiter to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on October 8, 2020. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao, Franzen, Lassiter, and Salinas); 0 Noes; 1 Absent (Eidmann):

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS WITHIN THE BOARD'S JURISDICTION:

The Board heard 5 general comments, 2 comments on Item 6b, and 12 comments on Item 7.

5. CITY LIBRARIAN'S COMMENTS

AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following:

- **Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspots** can be checked out from several libraries across the city, with recent additions to the program to increase capacity. Hotspot devices have been checked out over 1,200 times.
- **The Octavia Lab** and its partners, Glendale Public Library, Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI), Goodwill SoCal, Los Angeles County's Youth@Work Program and Greater Los Angeles Hospital Registry, have made over 20,000 face shields that have been distributed at 22 hospitals by LAPL staff. Mr. Szabo thanked Board President Cao for being a very supportive advocate of this effort as well as the entire Board for their support.
- **"A Handful of Earth, A Handful of Sky: The World of Octavia E. Butler."** City Librarian John F. Szabo was in conversation with author Lynell George on YouTube on December 3 discussing her new book about Octavia Butler.

6. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:**Discussion Items**

- a. **Recommendation to approve the First Amendment to Agreement No. 769 to effectuate a name change in the Consent to Assignment for the maintenance of the Central Library landscape and vicinity including the Maguire Gardens (630 W. 5th Street, Los Angeles), pursuant to the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Escrow instructions between Beringia Central LLC and USBT Property Owner LP: APPROVED**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval of this item.

It was moved by Commissioner Lassiter and seconded by Commissioner Franzen to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao, Franzen, Lassiter, and Salinas); 0 Noes; 1 Absent (Eidmann)::

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-38 (C-22)

____ WHEREAS, Beringia Central LLC assigned its interest in Contract No. 769 for the Maintenance of the Central Library Landscape and Hardscape Areas to USBT Property Owner LP, in connection with the sale of real properties known as 633 West Fifth Street (U.S. Bank Tower) and 524 South Flower Street (Maguire Gardens and West Lawn Garage) to USBT Property Owner LP ("Assignment of Contracts and Intangibles and Assumption Agreement," dated September 15, 2020); and

WHEREAS, Contract No. 769 with Beringia Central LLC for the maintenance of the Maguire Gardens, Central Library landscape and vicinity was approved by the Board on August 22, 2013 and will expire on October 3, 2023; and

WHEREAS, USBT Property Owner LP will assume all rights, title, and interest in Contract No. 769, including the duties, covenants, obligations, and liabilities of Beringia Central LLC, upon execution of the First Amendment to Contract No 769:

FURTHER RESOLVED That the Board President be authorized to execute the Consent to Assignment and First Amendment to Contract No 769.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the Board of Library Commissioners approves the Consent to Assignment to USBT Property Owner LP (Attachment A); and

FURTHER RESOLVED That the Board of Library Commissioners approves the First Amendment to Contract No. 769 between the City and USBT Property Owner LP for the maintenance of the Maguire Gardens, Central Library landscape and vicinity (Attachment B); and

FURTHER RESOLVED That the City Attorney and the City Librarian be authorized to make technical changes to the Consent to Assignment and First Amendment prior to execution.

- b. Recommendation to approve initiating the process to consider dedicating the Vermont Square Branch Library in recognition of Rita Walters, former Library Commissioner, City of Los Angeles Councilmember, Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member, and long-time Los Angeles resident: APPROVED**

City Librarian John F. Szabo recommended approval to start the process to dedicate the Vermont Square Branch Library in recognition of former Library Commissioner Rita Walters to honor her legacy and contributions, not only to the Los Angeles Public Library, but also to the city as a former City of Los Angeles Councilmember and Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member.

Mr. Szabo noted that this request is being initiated by the Los Angeles Public Library because Commissioner Walters was an incredible advocate for the Library. In 1991, she became the first African American woman elected to the Los Angeles City Council representing Council District 9, where the Vermont Square Branch Library is located. In 1996, when this historic Carnegie building reopened after being retrofitted, then Councilmember Walters was a speaker at the event, and as Library Commissioner at the branch's 100th anniversary celebration many years later; therefore, staff recommends dedicating this branch in honor of Rita Walters.

Discussion

Commissioner Lassiter said she couldn't think of a more worthy individual to dedicate the branch to and supports this recommendation.

Board President Cao stated that Commissioner Walters was one of the greatest Angelenos in her book and she is glad she got to work with her. She said that because of the pandemic, they couldn't get together for her funeral, but hopes to do something special for the dedication.

Commissioner Salinas said Commissioner Walters was an amazing woman who gave her great advice about being a commissioner and what that meant to her. Commissioner Salinas went on to say she hopes the Library can do something special for Commissioner Walters.

Commissioner Franzen said her only regret was not getting to meet her and that she missed out on something very special.

It was moved by Commissioner Salinas and seconded by Commissioner Lassiter to approve the following resolution. The motion passed with 4 Ayes (Cao, Franzen, Lassiter, and Salinas); 0 Noes; 1 Absent (Eidmann):

LIBRARY RESOLUTION NO. 2020-39

WHEREAS, Former Library Commissioner Rita Walters, who passed away on February 17, 2020, was an influential champion of civil rights whose dedication to public service never wavered. Upon her passing at the age of 89, Mayor Eric Garcetti called Ms. Walters "A model public servant"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Walters, described by the Los Angeles Times as a "trail-blazing African American leader" who was a "fierce advocate of equity," was elected to the LAUSD Board in 1979 as the only African American member of the Board, where she served until 1991; and

WHEREAS, in 1991 Ms. Walters became the first African American woman elected to the Los Angeles City Council, a position she held until 2001. Ms. Walters represented the 9th Council District where the Vermont Square Branch Library is located; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Walters was appointed to the Board of Library Commissioners on February 15, 2002, and served nearly five terms under three mayors. She presided on the commission during the greatest period of expansion and innovation in the library's 145-year history, an unprecedented era, which included the largest library construction program in the nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Library Commissioners initiate, in accordance with Board policy 1:312, the process to consider dedicating the Vermont Square Branch Library in recognition of long-time Los Angeles resident and former City of Los Angeles Councilperson, Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member and Library Commissioner Rita Walters.

7. UPDATE FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON RE-ENVISIONING SECURITY

Board President Cao, who co-chairs the Ad Hoc Committee on Re-envisioning Security, reported that the committee met last week where they discussed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). She reiterated that the current MOA has been available on the Library's website for several months for public access. She said the committee discussed the history of interdepartmental city agreements that have been handled by the Library and other city departments, and what the MOA is and what it is not. She asked City Librarian John F. Szabo to provide more information about the MOA.

Mr. Szabo stated that the MOA between LAPL and LAPD is an administrative agreement that covers operational logistics between the departments for a variety of things including security services, and because it is an administrative agreement it is signed by general managers for each department. He said this is something that is not brought to the Library Commission or Police Commission. He noted that the budget the Board adopts does control the amount of services and funding that is provided by LAPD. The agreement includes positions being requested, which allows the Police Department to plan for positions.

Mr. Szabo said that historical information had been included in the August Memo to the Board, including the decision by the City Council back in 2010-2011 to move all security services for various departments that were under the Department of General Services to LAPD and to develop agreements with departments for logistics. The first agreement was signed in December 2012. The Current MOU between the Library and LAPD expires on December 31, 2020, but there is a provision in the MOA that allows it to continue for another year if it is not renewed, so the terms of the agreement stay in effect.

Mr. Szabo noted that the minimum of staffing noted in the MOA was not being met, therefore contract security was being provided. He also clarified that the \$1.5 million cut by the Board from the budget will reduce both LAPD and contract security. He also pointed out the MOA does not prevent the Library from hiring its own contract security. It is the budget that the Board adopts that determines the level of service the Library gets.

Discussion

Commissioner Salinas inquired about input from the public and suggested discussion with LAPD to discuss issues.

Mr. Szabo replied that staff meets with LAPD on an ongoing basis to discuss specific issues, incidents and staffing needs.

Commissioner Franzen said she supports more dialogue because this is very complicated and she feels the importance of the Board taking their time and really listening and getting the information they need to make the right kind of decisions.

**8. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Commissioner Lassiter commended Board President Cao for doing a great job chairing the Board meetings.

Holiday Message

The Board members expressed their appreciation to staff and administration for their extraordinary efforts in what has been a very difficult year. There is so much that staff does to figure out new ways to serve the public. They wished everyone Happy Holidays and Happy New Year.

Next Meeting: The next Regular Meeting of the Board is scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. via teleconference.

9. ADJOURNMENT: The Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Bích Ngọc Cao
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant