

MINUTES

BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

February 25, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Commissioners was held via teleconference at 11:04 a.m. on the above-written date.

1. Roll Call:

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

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

2. Opening Remarks: Commissioner Franzen opened the meeting with quotes from Harriet Tubman, Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and Audre Lorde.

3. Approval of the Minutes:

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting - January 14, 2021

It was moved by Vice President Eidmann and seconded by Commissioner Franzen to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 14, 2021. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Cao, Eidmann, and Franzen). Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Salinas).

b. Minutes of the Regular Meeting - January 28, 2021

It was moved by Vice President Eidmann and seconded by Commissioner Franzen to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 14, 2021. The motion passed with 3 Ayes (Cao, Eidmann, and Franzen). Noes: 0. Absent: 1 (Salinas).

4. Public Comments on Matters

Within the Board's Jurisdiction:

The Board heard one (1) General Public Comment and two (2) comments on Item 7.

5. City Librarian's Comments

and Announcements: City Librarian John F. Szabo reported the following:

- **Book Bundles to Go:** This new service allows Library card holders to request online bundles of children's books that they can pick up at any of the 26 Library To Go Hubs. The book bundles are based on reading level from Pre-K to 3rd Grade and topic of interest, and in English and Spanish.
- **African American History Month:** Throughout February, LAPL is celebrating through online programs, blog articles, and social media posts. Programs include a series of readings and art activities inspired by African American artists, and a special program for teens on "Remembering the Freedom Riders."
- **Celebrating African American Librarians:** Libraries throughout the nation are celebrating African American Librarians, including Miriam Matthews, the first African American librarian at LAPL in the late 1920's and for whom the Hyde Park Branch is named.
- **New Exhibit, "No Prior Art":** The Getty Foundation has provided a grant through to LAPL through the Library Foundation of Los Angeles for a new Pacific Standard Time exhibit titled, "No Prior Art." This exhibit will explore the Library's Patents Collection. The Library last partnered with the Getty Foundation on Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA that resulted in the "Visualizing Language: Oaxaca in L.A." murals in the Central Library's Rotunda.
- **Donations:** The Japan Foundation provided a list of 40 popular titles written by Japanese authors translated into English for a number of branch libraries; and the Culinary Historians of Southern California, a Friends of the Library Group at Central Library, provided a gift of books of over 130 titles ad valued at almost \$9,000 dollars. These include books on Filipino food history, Hawaiian regional cuisine, and a rare book that was the first printed cookbook by a woman author in Mexico.
- **COVID 19 Community Archive** was featured in an *LA times* article. Suzanne Im, Acting Senior Librarian from Special Collections, was interviewed about the contributions made to the archive. The article also included a few of the images that have been collected, now numbering over 2,000 items.
- **Disaster Service Workers:** LAPL staff continue serving as Disaster Service Workers, including 50 that are active contact tracers, and 54 are assigned to work on the Senior Vaccination Hotline. Over 500 staff members have filed a variety of DSW roles.
- **Career Online High School (COHS)** has reached the milestone of 500 graduates. A virtual graduation ceremony will be held on March 11 for all 2020 graduates.
- **LAPL Contributes to Loyola Marymount University Receiving Award:** LAPL has been partnering with Loyola Marymount University (MLU) to provide a panel discussion for LAPL's Diversity and Inclusion Apprenticeship Program interns with the purpose to expose participants to all the facets of librarianship. This partnership

with LAPL was an important part of a nomination for an award MLU was seeking and won. Mr. Szabo thanked Jené D. Brown, Principal Librarian and Racial Equity Officer, for her work in cultivating this partnership.

- **Public Input for Vermont Square Branch Library in Honor of Rita Walters**

Mr. Szabo reminded everyone that the deadline to provide input in the process for the dedication of the Vermont Square Branch Library to former Library Commissioner Rita Walters is March 10.

Commissioner Franzen stated that she was proud of the work staff is doing during such a difficult time and that it is remarkable that they have launched so many new programs and thanked the City Librarian for his leadership.

6. City Librarian's Reports: None.

7. Oral Update from the Ad Hoc Committee on Re-imagining Safety & Security

Vice President Eidmann reported that staff has been selected to lead the Library Experience Office and asked the City Librarian to provide the details on the new staff and updates on contracts.

Mr. Szabo provided an update on the progress of contracts for staff training staff, and for developing a Request For Proposals (RFP) for partnerships to provide large scale social services and other related services are in the final legal review process and will soon get signed and implemented.

Mr. Szabo reported that two staff members have been appointed to the Library Experience Office. Karen Pickard-Four will lead the office as the Acting Principal Librarian II. She has served in a variety of assignments for over 14 years, serving as Young Adult Librarian, Senior Librarian, Branch Manager, and for the past five years she has been a Principal Librarian for the East Valley Region. She has also been a great advocate for the Library and she has been very involved with the creation of the popular LA MADE Series cultural programming, as well as the Pathways Project, which connects formerly incarcerated individuals with Library resources. Currently, she is serving on the Racial Equity Board for the Library, and her focus very much aligns with the Library's goals and core mission.

Helen Neal, Library Assistant II, will be joining Karen Pickard-Four in the establishment of the new office as the Library Assistant II. Helen has 20 years with the Library and she has experience working at Central Library and Branch Library Services. Currently, at Branch Library Services, she has played an integral role in coordinating services across the 72 branch libraries. She has stepped up to play a role in the Take the Lead Initiative Planning Team, served as a leadership ambassador, and was a team leader in the Staff Development Day Planning Committee. Both Karen and Helen are highly respected individuals within the organization.

Karen Pickard-Four stated that she is very excited to do this work and make the libraries more accessible to patrons and safer for staff. She said she and Helen will power through this and make and do their best. Helen Neal said she is looking forward

to working on this new assignment and that she is amazed by the amount of work the Safety and Security Project Team has already done.

8. Commissioners' Comments and Announcements

- **Dedication of Vermont Square Branch in honor of Rita D. Walters:**

Board President Cao invited staff and the public to submit their input for the dedication of the Vermont Square Branch Library to honor former Library Commissioner Rita Walters for her contributions to the Library. The deadline for submissions is March 10.

- **Next Regular Meeting:** Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. via Teleconference.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

ATTEST:

Bích Ngọc Cao
President

Raquel M. Borden
Board Executive Assistant

Approved: 3/25/2021