

LOS ANGELES COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, May 18, 2016

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: Hall of Records
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA. 90012
Room 150

AGENDA

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

1. Approval of Minutes of meeting
 - April 20, 2016
2. Announcements from Chair
 - Board Deputies
3. Announcements from County Librarian
4. Commissioner Items/Comments
 - Nominating Committee
5. Public Comments (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
6. Adjourn

NOTE: *The June Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at Library Headquarters.*

July: *Culver City*

August: *Dark*

September: *Compton*

October: *Huntington Park*

November: *La Crescenta*

December: *Dark*



LIBRARY COMMISSION MAY 18, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. Chairman Corey Calaycay led the Pledge of Allegiance and all attendees participated.

Roll Call

Quorum not met.

Commissioners in attendance – 9: Chairman Corey Calaycay and Commissioners Lisa Cleri Reale, Revé Gipson, James P. Allen, David Lesser, Vy Nguyen, Martha Arevalo, Herb Hatanaka, and Laura Rosenthal.

Commissioners absent – 10: Commissioners Jose Luis Solache, Robert Gonzales, Sonny Santa Ines, Richard Colbary, Bob Archuleta, David Spence, Joy C. Williams, Cynthia Sternquist, Waymon Roy, and Velma Ashford

Vacancy – 1: Second District (City Selection Committee)

Library staff in attendance – 5: Skye Patrick, Library Director; Yolanda De Ramus, Chief Deputy Director; Arena Turner, Acting Assistant Director, Migell Acosta, Assistant Director of Technology Services; Roxane Marquez, Communications Specialist; Sydneka Moore, Management Secretary II.

Approval of Minutes of the April Meeting

No action on this item due to lack of quorum.

Announcements from the Chair

Chairman Corey Calaycay said he and Commissioner Herb Hatanaka attended the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' Budget Hearing and spoke with Board Chair Hilda Solis. Chairman Calaycay felt the conversation was well received but Commissioner Hatanaka reserved judgment.

Announcements from the County Librarian

Library Director Skye Patrick announced that she had just attended the California Contract Cities Association's annual meeting last weekend. It was hosted by City of Malibu and all in attendance had an excellent time. The County Public Library was

represented by Chief Deputy Director Yolanda De Ramus during an incredible presentation on the changing role of Library. Malibu Library staff created an excellent booth to represent the County Public Library during the event.

Skye Patrick then spoke about the Board of Supervisors' Budget Hearing. She noted that Chairman Corey Calayca as well as Commissioners Herb Hatanaka, and Jim Allen spoke in support of the Library but that we would not know the impact of their testimony until the Board of Supervisors made final budgetary decision in September.

Skye Patrick then updated the Library Commission about the "My Brother's Keeper" Festival held at the East Los Angeles Library. Approximately 400 people attended, at varying ages, plus we had strong departmental participation. She added that we would have a similar "My Brother's Keeper" Festival at Sunkist Library in La Puente this weekend.

Skye Patrick then noted that she had made a job offer to our new Marketing Director; that it had been accepted; and that she would start on July 1.

Skye Patrick then added that we would soon be adding the 87th Library to our system when, this summer, we open a Library for youth incarcerated at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. In a similar spirit, she noted, we are initiating a new partnership with the Department of Children and Family Services for to remediate the children's waiting room at McCourtney Juvenile Justice Center in Lancaster.

Skye Patrick announced that we will host our first "Pop-Up Library Museum" at View Park Library on Saturday, June 11, 2016 from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Our goal is to host a one night only "pop-up event" to showcase local artists in order to generate publicity for View Park Library's closure and remodeling. Hopefully, the community will showcase their art here and, when we reopen the Library, they will return.

Skye Patrick then informed the Library Commissioners that she plans to host Community Visioning Sessions at five locations – one in each supervisorial district. She said it was an opportunity for her, and possibly Yolanda De Ramus, to engage communities to see what they want and to incorporate it into our Strategic Plan. We also are looking at hosting several satellite locations at the same time as each respective main event. Commissioner Vy Nguyen thanked Skye Patrick for report and then asked with regard to the Community Visioning Sessions if there would be enough information for Commissioners to have input for a Strategic Planning meeting. Skye Patrick said yes – that, in fact, we had pushed the Community Visioning Sessions from summer to fall because so many people go out of town this summer and we wanted to maximize participation. Commissioner Martha Arevalo offered to help do outreach for the Community Visioning Sessions. Skye Patrick said by July Commission meeting, we should have enough details to give a good update. Migell Acosta confirmed that the County Public Library received 14,000 responses in our recent online survey of patrons and said that this info could be helpful during the Community Visioning Sessions. Commissioner Arevalo asked about language capacity for the surveys and possibly for

the Community Visioning Sessions. Migell Acosta answered that the online survey had English and Spanish options and he noted that we had staff on-hand to assist in other languages. Skye Patrick added that we might have on-time or on-demand translation at the Community Visioning Session and that she wanted to add some Asian languages. Commissioner Arevalo said she assumed we would have multiple language outreach materials and Skye Patrick reassured her that we would. Commissioner Nguyen mentioned that the non-profit organizations Asian Americans Advancing Justice—Los Angeles might be able to assist and Skye Patrick said we would engage them.

Commissioner Items/Comments

Commissioner Jim Allen said that the Nominating Committee met. The slate they're preparing to propose is maintaining Chairman Calaycay as the Chairman, Commissioner Allen as Vice Chair, and Commissioner Lisa Cleri Reale as Secretary. Chairman Calaycay said other Commissioners still had a month to challenge the slate. Commissioner Revé Gipson asked if the Commissioners could vote now but Chairman Calaycay answered that they did not have a quorum at this time.

Commissioner Reale noted that Commissioners had an intense discussion at the last meeting about quorum and attendance. She said we should compile a matrix of who attended and who didn't, especially since such a practice is standard for most any non-profit board. Then, she said, Chairman Calaycay could follow up with Commissioners who have low attendance. Skye Patrick said we have the info and would collate it and provide it to all Commissioners.

Commissioner Laura Rosenthal asked that when they Commissioners receive something via e-mail from Library staff or Yolanda De Ramus that they please not hit "reply all" since she has several e-mail accounts and because it would be inappropriate due to the Brown Act since they cannot communicate with each other about issues until the meeting. Perhaps, she felt, it would be best to just reply directly and only to whomever sent the original e-mail – and she suggested that this directive be put into a mass e-mail to all.

Commissioner Reale added that, thanks to Commissioner Allen, yesterday she attended an ad-hoc committee meeting for the Library Foundatoin. It was held at the East Los Angeles Library. She said they talked about lots of concepts and how to model their new set-up after what the City of Los Angeles was doing. She felt the East Los Aneles Library was stuning and noted that it was packed with patrons. She also remarked on its good condition, saying it looked like it opened last week but, in fact, had opened 14 years ago. She urged all Commissioners to visit it. Commissioner Vy Nguyen agreed with this sentiment and said it was one of the crown jewels in our Library system.

Commissioner Nguyen then noted that, a few months ago, we had a good discussion about fees and then asked for another update. Skye Patrick said we would agendize it for a future meeting.

Commissioner David Lesser said he was very much interested in the Internet and how the Library had embraced it. He felt a recent discussion on this matter was very positive and asked that, at a future meeting, we get another update with more details on what other systems were doing and what we could do. Skye Patrick said we would and added that she recently received an update on this subject. She said we could agendaize it for the July meeting.

Commissioner Herb Hatanaka added that Supervisor Don Knabe had invested \$45 million in "Operation Libraries" and asked for an update on it. Skye Patrick said our Assistant Director of Capital Projects could do so at a future meeting but noted that, as of now, the projects were all on time and on budget. Commissioner Hatanaka said it was historic for a Supervisor to do something like this – so, he said, it should be recognized. Skye Patrick agreed and added that we promote "Operation Libraries" as often as we can.

Chairman Calaycay recognized that two staff members were in attendance from the Office of Board Chair Hilda Solis, Megan Moret and Lawrence Shih – and he asked them to address the Library Commission. Shih introduced himself as a Field Deputy recently appointed to assist Megan Moret on Library issues. He said he was born and raised in L.A. County and that his first Library experience was at the Rowland Heights Library as he went to school down the street. He still has his original green County Public Library card. He said he loved the Library and looked forward to working with all members of the Commission. Moret then addressed the Commission and said that Chair Solis had taken a strong interest in Libraries, especially via My Brother's Keeper and purchase of a MakMo (formerly known as a "MakerMobile"), which will be the first one in L.A. County though the 5th District also will get one, too. Moret described the MakMo as an RV-type vehicle that will travel around the First District to teach STEM workshops, do spay-and-neuter clinics, and host DAPA-DAPA workshops but just for the Library to utilize. She said it was expected to arrive this summer. Migell Acosta described the MakMo as a cargo van branded as a "MakMo" and said that the van would be packed with equipment and a librarian to bring STEM programming to youth but also to provide multi-generational programming. He noted that we would host STEM and STEAM programming in a hands-on way – things like robotics programming workshops for kids complete with 3-D printers. Chairman Calaycay asked how the MakMo compared to a bookmobile. Migell Acosta answered that bookmobiles don't have equipment – that the idea is to go to Libraries and do outdoor events or to set up in a meeting room and spend two days doing programming there. The mobility, Acosta said, allows us to bring programming to various Libraries. Skye Patrick added that each vehicle has a generator. Commissioner Reale asked when the vehicle would arrive. Migell Acosta answered that the purchase order was just made and we anticipate it would arrive in the summer. He added that STEM programming gets attention at certain age groups but other programming attracts other generations. When our vehicle arrives, we'll have a better sense of what our MakMo will offer in terms of programming. Commissioner Nguyen asked if we already had a MakMo website. Migell Acosta said we did not. Skye Patrick said that this will be one of the first tasks the new Marketing Director would tackle – and she clarified that Supervisorial Districts 1, 4 and 5 would

have MakMos. Megan Moret added that the First District would have their MakMo first and that Chair Solis planned on hosting a big media event when it arrives. Commissioner Reale asked when it would be presented to the public. Migell Acosta answered it would be presented in very late summer. Commissioner Allen said it sounded like an awesome project and asked that the Commissioners be able to see the vehicle. Commissioner Laura Rosenthal said it sounded fabulous but that she wanted a better understanding of it at a future meeting. She wanted to examine how districts share special resources and how particular Libraries share with other Libraries. She said she knew that Malibu tried to work with other Libraries to get them funding and asked that someone with a good understanding of service integration between other districts update them. Megan Moret added that Chair Solis purchased the MakMo with UUT dollars so they might not even be able to take it outside the First District's unincorporated areas. Commissioner Hatanaka seconded Commissioner Allen's point about the MakMo being a terrific project, calling it "very transformative". San Francisco might have been the first, he said, to build labs that the community could use to explore science and technology – but, he said, it is time to come back to the Commission to present what exactly a MakMo is since it will give the County Public Library a competitive advantage, especially since schools don't do anything like this. Skye Patrick clarified that San Francisco was one of the latest Libraries to this game – that they only started last year and that, in fact, the Chicago Public Library was the first to have a "Maker Lab". Broward County had 14 of them. What will make ours exceptional, Skye Patrick said, is that ours is a "pop-up" that will be able to move around and access different parts of Los Angeles County. Commissioner Arevalo asked if there was a community calendar to see where the MakMo would be. Skye Patrick answered that we have an online calendar on our website but we were discussing whether we were going to go "old school" and resume having printed calendars. Skye Patrick said the Marketing Director would have input on that decision. Lawrence Shih added that Chair Solis would publicize the MakMos on her website and in her newsletter. Commissioner Arevalo asked that we add the printed calendar option on our website. Commissioner Ngueyn said this was the type of creative, innovative initiative that might be appealing to foundations in terms of increasing access to low-income populations. Commissioner Reale echoed that sentiment and said that other organizations like Para Los Niños were creating what they called a "STEAM Machine" – which essentially are mobile vans where kids do STEAM activities on the van. Megan Moret said that Chair Solis also was excited about being able to integrate other things she cared about on the MakMo – like DACA-DAPA workshops and/or spay and neuter programs. She noted that the First District had lots of meetings with Library staff to examine different ways Chair Solis could be involved with Library issues in the future.

Moret then opened the floor to questions. Chairman Calaycay noted that this action was appropriate as Solis is Chair of the Board and has the most Libraries of all supervisors. Chairman Calaycay then listed the Libraries in each district and noted that the First and Fourth District clearly had the most. Chairman Calaycay notes that the Commission had put forth a bylaw change that would come before the Board of Supervisors soon to address quorum challenges. He said with 20 seats on a Commission, County Counsel clarified it does take 11 Commissioners present to make

quorum. He noted that both of Chair Solis' appointees – Chairman Calaycay and Commissioner Arevalo – were present and he added that the City Selection Committee's challenge was finding interested people. He said recently there was a contested election between Commissioner David Lesser and a Diamond Bar City Councilwoman which exposed how it is simply more difficult to recruit passionate people when one supervisorial district represents far fewer cities than another. So, he said, we are proposing changes to attract passionate members and he asked Megan Moret to convey this information to her fellow Board Deputies. Megan Moret said there were some different proposals floated around last time but that the latest discussion on the 8th floor had a plan that was more palatable to all. She pledged to talk to her colleagues again. Chairman Calaycay said that the Commission had taken the Board Deputies' critique to heart. Commissioner Nguyen said we have a lot of good energy on the Commission and the amendments would further that energy. Commissioner Allen said we are in a good space with it and that he would love to see at our next meeting an update on the process for presenting it to the Board of Supervisors. Lawrence Shih asked that the final proposal also be sent to him and Megan Moret – and he recommended that all correspondence be sent to all Board Deputies in the future.

Chairman Calaycay asked if any Commissioners had questions about the Library's budget. Commissioner Lesser asked Megan Moret and Lawrence Shih what type of comments would be most useful from Commissioners. Megan Moret said what had been helpful over the last year was understanding that the Libraries operate at a deficit. Evidently, this fact was not clear to Chair Solis before – and now the First District is figuring out what their options are. Megan Moret said this year was not good for a potential ballot measure with homeless, transportation and Prop 30 initiatives also competing for attention. She noted that what Chair Solis' office would need to see is more data – an overview. Commissioner Lesser said that this feedback was helpful to hear. In his experience, he said, he learned that the Library's services went beyond books but that we do operate as a deficit. Megan Moret said that numerically we know we operate at a deficit but it was unclear how specifically that affected services and how things like COLA increases affected services. She noted that two supervisors were new, two were outgoing, and one was on his final term. Chairman Calaycay said the Library was well-positioned to execute the vision of Chair Solis and her fellow supervisors since all sectors of society were welcome at Libraries. We already were addressing needs of homelessness and immigration/citizenship, he said, and Libraries are addressing these issues because of the constituencies they serve. So, he noted, if we have funds dedicated to addressing these matters, and the Library acts as executor of that money, we can provide more services. He noted that Chair Solis also is concerned about juvenile halls – and now we have a partnership with Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall to provide a Library there. Megan Moret said that the First and Fourth district are very committed to Libraries and to finding creative ways to get funding. Yolanda De Ramus said some of the initiatives that came up in the last year had the Library Department reaching out to ensure that there was equity across neighborhoods and she cited Girls' Empowerment Month as an example. Yolanda De Ramus said she would take Megan Moret's suggestion to heart and would provide a thorough budget scenario. Megan Moret encouraged more communication in the future. Commissioner

Hatanaka said the Library is committing to DCFS, Probation, citizenship, and homelessness issues – and that the Library is very much at the table and very well received. He recommended putting a dollar amount on every single initiative the Library undertakes and to quantify exactly how much time, energy and resources the Library puts forward to carry out initiatives. If we put a monetary value on that, he said, we can sell it to the Board. Commissioner Reale asked Megan Moret about homelessness, noting that the City and County of Los Angeles both have homeless initiatives – that the city has asked each department to reallocate funding to eradicate homelessness but that the county is proposing a millionaire's tax. She asked: Will we be asking departments to reallocate money? Megan Moret replied that the Board of Supervisors had already allocated \$150 million toward homelessness and that their new initiative would ask the State for permission to put a Statewide income tax on the ballot. And she added that County Departments had asked the Board for additional homeless mitigation money in March. Yolanda De Ramus clarified that the Library was invited to participate on homeless issues via a countywide task force. She added that the group already had brought information back to the task force's executive committee and had communicated it with other departments, such as the Department of Mental Health. Yolanda De Ramus said the Library would continue to work with the task force as the group builds a plan and determine what the "ask" is. She noted that initiatives actually can be a strain on county resources. Commissioner Lesser noted that the Library's deficit is still growing and asked how Board Deputies are getting budget information. Skye Patrick answered that the Library was in constant communication with Board offices and she added that the documents shared with Commissioners are the same ones shared with Board offices. This year, she said, we did add more of an explanation on our programming but did not put a dollar amount to it. Skye Patrick said the Library had not been thinking in that manner – but she said she and Yolanda De Ramus would strategize on how to put a return on the investment or do a cost-benefit analysis. Commissioner Nguyen said that in her place of employment, she deals a lot with non-profit funding issues and that she felt it was very well aligned with the Library on social justice issues – especially when they pertained to citizenship, immigration, homelessness, etc. – but that she still felt it was important to quantify the cost. Skye Patrick said we don't necessarily have to continue old programming but that our staff models don't reflect that. She and Yolanda De Ramus are strategizing on that matter, too, but it requires a culture change where librarians are not simply sitting behind a desk but engaging the populations that all these programs are addressing. Megan Moret said that nine times out of ten, when the departments speculate on what something is going to cost and articulate what they want to do, Chair Solis says "yes" to doing it because she understands the value. She also affirmed that their office was in constant communication with the Library. Commissioner Reale noted that at yesterday's Library Foundation meeting, they discussed being more strategic. She cited as an example the grant writer recently hired by the Foundation who could be more strategic. She added that staff may be contacting Board deputies but that Commissioners have to speak with respective Board deputies.

Megan Moret and Lawrence Shih were then thanked for coming – but Commissioner Rosenthal asked why other Board deputies were not present. Chairman Calayca said

all were notified and noted that, as of last Wednesday, at least two Board offices were supposed to be present but were not. He asked Commissioners to inquire with their respective Board offices. Commissioner Gipson said she would call and ask. Commissioner Rosenthal said she thought the reason they all drove to downtown Los Angeles was because Board Deputies were supposed to be here – that this was the expectation – and she was not aware she had to reach out to them. Chairman Calaycay said he opened his remarks at the Board of Supervisors Budget Hearing by asking Board Deputies to attend today's Library Commission meeting. Commissioner Rosenthal said she would speak with her Board contact, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Chief of Staff. Commissioner Allen noted that Supervisor Michale D. Antonovich had changes on his staff but that, for example, Lori Glasgow recently was appointed to the Executive Office. Commissioner Nguyen noted this was only our second meeting with Board Deputies and she asked that it be institutionalized. Megan Moret said chances of attendance might improve if the meeting were in the Hall of Administration since, sometimes, staffers handle other issues and need to be physically near the Supervisors. Skye Patrick said originally today's meeting was supposed to be in the Hall of Administration but that we had to move and even scramble to find another room. Commissioner Rosenthal said she still felt as an elected official that meetings like this should be prioritized and Megan Moret clarified that Libraries are a priority for the First District. Commissioner Gipson said the list of Chief Deputies for each Board office is important because they change a lot. She regretted not taking the time to ask her office why they didn't attend last year. Skye Patrick said they would provide an updated Board Deputy list but noted that it is dynamic and it does change. Commissioner Lesser asked if a different format might be more conducive for inviting for board deputies. Megan Moret said the format was fine but noted that the Fourth District's Library deputy just changed. Commissioner Gipson said that Board Deputies are busy but it is up to the Commissioners to do something. Chairman Calaycay noted that we did want to interact with Board Deputies in light of the budget. Megan Moret pledged to assist with getting a room in the Hall of Administration – that, since Supervisor Solis is Chair this year, such a move would be appropriate.

Chairman Calaycay noted that the next Commission meeting was in June and noted that we should have a satellite location in San Fernando Library again. Commissioner Rosenthal shared her last experience of this kind, which entailed iPhone usage and was difficult and made her feel disconnected. Regardless of these problems, she still felt it was easier for her to participate since her commute time was cut significantly. Chairman Calaycay said we still would offer it next month. Commissioner Reale asked if anyone had signed up for coffee responsibilities for next Library Commission meeting at Library Headquarters in Downey. Commissioner Reale noted that she and Cynthia Sternquist already had assumed responsibilities for one past meeting each. Commissioner Lesser asked for a sign-up sheet – and Chairman Calaycay said he would take responsibility for coffee responsibilities next month as Chair.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Minutes Approved: _____ as submitted

Date: _____

_____ as amended

Date: _____

Cynthia Sternquist, Secretary
Commission