

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 21, 2016

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Library Headquarters  
7400 East Imperial Hwy.  
Downey, CA. 90242

*A member(s) of the Library Commission has requested this meeting be accessed via conference call. The address is 117 Macneil Street, San Fernando, CA. 91340 located in the Community Room. The call-in number is: 1-866-768-4146. Participant Pass Code: 6283863*

### AGENDA

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

1. Approval of Minutes of meeting
  - April 20, 2016
  - May 18, 2016
  - June 15, 2016
  - July 20, 2016
2. Announcements from Chair
3. Announcements from County Library Director
  - Homelessness (Vanessa Christman)
  - Budget Update (Erika Bonilla)
4. Commissioner Items/Comments
  - Election of Officers for 2016-17
  - Ad Hoc Committee Updates
5. Public Comments (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
6. Adjourn

**NOTE:** *The October Meeting will be Huntington Park.*

**October:** *Huntington Park (Jim Allen)*

**November:** *La Crescenta (Laura Rosenthal)*

**December:** *Dark*



## **Library Commission September 21, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

### **Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 10:08am. Chairman Corey led all attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call**

Quorum was met.

Commissioners in attendance – (14) Bob Archuleta, Chairman Corey Calaycay, Lisa Cleri Reale, Reve Gibson, David Lesser, Laura Zahn Rosenthal, Herb Hatanaka, Waymon Roy, David Spence, Cynthia Sternquist, Jim Allen, Joy Williams, Martha Arevalo, and Commissioner Vy Nguyen.

Commissioners absent – (4) Rich Colbary, Sonny Santa Ines, Robert Gonzales, and Commissioner Jose Luis Solache.

Library staff in attendance – 11: Skye Patrick, Yolanda De Ramus, Barbara Custen, Binh Le, Patricia Rivera, Erika Bonilla, Gladstone Bucknor, Vanessa Christman, Sydneka Moore, Karol Sarkisyan, Geraldine Lin

### **Approval of Minutes of meeting**

Approval of minutes by Commissioner Reva Gipson and second by Commissioner Herb Hatanaka.

### **Announcements from Chair**

Roll call by Corey. Quorum met.

Binh Le introduced himself as the new Acting Assistant Director of ITS/ILS. Patricia Rivera, RA for West, Gladstone Bucknor, ARA for North Region, Vanessa RA for North. Karol.

Election of officers for Chair Calaycay and Commissioner Cleri Reale. Commissioner Allen to make recommendation for adhoc committee for election of officers. Commissioner Allen met with Commissioner Gibson, Chair Calaycay and Commissioner Ashford and the slate they are proposing that Chair Corey Calaycay remain the Chair. Commissioner Jim Allen would remain as Vice Chair and Commissioner Cleri Reale would become Secretary. Call for vote. Commissioner Bob Archuleta motions,

seconded by Commissioner David Spence. No objection. Congratulations to the appointed officers.

### **Announcements from County Librarian**

County Librarian Skye Patrick announced that Migell Acosta is the new director of the County of San Diego Library. Migell had his last day on September 15, 2016. She introduced Binh Le as the Acting Assistant director. Binh has been in libraries for 18 years. The first 15 years were at the City of Santa Monica. He has had a long working relationship with Migell including the innovative projects that were developed at the County Library. He is excited to continue to work with the Executive team and help the Department.

Skye announced that we are scheduled to receive an award from the Quality and Productivity Commission along with Parks and Recreation for the "Lunch at the Library" program and we hope to get the eagle award.

We are almost ready to launch the "Read Down Your Fines" program. We still need to take it to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The goal of the program is to remove barriers from customers using the library, but because there is a loss in revenue we need to go to the Board of Supervisors. Yolanda De Ramus said we are looking to go to the Board in October 2016. Skye said that because we are holding it, we are asking the BOS to eliminate the fee for printing. In the spirit of eliminating barriers, we have more to do to assist people using the libraries. This is a great opportunity to ask the Board of Supervisors for fine and printing forgiveness. Commissioner Nguyen likes the idea and offered to reach out to her representative.

We opened our Los Padrinos Library and had a great program. We are looking to expand the program with continued partnerships with the Probation Department.

### **Library openings**

Hacienda Heights Library and Rowland Heights Library are being remodeled.

South Whittier Library is getting a completely new library building with more than double the size.

Lomita Library is a remodel with a new community meeting room.

Quartz Hill Library is a new building.

Temple City has an expansion coming.

Live oak has a new location from 2,200 sq ft to a 7,000 sq ft location in the city of Arcadia.

Visioning Sessions are taking place at 15 libraries with a streaming option at satellite locations. We are at a host location and stream live to two locations. We've done third district, fourth district and second district libraries. Jim Allen has attended the one at the San Fernando Library. The library patrons are able to communicate with each other through the live stream. They discuss ways we can improve library services and what we can do well. We are in first district the following weekend. We hope that Library

Commissioners can attend. We engage the Friends of the Library at all libraries. We've done a great marketing campaign to ensure that we get different community engagement. We will take all of the data and load it to the website and be responsible to do what needs to be done. The goal is to do this every couple of years at different locations. You can live stream and the URL will be on our website. There is no interaction via the website, but you can watch.

We have bookmobiles at First District, Second District and Fifth District. Supervisor Knabe has agreed to fund another Bookmobile for the Fourth District exclusively. We are excited to get that on the road within a year and will have green technology. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas has decided to move to the MakMo. We are expanding our traditional Bookmobile, and we are also working on the MakMo along with the Storymobile. We are excited to get our staff out of the buildings and into the streets with mobile services.

The Storymobile is an early literacy mobile with a character and branding from the marketing unit. We will be able to visit hospitals, communities, preschools and other locations we are not able to tap into. We want to secure funding for one, but would like to have one for each district. We are also working with private entities for funding. A rough quote is \$150K-\$200K because of outfitting and branding. We would like to get a graphic artist to work on a rendering. Commissioner Cleri Reale knows people that may be interested in funding but needs a rendering to pitch it. Commissioner Hatanaka is impressed with the initiatives but would like to know about ongoing costs and sustainable funding for the programs. We are in an efficiency study for the library. We are addressing our current service model to find staff to re-tool or reallocate. We currently have 7 or 8 staff members that we can utilize for these mobile services. We are not getting more money, so we are working within our current means. Some supervisors fund for a year or two, but we are looking for past year 3 and how we can sustain it internally. Public Services and ILS are looking at cost savings. Commissioner Hatanaka mentioned that when we go to the Board we should mention sustainability because it will be difficult for them to say no if we have a positive projection. Skye mentioned that as a Director she often looks inwards to make it work without asking for more money.

Due to technical issues, Skye summarized what she discussed earlier regarding the Storymobile and how to utilize current funding.

Supervisor Antonovich will be at the meeting in November with the Library Commission.

Erika Bonilla presented on Budget and Finance. The budget happens in three phases. We are going this coming Tuesday for the third and final budget presentation. The County budget will be heard that day. Compton DJ Lab and Veterans Connect are grant programs that will be going to the Board of Supervisors. We are asking for \$2 million for books and materials. This funding often happens at this time, because we can get any unspent money to be included. We currently have two Sheriff's deputies at our libraries, we are adding another two to bring us to a total of four. We have the three MakMo mobiles and in this budget we will include the funding from Second District for the MakMo for his district. Supervisor Knabe has agreed to provide the Library with another \$2M, with some going to the Avalon Library. He has also agreed to fund some smart tech at Fourth District libraries with smart walls and smart tables geared at educational

programming for children and younger kids. This is the next phase in technology. Funding will also be used for a MakMo for the Fourth District.

Skye mentioned that we have two bookmobiles in SD5 and want to update those vehicles.

Commissioner Rosenthal mentioned that there are many locations that offer free tutoring or free classes and wants to know if we are partnering or providing information to the community about what already exists. Commissioner Corey mentioned that Claremont has a class that offers that for free. Skye clarified that we are utilizing what we have and the programs the community already offers. Commissioner Rosenthal is concerned that we are using staff to do these programs that may already be available elsewhere. Skye clarified that seniors are hesitant to use tech and with these programs we are providing the support. Roy supports the venture. Skye said that many volunteer would like to help. Commissioner Cleri Reale said that Los Angeles Public Library had a Cyber Nox program where staff supported it. She mentioned that the library is the anchor of the community and even if the library is only the host, it still serves its purpose.

Skye said that we are looking at our staff modeling and introducing new technologies. We have technology that has updated what our staff is available to do and we can retool our staff to do more engaging programs.

Karol Sarkisyan, Management Fellow in the Marketing and Communications unit, disused Staff Training Day. Staff Training Day takes place once a year at the Pasadena City College with all full time staff attended. All County libraries are closed for that day. It's a day that allows library staff to connect with individuals they've worked with in the past and those that they haven't had the opportunity to meet. The opening keynote speaker was Simran Noor from the Center for Social Inclusion who discussed racial equity as social innovation: developing shared language and ideas for collective action. Sachi Hamai, CEO for Los Angeles County, also attended to discuss the priorities for the county. There are four concurrent breakout sessions that take place, with our staff attending one of the four. The breakout sessions included Shari Alexander who discussed persuasive power, Michael Sohn from the FBI who discussed cyber security, Emily Weak from the Oakland Public Library who discussed the lack of diversity in the library field and Dr. Nikolaos Stefanidis from Children's Hospital Los Angeles who discussed trauma informed care. There is also a final breakout session with all staff attending with presentations by staff that are putting on innovative programming across the 87 libraries. The closing keynote speaker was the phenomenal Arel Moodie who discussed the *Art of Likability* and the importance of taking a step, even though it may be a difficult step to take.

Patricia Rivera, Library Administrator or West Region, presented on Immigration and Citizenship. The County Library currently has a DACA website. The Supreme Court had a split decision, so DAPA did not go into effect. Those that came into the US before they were 16 and were in the US before 2007, can apply for a work permit and stay in the US for 2 years without fear of a deportation risk. She introduced the DACA logo and the website that the County has up. There are currently 20 county departments on the task force. Patricia touched on how each department helps with DACA. LA County is holding off on strong media and promotion until after the outcome in November. The library serves everyone and we want to provide information about citizenships. We launched

*US Pathways for New Americans* that is geared towards our immigrant customers. We include information on fee waivers, voter registration information from RRCC and Covered CA information. County Library currently has 17 libraries with bags for check out. Rosemead Library and Huntington Park Library have immigration centers with more information being provided by our staff. We have our own website with information about citizenship including information about our Events. California Community Foundation has been contacted and provided guidance and collaboration tips. We are in the first steps of meeting with him to discuss future collaboration. Mission Asset Fund has a lending circle for dreamers, proposed by Commissioner Cleri Reale. Commissioner Nguyen asked that we include drivers license information on the citizenship page. Commissioner Arevalo offered to collaborate and will contact her staff to assist at Huntington Park Library. She mentioned that they are doing classes with Los Angeles Public Library and would like to expand their work. She inquired about the training being offered to our staff that are sharing information about immigration and citizenship.

Commissioner Archuleta asked if we are adjusting our hours based on the services that we provide at certain libraries. Skye mentioned that we are reviewing operating hours and are adjusting as needed for the community needs.

Vanessa Christman, Library Administrator for North Region, presented on Homelessness. Homelessness in LA County is a problem and needs to be addressed. Over 46,000 homeless individuals in LA County. We conducted staff surveys to engage them about issues that deal with homelessness at libraries and how it impacts the staff, facilities and services we offer. We offer a multitude of programs focused on homeless customers. We have over 13,000 visitors at our libraries per month. We have a list of libraries that are hotspots for homeless visitors. She discussed the Countywide Initiative which launched in August 2015. Collaborative process with many departments involved.

The Library is actively engaged in Strategy D5 – support for homeless case managers. We have partnerships with the Department of MentalHealth with a rapid response team that deals with individuals that need immediate help at our libraries. We are also involved in a Homeless Services Think Thank with library staff and other department representatives. We are constantly working on policy guides for co-locating service providers, contacting service providers for In Library assessments, providing referrals to service providers. We are currently piloting the program at the West Hollywood Library to identify service providers that can help customers with their needs which will include identifying space in the library for the homeless and the service provider.

Commissioner Sternquist is in the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governance and an initiative was brought up for homelessness. She mentioned that there are duplicated efforts and not enough collaboration. There are many organizations doing a good job of looking at the initiative but not enough collaboration to bring efficient change. We are all looking at the same cause, but we need to bring efforts together. Vanessa clarified that some of the strategies are to identify existing resources to make things more coordinated. Commissioner Cleri Reale mentioned that United Way also has an initiative going on with a strong funder. There is close to a billion dollars collected. Commissioner Cleri Reale will put Vanessa in touch with a United Way representative to discuss the libraries role in the homeless initiative.

Meeting adjourned at 11:52am.

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ as submitted

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ as amended

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Lisa Cleri Reale, Secretary

Commission