

## LOS ANGELES COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 15, 2017

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** La Crescenta Library  
2809 Foothill Blvd.  
La Crescenta, CA 91214

**Note:** A previous version of this agenda listed a satellite location that is no longer available.

### AGENDA

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

1. Approval of Minutes of Meeting
2. Announcements from Chair
3. Announcements from County Library Director
  - Budget Overview (Erika Bonilla)
4. Commissioner Items/Comments
5. Public Comments (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
6. Adjournment

**NOTE:** *The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 – location TBD.*

**April:** Dark

**May:** TBD

**June:** Dark

**July:** TBD

**August:** Dark

**September:** TBD

**October:** Dark

**November:** TBD

**December:** Dark



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**March 15, 2017**  
**Library Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**La Crescenta Library**

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am. Chair Corey Calaycay led all attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

Quorum was met.

**Commissioners in Attendance** – (12) Chair Corey Calaycay, Jim Allen, Lisa Cleri Reale, Herb Hatanaka, Waymon Roy, Robert Gonzales, Martha Arevalo, Vy Nguyen, David Lesser, Nancy Anderson Kuechle, Jay Chen, Joy Williams

**Commissioners Absent** – (6) Bob Archuleta, Laura Zahn Rosenthal, Sonny Santa Ines, Cynthia Sternquist, Revé Gipson, David Spence

**Library Staff in Attendance** – (10) Skye Patrick, Yolanda De Ramus, Erika Bonilla, Binh Le, Gladstone Bucknor, Darcy Hastings, Samangi Mudalige, Sydneka Moore, Geraldine Lin, Barbara Custen, Marta Wiggins

**Other Attendees:** (2) Alison Mendes (LA County 5<sup>th</sup> District Budget Deputy), Harry Leon (Crescenta Valley Town Council)

**Announcements from County Library Director**

Library Director Patrick began by introducing the Great Read Away, a program in which cardholders age 21 and under can remove \$5 in library fines for every hour spent reading in the library. Its goal is to get people re-engaged with the Library. Library is hoping to launch in conjunction with the Summer Discovery program (formerly Summer Reading Program). Library is trying to create programming that eliminates barriers.

The Commission agreed to write a letter of support of the Great Read Away for the Board of Supervisors. Chair Calaycay offered to attend the appropriate Board meeting if needed.



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Library Director Patrick commented that the AC Bilbrew Library reopening went very well and the supervisors were pleased. Hacienda Heights Library will be reopening, but the date is contingent on the schedule of the Fourth District Supervisor. The La Miranda opening on March 30 at 4:30pm will be more informal. Library Director Patrick invited all Commissioners to attend.

Library Director Patrick also invited Commissioners to the annual Library Breakfast.

The Storymobile program is a mobile offering for early literacy. Library is funded for at least one vehicle but may procure funding for two more. The goal is to have 5 vehicles in total, one for each Supervisorial District. A partnership with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) allowed for the hiring of additional staff via Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) funding.

Darcy Hastings detailed the Reading Machine program, which makes Library's early literacy program mobile and functions as a pop-up. The purpose is to respond to communities, respond to County partners, ensure grade-level reading success, support caregivers, and reduce barriers to access. Library is targeting communities with high numbers of at-risk youth, based on numbers from the Office of Community Partnerships (OCP). Poverty indicators are based on free and reduced-priced meals. Reading Machine is a countywide collaboration. DMH will provide Positive Parenting Programs, Parks & Recreation will find ideal child/parent locations, and Probation requested visits to their housing projects.

Commissioner Cleri Reale suggested Kim Pattillo Brownson with First Five as a potential partnership contact and requested a schedule of when Reading Machine will be in their respective communities. Library Director Patrick explained that the program just recently received funding but promised to share the schedule with the Commission when it becomes available. Library hopes the program will be operational by Fall.

Commissioner Cleri Reale suggested a funding opportunity with LA Partnership for Early Education (Parker Backman, contact). Commissioner Hatanaka noted, "Library makes house calls." Commissioner Arevalo implored Library to reach out to the media for a human-interest piece on this subject.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Commission approved revised October 2016 minutes, November 2016 minutes, and January 2017 minutes.



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### **Announcements on Budget**

Assistant Director Erika Bonilla addressed Library's budget. Library worked on the budget request in November/December, and it will go to the Board of Supervisors in April. Budget increases are primarily related to benefits and unavoidable costs.

The Pathway to Permanency initiative has had CEO's support. This initiative involved the transition of 100.0 part-time, temporary staff to part-time permanency. Permanent staff still work 20 hours a week but are afforded the benefit of certain benefits only available to permanent staff.

Library submitted a request for a countywide bookmobile (not dedicated to a specific Supervisorial District.) Its focus would be the White House Library Card Challenge which entails library card sign-ups for school age kids, and it will be equipped with various equipment to accommodate special needs people of all ages. Library does not typically receive funding from the general fund for projects such as this but submitted the request regardless due to a need for this type of programming.

Additionally, Library made a funding request for ADA restroom upgrades and a transactional request for upgrades to its telephone system, as the vendor will discontinue support in 2020.

Commissioner Allen asked for a general overview of this year's budget compared to last. Assistant Director Bonilla responded that Library has historically been successful in getting one-time discretionary funds from the Board, but unlike other departments, doesn't receive ongoing revenue streams from general fund. Library cannot predict the growth of future salary increases and aims to be able to maintain programs and services long-term.

Assistant Director Bonilla presented on engaging cities for funding. She mentioned that there is a state-level coordinated care initiative that may impact funding for County.

The budget hearing will be on April 18, and public hearings begin May 17. Library will confirm those dates and inform the Committee.

### **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Allen stressed the need for a nominating committee for Chair. Commissioner Cleri Reale could participate via phone.



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The terms of 5 Commission members expire on April 30, which might predate the next City Selection Committee: Sonny Santa Ines (SD4), David Lesser (SD4), David Spence (SD5), Bob Archuleta (SD1), and Cynthia Sternquist (SD5).

There was overall concern over the Library Foundation and said it needs work and re-envisioning. Commissioners Nguyen, Allen, or Calaycay may assume chairpersonship. Commissioner Roy noted that it used to be a big, professional entity. Commissioner Cleri Reale did not think the reliance on the volunteer group is sufficient, as it consists of mostly retired individuals who are not connected to the corporate community and is therefore struggling to procure funds. Her opinion is that the Foundation needs an Executive Director and staff.

Commissioner Gonzales expressed his desire for a future meeting to be held at San Fernando Library. Library Director Patrick offered assurance that satellite locations will be utilized in the future. Library hopes to have them operational by July so Commissioners would have access to remote sites. Library has looked at two different offerings for video conferencing and online educational programming.

Chair Calaycay asked if the Commission plans to hold its May meeting at the Hall of Administration. Chief Deputy Director De Ramus responded in the affirmative but noted the meeting may need to be held on a different date, so it does not conflict with the budget hearing. She opened the possibility to holding the meeting in April, dependent on the Board Deputies' calendars. Chair Calaycay suggested the Commission contact their Supervisors to ensure the attendance of Board Deputies. Chief Deputy Director De Ramus stressed the Commission would strive for a May 10 meeting.

Chair Calaycay said he would prefer the meetings continue being held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, and therefore would rather push the meeting to April 19 and go dark in May.

A suggestion was made to hold the meeting in June and go dark in July and August. Library Director Patrick and Chief Deputy Director De Ramus would be able to attend in July, but not June. The Commission will hold off on that meeting date until the members' schedules are more firmly established.

Commissioner Allen commended the move to mobile, and Commissioner Nguyen commended the Great Read Away.

