

LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, March 20, 2019

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: Willowbrook Library
11737 Wilmington Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90059

Members of the Library Commission have requested this meeting be accessed via video conference. Remote access will be available at the following location:

*San Fernando Library
217 N. Maclay Ave.
San Fernando, CA 91340
(818) 365-6928*

AGENDA

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

1. Minutes
 - Approval of January 2019 meeting minutes
2. Commission Items
 - Presentation of scroll to David Lesser
 - Commission Efforts to Support Library
3. Announcements from LA County Library Director
 - Barbershop Books (Debbie Anderson and Christian Brown)
4. Commissioner Comments
5. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
6. Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings:

*Wednesday, May 15, 2019
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Room 743
500 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012*

*Wednesday, July 17, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Stevenson Ranch Library
25950 The Old Rd.
Stevenson Ranch, CA 91381*

*Wednesday, September 18, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Artesia Library
18801 Elaine Ave.
Artesia, CA 90701*

*Wednesday, November 20, 2019
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Topanga Library
122 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd.
Topanga, CA 90290*



March 20, 2019
Library Commission Meeting Minutes
Willowbrook Library
Satellite location: San Fernando



Welcome, Pledge and Roll Call

The meeting was convened by Chair Corey Calaycay at 10:06 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chair then thanked Commissioners for donating donuts and coffee for the meeting. Self-introductions followed.

It was determined that a quorum had been met.

Commissioners in Attendance – (13) Corey Calaycay, David Lesser, Nancy Lyons, Chin Ho Liao, Liz Reilly, Revé Gipson, Nancy Kuechle, Lisa Cleri Reale, Jay Chen, Angelita Medina, Linda Charney, James Allen, Joy Williams (satellite)

Commissioners Absent – (4) José Luis Solache, Antonio Lopez, Martha Arevalo, Vy Nguyen

Library Staff in Attendance – (10) Skye Patrick, Yolanda De Ramus, Grace Reyes, Jesse Walker-Lanz, Debbie Anderson, Samangi Skinner, Christian Brown, Miguel Aguilera, Patricia Rivera, Amy Luu

Others in Attendance – (1) Andrea Carroll, Executive Director, LA County Library Foundation

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Commissioner Reilly and seconded by Commissioner Gipson to approve the January 16, 2019, meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Commission Items

- Chair Calaycay announced the departure of longtime Commissioner David Lesser from Manhattan Beach.
 - Chair Calaycay stated that it was sad to say farewell and acknowledged that Commissioner Lesser had shown real dedication and exemplary attendance.
 - Chair Calaycay presented Commissioner Lesser with two Proclamations: one from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors for his four years of service on the Commission and one from the City of Claremont.

- Commissioner Lesser commended Library staff and Library Director Skye Patrick for all their hard work and stated that he would really miss the meetings, work, and interaction. Other Commissioners thanked Lesser for his service stating that he was always helpful, provided insightful comments at the meetings, and is a genuinely nice guy.
- Chair Calaycay introduced Andrea Carroll, the new Executive Director of the LA County Library Foundation.
 - Carroll made brief remarks, thanking the Commission for their time and expressing her belief that there is so much opportunity and incredible potential for funding.
 - In addition to fundraising, the Foundation's role will be to create greater awareness about the Library's work and how it impacts communities across the County.
 - She announced a series of "Meet the Librarian of the Year" receptions as a way to build the Foundation's network. Each event will take place from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the following locations:
 - May 23 at West Hollywood Library
 - June 6 at Manhattan Beach Library
 - June 13 at East Los Angeles Library
 - Carroll also announced that she has recently updated the Foundation's website (www.lacolibraryfoundation.org).
 - Commissioner Gipson asked if people can donate at the events and Carroll responded that they could but the events are really focused around building relationships.
 - Commissioner Liao asked if the Foundation will host a formal fundraising event, but both Carroll and Patrick responded that events are time intensive and do not generate a strong return on investment.
 - Carroll reiterated that her focus is branding and identifying work to be funded.
 - Commissioner Cleri Reale stated that the Foundation now has somebody who can close the deal and it's up to the Commissioners and others to open the doors for funding.
- Conversation continued with a question from Commissioner Medina, who asked Patrick what Library needs from Commissioners as she sees meeting after meeting where Library is sharing their work and progress but feels as if the Commission could do more to contribute in some way.
 - Patrick reminded Commissioners that the original intent of the Commission was to form relationships with Cities and Board offices. However, she explained that "times have changed" and the Library Director's office has regular monthly/quarterly meetings with the Board offices.
 - One item that is critical, according to Patrick, is the need to help with fundraising. She reminded the Commission that Library staff has done a great job over the last 3 years – raising \$30 million – but they were one-time grants and are almost gone.

- Patrick sees an opportunity for the Commission to work with the new Foundation Executive Director in order to open doors to potential supporters. She reiterated that there is not a more critical component of the conversation at this time than the Library's structural deficit, which is looming. She added that grant funding would help with this.
- Commissioner Lesser asked how Commissioners could serve as Ambassadors.
 - Commissioner Cleri Reale responded that if there is a Library program that seems compelling and Commissioners know somebody who can help, they should connect Library staff to those potential supporters.
 - Chair Calaycay shared the example of Commissioner Nguyen and her interest of the Library's immigration programs, where she has suggested ideas for partnerships.
- Commissioner Lesser asked Director Patrick what type of input the Commission can provide the Director that goes beyond fundraising.
 - Patrick responded that the Commission is clearly more than a fundraising arm and can continue to provide input on programs. She shared the example of the Reading STARS program, which was tweaked based on feedback that has proven to be a great enhancement.
- Commissioner Liao asked what the Library is doing to tap into the County's homeless funding.
 - Patrick responded that the staff has submitted several proposals for Measure H funding but not yet received any commitments. She added that Measure H has its own set of priorities and the Library has not met this threshold. However, the Library did receive some support through the Homeless Initiative – Public Spaces Outreach Teams are available to a handful of libraries to call when assistance is needed with an individual experiencing homelessness, to connect them to appropriate services and resources.
- Chair Calaycay suggested that perhaps cities could submit letters of support for the various grant proposals submitted by the Library.
- Commissioner Lyons queried whether the Supervisors' support of the Library has decreased and suggested that Commissioners receive a fact sheet prior to the May meeting with Board Deputies.
 - Patrick reminded everyone that the Supervisors have been incredibly supportive of the Library and that they are aware of the funding issues. She stated that she has visited 49 of the cities in the Library network and not one is in a position to provide funding to the Library, as they are operating with deficits as well.
 - Chair Calaycay did state that the cities are still suffering from the disappearance of redevelopment funding.

- Commissioner Liao asked if the County would propose a sales tax initiative on an upcoming ballot. He also asked about naming opportunities within the Library system.
 - Director Patrick responded that the County is open to naming opportunities.
- Commissioner Cleri Reale asked if there is a way to tap into State funding via the new Governor's budget priorities, which are aligned with some of the Library's priorities.
 - Patrick updated the Commission about a meeting with State Senator Bob Archuleta regarding possible partnership opportunities.

Announcements from the Chair / Commission Items

- Chair Calaycay welcomed the newest Commissioner, Linda Charney, appointed by Supervisor Barger, Fifth District. Calaycay noted her extensive library experience.
- Chair Calaycay also reminded the Commission that it is time for the Nominating Committee to convene and develop a slate for the new year. The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee is comprised of Commissioners Jim Allen and Revé Gipson. Commissioner Medina volunteered to participate as well.
- Chair Calaycay also reported that there are currently four City Selection openings on the Commission. He asked those with candidate recommendations to reach out to him.
- Chair Calaycay asked Commissioners Lesser and Cleri Reale to report on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee formed to draft the Commission's annual report to the Board of Supervisors. The Committee reported that they convened via conference call, reviewed various report templates submitted by other commissions, and assigned the task of drafting the various sections of the report. The draft should be ready by the next Commission meeting. Commissioner Lesser added that submitting this report will put the Commission back into compliance.
- Chair Calaycay also announced the informal resignation notice he received from Commissioner Martha Arevelo, who was an appointee of Supervisor Solis, First District.

Announcements from LA County Library Director

- Director Patrick introduced the Willowbrook Librarian Amy Luu and shared that Willowbrook represents the Library's second public-private partnership with 92 units of senior housing above the library and a shared community facility in the back.
- She reminded the Commission that the May Commission meeting is at the Hall of Administration at a new time – 1:30 p.m.
- Patrick informed Commissioners that after much consideration, the Library has decided not to host the annual Library Breakfast this year due to budget considerations. They are looking for possible locations for their annual Staff

Development Day at which staff awards are distributed and staff undergo all-day training. The event will be moved to winter of 2020.

- Patrick provided a number of Library updates:
 - Library construction and renovation
 - Avalon Library is under construction and will be completed in September 2019. It's a very unique library as it's located on an island. It's 1,100 square feet and currently being renovated. It will serve as the first location for the Open Plus pilot program.
 - Carson Library will be closed for renovation but a trailer in the parking lot will be utilized for interim services.
 - The library in the Florence-Firestone area closed in February and staff is searching for a new permanent location. Until then, there is a modular trailer providing services as a temporary library, located at Roosevelt Park. There is not enough funding to build a new library but there is funding to lease or partner with another agency. County CEO is exploring location options. This library fills a critical need as the community's reading and literacy rates are low.
 - Commissioner Reilly asked how long Carson's renovations would take. Patrick responded 12 months.
 - In partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation, a pocket park is being developed adjacent to Woodcrest Library and completion is expected to occur in June.
 - Education Programs
 - Library is proud of Career Online High School (COHS), a program that had 1 graduate three years ago and now has 111 graduates. There are 240 current enrollees who will receive an actual high school diploma (not a GED) at completion. They also receive career counseling.
 - Commissioner Medina asked about the geographic distribution of the COHS program. Patrick stated that is now countywide.
 - Technology
 - The partnership with CENIC allows for a major technology upgrade and refresh for the Library.
 - Department of Mental Health (DMH) Partnership
 - In partnership with DMH, deployment of Mental Health Clinicians to libraries began on March 1. The clinicians will provide information, referrals, and clinical support to Library customers experiencing life challenges, as well as provide support and training for Library staff.
 - Additional duties include developing programs for the public, recruiting and training volunteers with lived experience to serve as peer mentors, and serving as liaisons between Library, DMH, and outside agencies including nonprofits.
 - They are based out of 8 libraries but will travel throughout their respective regions as needed.

- Book Kiosks
 - The Library installed 3 book kiosks and implemented programming at 2 senior housing facilities and one transition aged youth (TAY) facility. Kiosks are equipped with WiFi, available 24/7, and holds 300 books.
 - Commissioner Allen asked for the locations. They are located in East LA, Long Beach, and La Verne.

Staff Reports

- At this point, Director Patrick discussed My Brother's Keeper (MBK), which really targets underserved communities as part of the iCount Equity Initiative and is one of the Library's successes. She introduced Debbie Anderson who discussed the Library's MBK component.
 - They are hiring young men with life experiences to serve as MBK peer advocates.
 - They have 4 on board and the goal is to have 10 who will serve as positive male role models for young men of color.
 - Each peer advocate has an individual story or particular interest. Anderson shared the story of one who works with kids to bring a community garden back to life.
- Library staff, Debbie Anderson and Christian Brown, then presented a pilot program called Barbershop Books.
 - Its goal is to reduce barriers to access as part of the iCount Initiative and the County's My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Initiative.
 - It serves as an opportunity to help at-risk youth with literacy.
 - Anderson shared data that suggests that most young boys of color are not reading at a proficient reading level, and if proficiency is not met by the 3rd grade, there is a higher likelihood of increased difficulty in future learning, potentially not graduating from high school and leading to a host of long-term challenges.
 - After seeing Alvin Irby, Founder of Barbershop Books, on a TED Talk, Library connected with Irby and partnered with Barbershop Books to replicate the program in LA County.
- The Barbershop Books pilot was a success.
 - The program is currently located at 10 barbershops.
 - Focus is on young men of color, ages 4-8, and providing engaging reading materials and male role models.
 - Barbers receive a small bookcase with culturally relevant materials. They also receive Early Literacy Training, a mandatory requirement to participate in the program.
 - The program is free to barbers. The bookshelf allows young boys to read while they're waiting for their haircut and, while they are in the barber's chair, the barber engages with them to discuss the book and the benefits of reading.
 - The barbers appreciated the training and the program, so much so that they all showed up on a Monday and stayed until the end.

- The kickoff was at St. Julian's Barbershop in Compton. Channel LA36 interviewed Skye Patrick and Alvin Irby.
- The program has a Community Liaison, through Library's MBK Peer Advocate program, who checks in with the barbershops to ensure that the program is moving along effectively.
- Commissioner Cleri Reale asked the cost per barbershop. Staff responded that while the cost per location is \$15,000 for books, shelves, materials, training, it does not include staff costs. Staff will work on a breakdown of costs to share with the Commission.

Commissioner Comments

- Commissioner Medina asked for more details about the Archuleta meeting and stated that she would try to follow up with him. She reiterated the need to provide Commissioners with talking points about Library programs.
- Commissioner Allen saluted Director Patrick and the Library staff regarding their recent awards and acknowledgements.
- Commissioner Williams thanked Director Patrick and her staff that worked on Barbershop Books. She stated that it was heartbreaking to hear the staggering statistics of young boys of color and she was extremely proud to hear about the pilot program. She stated, "You are doing great work. Kudos to you. It's been a privilege to hear about this."
- Commissioner Calcalay requested that the Barbershop Books LA36 video be sent to the Commissioners so they can share it with potential funders.
- Commissioner Lyons informed fellow Commissioners about the upcoming Diamond Bar Library event on April 14.
- Commissioner Kuechle thanked staff for the acoustics in the Culver City Library meeting room and said it was well worth waiting for.

Public Comment

- Wilma Fraser, a resident of the community, introduced herself and shared her story with the Commission.
 - She is a parent liaison at the Watts Tower Campus. Her daughter started visiting Watts Tower at age 5 and is now a Teaching Fellow there.
 - Fraser thanked Library staff for the wonderful resources and said she was happy to hear about all the programs. She suggested that the churches may be able to help with some of the programs and services or outreach to the communities in the area.
 - Chair Calaycay thanked her for her attendance and comments.
- Willowbrook Library Manager Amy Luu provided a general welcome to the Commission, stating how glad she was that they had visited Willowbrook Library. She offered a brief tour after the Commission meeting.
- Lastly, Director Patrick noted that this year the Library is a finalist for the IMLS medal, which would be a really great validation of its work.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.