

LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, May 15, 2019

TIME: 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Room 743
500 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

AGENDA

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

1. Minutes
 - Approval of March 2019 meeting minutes
2. LA County Library Update
3. Commissioner Items/Comments
 - Presentation of 2019 Annual Report for Approval
 - Election of Commission Officers (2019-2020)
4. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
5. Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings:

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

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

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



"Enriching Lives"

May 15, 2019
Library Commission Meeting Minutes
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Conference Room 743



Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Chair Corey Calaycay at 1:36pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Quorum was met.

Commissioners in Attendance – (11) Corey Calaycay, Jim Allen, Revé Gipson, Joy Williams, Angelita Medina, Nancy Kuechle, Antonio Lopez, José Luis Solache, Nancy Lyons, Chin Ho Liao, Vy Nguyen

Commissioners Absent – (5) Liz Reilly, Lisa Cleri Reale, Jay Chen, Linda Charney, Martha Arevalo

Library Staff in Attendance – (4) Jesse Walker-Lanz, Debbie Anderson, Samangi Skinner, Miguel Aguilera

Others in Attendance – (3) Tami Omoto-Frias (Board Deputy, First Supervisorial District), Maria Chong-Castillo (Board Deputy, Third Supervisorial District), Harry Porter (member of the public)

Report from LA County Library

Jesse Walker-Lanz, Assistant Library Director, Public Services, provided updates on activities at LA County Library.

Thanks to efforts from the Library Foundation, LA County Library was one of 109 libraries to participate in the first ever National Library Giving Day on April 10. Donations went twice as far thanks to a matching gift challenge. There were 334 donors and 335 gifts, totaling \$11,373.

The Library Foundation has rescheduled its upcoming receptions. The Manhattan Beach event will be on June 29, and the West Hollywood and East Los Angeles events will be moved to August. Commissioners will be notified by the Foundation once dates and times are finalized.

The next Library Commission meeting will be held at Stevenson Ranch Library. Due to the substantial travel distance for most commissioners, Walker-Lanz asked if there was interest in a satellite location on the east side. Commissioners Medina and Solache responded in the affirmative. Chair Calaycay explained that the decision to host the meeting at this location was made to accommodate former commissioner, Waymon Roy, who will be receiving a commendation for his service to the Library Commission.

Claremont Library has been renamed the Claremont Helen Renwick Library. Helen Renwick was an influential philanthropist to the City of Claremont and donated the land on which the first library in Claremont was built. Claremont Helen Renwick Library also received a \$100,000 Presidential Initiative Grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which will support children's programming and materials for the next 5 years. This grant is being funneled through the Library Foundation.

Avalon Library is closed for an extensive refurbishment; expected to re-open in September 2019. A temporary library has been set up until completion. As a reminder, once Avalon Library re-opens, we will be piloting the Open+ program, which enables patrons to access the library beyond normal business hours.

Extensive renovations will begin at Lloyd Taber-Marina Del Rey Library (beginning Summer 2019) and Norwalk Library (beginning late Summer/early Fall 2019). Both projects are expected to be complete by the next fiscal year. Commissioner Allen asked if LA County Library will set up temporary locations. Walker-Lanz said those details are still pending and will hopefully be confirmed by the next Commission meeting.

The Library will soon complete its 2-year grant cycle with the Department of Mental Health (DMH). While the original grant of roughly \$25M will not be extended, the Library will still receive \$7M to be split between the next two fiscal years. Transition Age Youth outreach will be shifted to other staff. Triple P librarians will be reduced from 15 to 5. MakMo will be reduced from 10 vehicles to 6. Commissioner Allen asked how the remaining MakMo vehicles will be distributed. Walker-Lanz responded that the Library is working on the details, but it will continue to operate systemwide. Library is petitioning other funding sources to continue the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) and Reading Machine programs. The Office of Child Protection committed \$600K to fund Reading Machine this fiscal year, allowing the operation of 3 out of 5 vehicles. Proposals have also been sent to the Department of Public Health.

Career Online High School currently has 268 enrollees and 125 graduates, totaling 393 students. The next graduation ceremony will be held at 10 a.m. on June 29 at Quiet Cannon Event Center in Montebello.

Hardware upgrades have been completed at 31 libraries through the Microsoft Grant thus far. The estimated completion date has been pushed back to the end of this summer.

Libraries are having their connection speeds improved thanks to the CENIC partnership. 68 of 85 libraries are complete, and 27 have had their additional cabling installed. Bell Gardens and Chet Holyfield Libraries will be the first two locations to go online. Completion is on target for the end of the calendar year.

Library and CEO will be giving a joint presentation on MBK at the Board meeting on May 28.

Along with four other County Departments, LA County Library will participate in a pilot to explore the viability of coworking spaces, or alternate work locations. The intent is to reduce carbon emissions and commute time and increase employee morale and engagement.

The annual iCount staff training was held on May 9. This year's focus was cultural competency and serving non-English-speaking customers as well as customers for whom English is a second language.

In partnership with the Probation Department, the Library conducted 59 programs at 5 Juvenile Day Reporting Centers in March and April, reaching 299 youth. Programs included Turns the Tables DJ Lab, yoga, stop-motion animation workshop, MakMo, and Adult 101.

LA County Library was once again a finalist for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) National Medal but did not win. The winner of *Library Journal's* 2019 Library of the Year will be announced by the end of May.

Walker-Lanz fielded questions from commissioners.

- In response to Commissioner Solache's inquiry as to whether CENIC is happening at all libraries, Walker-Lanz answered that it is and summarized the ongoing CENIC installation process.
- Commissioner Kuechle asked what happens to the decommissioned MakMos due to the decreased DMH-funding. Walker-Lanz shared that we get to keep all the vehicle acquired through DMH-funding and that vehicles may be repurposed for other kinds of library

outreach, if necessary, although the Library is seeking out funding to keep these services consistent for the communities we serve.

Commission Business and Announcements

Chair Calaycay informed the Commission that Commissioner Cleri Reale fell sick and will not be attending today's meeting. As the Commission is not in receipt of the Annual Report, and it is due to County Commission Services by the end of the fiscal year, Chair Calaycay stated that an additional Commission meeting may need to take place in June 2019 so they may vote on the report and fulfill this obligation.

Introductions by commissioners and other meeting attendees followed.

- Board Deputy Tami Omoto-Frias (First Supervisorial District) thanked the commissioners for the investment of their time, emphasized that Supervisor Solis values libraries as they serve as community centers, noted their efforts to find budget solutions, and praised Library's accomplishments despite financial constraints. She knows that, given the resources, Library can accomplish so much more.
- Board Deputy Maria Chong-Castillo (Third Supervisorial District) appreciated that we bring the Commission meetings to the Hall of Administration at least once a year. One of her biggest concerns was the Library Foundation so she is very pleased by its recent developments, and the contribution by the City of Malibu towards hiring an Executive Director. She also commended Library Director Skye Patrick for the Department's positive changes during her tenure—she has made great structural changes and has been instrumental in directing her staff. This is the first she is aware of that LA County Library is being recognized nationally.

Chair Calaycay shared how the Commission was involved in assisting the Library Foundation, giving particular credit to Commissioners Cleri Reale and Nguyen for working as ambassadors with the Foundation as they sought out an Executive Director.

Chair Calaycay shared the Commission's difficulty in filling vacant seats and asked the Board Deputies for their assistance in making recommendations.

Calaycay then asked the Deputies for further comments or suggestions.

- Deputy Chong-Castillo reiterated Third District's desire for the Library Foundation to ramp up its activities and become robust. She encouraged the Commission to continue working with Director Skye Patrick to advance programming. They are proud of the Commission and Library's efforts and looking forward to seeing what the Foundation will also produce.
- Deputy Omoto-Frias also stressed the importance First District places on programming, especially services that address the needs of residents who are not native-born. She emphasized the continuation of efforts to address this population's needs in the languages they know, especially around topics like the Census, citizenship, and voting. She would love to see more connection with arts programs and museums; for example, art galleries at libraries.
- Chair Calaycay mentioned efforts surrounding voting kiosk installations and Commissioner Nguyen's role in Census 2020 and immigration programming advocacy.

Taking it back to the report from Walker-Lanz, Commissioner Lyons asked if the staff shortage is due to the structural deficit. Walker-Lanz explained how the department's strategy is to always keep a certain number of vacancies but this was exacerbated by the ramping up of DMH-funded preventive programs and associated staffing. The slowdown of grant-funded activities may affect front-line staffing. Deputy Chong-Castillo and Deputy Omoto-Frias supported the Library's decision to restrict hiring.

Commissioner Kuechle expressed her appreciation for the Library's Mental Health Clinicians as they attend to the needs of the County's homeless population. As a follow up, Commissioner Allen asked for the metrics on security incidents and the impact made by Mental Health Clinicians.

Walker-Lanz cited anecdotal evidence indicating a positive impact.

As requested by Commissioner Williams, Deputy Chong-Castillo clarified her support of hiring restrictions during a deficit.

Chair Calaycay noted the arrival of Commissioner Liao at 2:25pm. The Board Deputies excused themselves from the meeting at this time.

Public Comment

Henry Porter, a member of the public, raised concerns about the extended Community Library Manager vacancy at Woodcrest Library (since April 2018). He noted his observations of the loss of senior citizen development and interaction, loss of community intimacy, and decreased employee morale. Mr. Porter noted his continued efforts to advocate for this hiring and his frustration regarding the lack of progress. Mr. Porter stated his desire to make this a matter of public record, for the sake of his community. He relented that he has no illusions of Library's success as stated in its "utopian" report, due to the bureaucratic inefficiencies he is witnessing at his library. Mr. Porter recommended the appointment of a senior Woodcrest Library staff person to an Acting Manager role instead of rotating visiting managers who are spread too thin to provide committed and dedicated services and support. He also suggested that public comment come earlier in the meeting, in line with the Board of Supervisors and other County commissions. Chair Calaycay requested that the Library respond to Mr. Porter's concerns and provide the Commission with an update. Walker-Lanz provided his contact information to Mr. Porter, who then thanked the commissioners for their time. Commissioners expressed gratitude for Mr. Porter's concerns and constructive comments.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Nguyen arrived at 2:34pm, and a quorum was officially met.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lyons, and seconded by Commissioner Liao, to approve the minutes from the Library Commission's meeting on March 20, 2019. The motion was unanimously approved.

Annual Election of Commission Officers

Commissioner Allen reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee that he, Commissioner Gipson, and Commissioner Medina solicited input from all commissioners for nominations. Nominations received were for all current officers to be maintained: Chair – Corey Calaycay, Vice Chair – James Allen, Secretary – Lisa Cleri Reale.

A motion was made by Commissioner Solache and seconded by Commissioner Liao to put forth the slate of nominees. The motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gipson and seconded by Commissioner Medina to accept the slate of nominees as the new Commission officers. The motion was unanimously approved.

Annual Report

Commissioner Allen reported on behalf of the Ad Hoc Annual Report Committee and noted that an abbreviated report style was the accepted format the Commission would use. The report was in draft format about a month ago, but Commissioner Allen has not seen a recent copy.

The report will primarily focus on the Commission's accomplishments in the past year, such as its support in recruiting the Library Foundation's new Executive Director. He suggested sending the report to all commissioners prior to voting. Chair Calaycay recommended, for the impromptu June 2019 meeting to approve the report, the commissioners seek out a variety of feasible locations and use remote conferencing to connect and discuss the report.

The Commission agreed upon a date of June 5, 2019, at 3:00pm.

Commissioner Comments

Commission reviewed their Public Comment procedures. Chair Calaycay said he will try to be amenable to the needs of attendees from the public, as needed, in future meetings.

Commissioner Allen praised the feedback of Board Deputies and suggested the Commission engage with them more. Commissioner Calaycay will consider establishing Ad Hoc Committees for this purpose.

Commissioner Liao informed the Commission that agencies are in discussions to discontinue the use of natural gas, in line with State policy. Chair Calaycay pointed out the pushback of general public, which may prevent action. Commissioner Liao asked if the Commission can play a role, to which Chair Calaycay responded that while the idea sounds good in theory, it may not be feasible.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52pm.