

## LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

**DATE:** Wednesday, December 4, 2019

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Topanga Library  
122 N. Topanga Canyon Blvd.  
Topanga, CA 90290

*Members of the Library Commission have requested this meeting be accessible via video conference. Remote access will be available at the following satellite locations:*

*Library Headquarters  
Administrative Conference Room  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
7400 Imperial Hwy.  
Downey, CA 90242*

*Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Room 579, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
500 W. Temple St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90012*

## AGENDA

Welcome, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

1. Minutes
  - Approval of meeting minutes for the regular meetings on July 17 and September 18, 2019, and the special meeting on July 23, 2019.
2. LA County Library Update (Skye Patrick)
  - Reading Machine Presentation (Hilda Casas and Shayna Szabo)
3. Library Foundation Update (Andrea Carroll)
4. Commissioner Items/Comments
5. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
6. Adjournment

### ***Upcoming Meeting:***

*Wednesday, January 15, 2020  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Gardena Mayme Dear Library  
1731 W. Gardena Blvd.  
Gardena, CA 90247*

*Wednesday, March 18, 2020  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
San Dimas Library  
145 N. Walnut Ave.  
San Dimas, CA 91773*



**December 4, 2019  
Library Commission Meeting Minutes  
Topanga Library**

**Satellite locations:** Hall of Administration,  
Library Headquarters



**Welcome and Pledge**

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am by Chair Corey Calaycay, who then led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. He then announced that the order of the meeting's agenda items would be slightly revised to accommodate schedules.

**Roll Call**

Quorum was not met.

**Commissioners in Attendance** – (7) Corey Calaycay, Jim Allen, Lisa Cleri Reale, Nancy Kuechle, Chin Ho Liao, Angelita Medina, Nancy Lyons

**Commissioners Absent** – (6) Jose Luis Solache, Liz Reilly, Vy Nguyen, Reve Gipson, Joy Williams, Linda Charney

**Library Staff in Attendance** – (11) Skye Patrick, Yolanda De Ramus, Grace Reyes, Jesse Walker-Lanz, Samangi Skinner, Heather Firchow, Hilda Casas, Shayna Szabo, Miguel Aguilera, Jonathan Diaz, Alejandro Garcia

**Library Foundation in Attendance** – (1) Andrea Carroll

**Approval of Minutes**

As quorum was not met, approval of the minutes for the following meetings was held:

- Regular meeting July 17, 2019
- Special meeting on July 23, 2019
- Regular meeting on September 18, 2019

**Library Foundation Update**

Library Foundation Executive Director Andrea Carroll reported from Library Headquarters that the Foundation is currently “at a good place.” She then shared a few highlights:

- Last year, the Foundation raised \$39,000. This year, the Foundation brought in \$300,000 in revenue.
- There are a lot more individuals giving—the number has tripled and the retention rate is already up.
- On Giving Tuesday, \$4,800 was raised, and Carroll just learned that a donor

- pledged an additional \$5,000 gift.
- All the recent recognition and the successful reception at East LA Library are helping with relationship-building.
  - The past year was focused on getting the Foundation's house in order. This included strengthening the Foundation Board and developing new board members.
  - Carroll was pleased to announce that the Foundation Board is engaged and active and that there is 100% giving.
  - She thanked Commissioner Cleri Reale for helping with board development and for facilitating a board retreat in early 2020.
  - Lastly, Carroll asked Commissioners to consider donating to the Challenge Grant that was created. The goal is to raise \$10,000 from the Foundation Board, Commissioners, and others and to ask donors to match it.
  - Chair Calaycay strongly urged all Commissioners to meet with Carroll if they have not yet done so.

Chair Calaycay thanked Carroll and then had everyone at all three sites introduce themselves.

### **Reading Machine Presentation**

Hilda Casas and Shayna Szabo, of Library's Youth Services Division, presented to the Commission an update and summary of the Reading Machine. They shared a PowerPoint and some materials.

The following highlights were included in their remarks:

- They described the Reading Machine as a high-energy Storytime for children at preschools and home daycare centers.
- They reminded the Commission that there is strong data to support the importance of early literacy skills.
- The first two years of the Reading Machine were funded by various County departments.

Casas and Szabo shared some of the materials that are used in the vehicles including the Storytime kits in backpacks and programs-in-a-box, some of which are focused on STEAM. They also shared that there are parent resources and incentives for those who participate.

The Reading Machine is now in 12 communities throughout the 5 Supervisorial Districts. All the communities are high-risk and have an urgent need for literacy programs. The communities were chosen using data from the Human Development Index in the Portrait of LA County report.

Casas and Szabo cited various examples of program success:

- To date, the Reading Machine has provided 1,386 programs for 29,966 participants in underserved communities.
- 40% of parents felt more confident in their parenting skills.
- 95% of childcare providers felt more confident in their ability to deliver programs.
- Teachers continue to use activities learned from the Reading Machine to teach their students.
- Schools promote the Reading Machine visits.
- The Reading Machine was one of the County's Top 10 Productivity & Quality Award recipients.

Casas and Szabo ended their presentation by reading two eloquent testimonials: one from Junioriversity in Compton and one from Cela Family Child Care.

Commissioner Cleri Reale asked about funding for the program and suggested that staff investigate the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Development for funding sources. She also asked about funding from First 5.

- LA County Library Director Skye Patrick responded that First 5 seems to have shifted its priorities and is not disbursing grants to agencies.

Commissioner Allen stated that the power of mobile systems is massive. He shared that his wife grew up in a rural community where mobile resources had a huge impact.

- Patrick thanked Allen and said that this is all a labor of love. Normally, Patrick would not promote mobile services but here in LA County these types of services are greatly needed as the area is so huge and densely populated, and there are not enough static locations to serve the community.

### **LA County Library Update**

Library Director Skye Patrick reported from the Hall of Administration and shared with the Commission information about the County's Sunset Review, which was initiated by the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors' Commission Services. The general purpose of the Sunset Review is to understand the Library Commission's purpose, goals, relevancy, meeting and membership structures, and provide recommendations for sunsetting or continuing the Commission with a more defined focus.

Based on discussions they've had with Commission Services, Patrick and Chief Deputy Director Yolanda De Ramus met and created a Proposed Strategic Focus for Library Commission for 2020-2021. They shared this document with the Commission, including specific goals and potential sub-committees for the Commission to consider.

The three potential sub-committees are:

- Tax/Bond Measures and Library Financing
  - The Library is nearing its structural deficit, so this is critical.
  - Committee will research funding measures for building improvement projects and will provide stronger and compelling advocacy.
- Education/Center of Learning
  - Committee will focus on specific 2020 initiatives and program goals in the area of education and will conduct research and build connections.
- Philanthropic and Corporate Relations
  - Committee will collaborate with the Library Foundation and will help secure immediate and large-scale funding for library programs.

Patrick shared sub-committee responsibilities, which may include:

- Selecting chairs and members.
- Developing a meeting schedule.
- Researching each goal and creating an action plan.
- Conducting a “report back” to the entire Commission.

Patrick also reviewed the proposed timeline, starting with the briefing at today’s meeting, to be followed by a first report back in May 2020 and a final report back in November 2020. Patrick ended by saying “We see each of you as a huge value to the Library’s system.”

Chair Calaycay stated that he appreciated the report and recommendations as he has heard from several Commissioners who are looking for more specifics about how to help. He further stated that as Chair he can appoint sub-committees, so he asked the Commissioners to let him know which sub-committee is of interest to them.

Feedback to the proposed strategic focus was positive, including the following comments:

- Commissioner Medina stated that she has been looking for ways to step up and stated that this proposal is great.
- Commissioner Cleri Reale stated that she is happy to help with any of the sub-committees but will await to see where the greatest need exists.
- Commissioner Kuechle suggested that everyone communicate with the Chair via email to state their specific interests and ways they can help.
- Commissioner Liao asked what the goal is for the Tax/Bond Sub-Committee.
  - Patrick responded that ideally the goal is to raise enough funds to renovate all the libraries and try to find a way to integrate some staffing and operations.

- Commissioner Cleri Reale asked Patrick if the County might sunset the Commission before the sub-committees completed their work.
  - Patrick responded that she does not know. Sunset Reviews are underway with several Commissions and it's difficult to know what the County will do.

### **Commissioner Items**

Chair Calaycay updated the Commissioners regarding the City Selection Committee and the Commission vacancies. There are a few candidates ready to move forward but there remain some challenges, including District 3 where there is a need to identify candidates.

Commissioner Cleri Reale announced that the Durfee Foundation recently named Skye Patrick a Stanton Fellow. She stated that this is a prestigious honor that is designed to allow leaders to think deeply about their work and how it impacts the future of Los Angeles. Patrick's work will focus on how libraries can serve as hubs for arts, social justice, literacy, and education.

- Patrick responded by saying that she is incredibly honored by the Fellowship and looking forward to getting to know and work with the other Fellows.

Commissioner Kuechle thanked Patrick for the op-ed in the Los Angeles Times about Macmillan Publishing.

Kuechle also stated that the Community Library Manager (CLM) at the Culver City Library recently passed away. Laura Frakes served for 30 years with the County and had been at Culver City Library since 2006. Kuechle stated that she will be terribly missed.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Calaycay reminded everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2020, in Gardena. He stated that the purpose of the holiday season is the opportunity to recondition and repurpose and to make the next year better. He wished everyone a happy holiday.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am, in memory of Laura Frakes.