

LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, September 18, 2019

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

PLACE: Artesia Library
18801 Elaine Ave.
Artesia, CA 90701

Members of the Library Commission have requested this meeting be accessible via video conference. Remote access will be available at the following satellite 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 meeting minutes for the regular meeting on July 17, 2019, and the special meeting on July 23, 2019.
2. Library Foundation Update (Andrea Carroll)
3. LA County Library Update (Yolanda De Ramus)
 - MakMo Presentation (Jose Parra and Adriana Albizures)
4. Commissioner Items/Comments
5. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
6. Adjournment

Upcoming Meeting:

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



"Enriching Lives"

September 18, 2019
Library Commission Meeting Minutes
Artesia Library
Satellite location: San Fernando Library



Welcome and Pledge

The meeting was called to order by Chair Corey Calaycay at 10:01am, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Liz Reilly.

Roll Call

Quorum was not met.

Commissioners in Attendance – (10) Corey Calaycay, Jim Allen, Joy Williams, Linda Charney, Lisa Cleri Reale, Liz Reilly, Nancy Lyons, Angelita Medina, Jose Luis Solache, Revé Gipson

Commissioners Absent – (4) Antonio Lopez, Chin Ho Liao, Nancy Kuechle, Vy Nguyen

Library Staff in Attendance – (8) Yolanda De Ramus, Grace Reyes, Jesse Walker-Lanz, Samangi Skinner, Debbie Anderson, Miguel Aguilera, Jose Parra, Adriana Albizures

Approval of Minutes

As quorum was not met, approval of the minutes for the regular meeting on July 17, 2019, and the special meeting on July 23, 2019, were held.

Library Foundation Update

Library Foundation Executive Director Andrea Carroll was unable to attend the meeting. On Carroll's behalf, LA County Library's Chief Deputy Director, Yolanda De Ramus, reminded the Commission that the first of the Foundation outreach receptions would be held on October 29, 2019, at East LA Library; invitations are forthcoming. Additionally, the Commissioners should all have received the Foundation newsletter via email and were urged to subscribe to future newsletters.

LA County Library Update

Chief Deputy De Ramus welcomed the Commission to Artesia Library, which opened in 2017. De Ramus introduced Community Library Manager, Robert Gardner, who offered a tour of the library after the meeting.

De Ramus provided the following updates:

- Facilities Reinvestment Program

- Clifton Brakensiek Library in Bellflower was closed for 2 weeks for roofing demolition and now reopened.
- San Dimas Library will tentatively close on Veteran's Day (November 11) through November 24, for new customer service components.
- Capital Projects Update
 - Avalon Library is coming along swimmingly. The Grand Reopening will be on November 14 at noon.
 - Lloyd Taber-Marina del Rey Library is undergoing a modest renovation and will tentatively close in October/November, with plans for a reopening in July/August 2020.
 - Masao Satow Library in Gardena is in progress and a Grand Reopening is tentative for September/October 2020.
 - Live Oak Library is in progress with a Grand Reopening tentative for October/November 2020.
 - Norwalk Library will close for renovation in January/February 2020, with Grand Reopening tentative for November 2020.
- Safety/Security
 - De Ramus reported that there was a recent active shooter scare at Lancaster Library, which turned out to be a hoax.
 - Lancaster Library has 2 armed guards trained by the Sherriff's Department. Staff did an amazing job responding to the emergency and were in communication with the Sheriff's Department.
 - Due to the library's proximity to the alleged active shooter incident, the library was placed on lockdown until law enforcement confirmed the potential assailant was not in the community.
 - The Library worked with the County's Department of Human Resources to immediately deploy the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) in response to the incident, which offers counseling services.
 - Assistant Director Jesse Walker-Lanz shared that about 50 customers and 20-25 staff members were on lockdown in the building at the time of the incident.
 - 1 million dollars in one-time funding was acquired to improve security at high-risk locations. Security guards have been placed at 4 high-risk locations with this funding: Lennox, Norwalk, West Hollywood, and Willowbrook.
 - Commissioner Cleri Reale asked what the distinction was of the four locations mentioned.
 - De Ramus confirmed they are high-risk locations that received Sheriff's security officers, which they did not have before.

- Commissioner Cleri Reale asked how “high risk” is defined.
 - De Ramus answered risk is monitored and determined by Security Incident Reports (SIRs), which are logged, reported, and made available to the Sheriff’s Department each time an incident occurs.
 - City of Malibu has seen an increase in incidents over the last year and allocated funds for 1 additional contract security guard (unarmed)—they are an excess surplus city.
 - Commissioner Cleri Reale asked if the incidents are related to homelessness, because the City of LA libraries have challenges with the homeless.
 - Walker-Lanz stated they could not verify that the incidents were related to homelessness as oftentimes those involved in the incidents do not stick around nor wish to provide their name.
 - The Library is looking into technology to complement physical security guards.
 - There is also ongoing safety training for employees using the train-the-trainer approach.
 - Commissioner Liz Reilly asked if the training is held annually.
 - De Ramus clarified that it is held quarterly.
 - Recent safety trainings include:
 - Active shooter training
 - Suspicious package training
 - De-escalation training
 - Mental health/First aid training
 - Safety is also included as a topic in the Library’s annual Staff Development Day.
- Secondary Traumatic Stress, explained by Assistant Director Jesse Walker-Lanz, is compassion fatigue which occurs with frontline staff members who are consistently dealing with clients with trauma.
 - The Library is working with the Department of Mental Health and UCLA to get 50 employees trained in the first round using the train-the-trainer approach.
 - Plan to have an additional 50 trained in January 2020.
 - Annual Staff Development Day
 - De Ramus shared that this is usually held once a year for professional development. It’s normally in August but there is no longer access to Pasadena City College, where this event has been held for 10 years. The college no longer has space for the Library.
 - Moved to February/March 2020 and looking for a location that can accommodate about 650 staff members.
 - Smartboards and additional technology will be used to include part-time staff.

- Visioning Sessions
 - De Ramus reminded the Commission that these went well back in 2016.
 - Staff is looking to conduct another round in 2020 and will be looking into which communities will host the sessions. They will continue to use technology to have the most reach.
 - In 2016, sessions were held at 5 locations with Skye Patrick meeting patrons and a total of 15 community libraries participating via technology.
 - The plan is to launch the new sessions in March/April 2020 and the Commission will be kept updated.

- iCount
 - De Ramus shared that this program is working in each of the libraries and that each library has or will create a Library Equity Action Plan (LEAP).
 - LEAPs will be implemented on a bi-annual basis rather than annual in order to give staff enough time to discuss, create and identify communities to focus on. In addition, it provides a year to look at data and challenges.

- Supplementing Lost DMH Funding
 - De Ramus reminded the Commission that they had only received \$7 million from the Department of Mental Health, which is down from the original \$22 million funded. To stretch out these funds, Library is splitting the grant between two fiscal years.
 - The Library is working on additional funding to support programs impacted by loss of DMH funding.
 - \$600,000 from the Office of Child Protection for 3 Reading Machines in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20; looking to fund remaining 2 vehicles.
 - \$700,000 from Department of Public Health for My Brother's Keeper through FY 2021.
 - Trying to secure State Library funding for Reading Machines.
 - Commissioner Jim Allen asked if we can have the State Librarian attend a Commission meeting in the future.
 - De Ramus advised that it may be difficult as we are usually unaware of when he is coming.

- Productivity and Quality Awards
 - The Library has been nominated for 3 awards:
 - Top Ten Award – The Reading Machine
 - Special Commission Award for Community Inclusion – Career Online High School
 - Special Commission Award for Outstanding Teamwork –

Woolsey Fire Recovery Efforts (in collaboration with other County agencies)

- The Reading Machine testimonial video was presented.
- Commissioner Nancy Lyons asked for more clarification of Reading Machine and asked how a preschool can sign up for the program.
 - Assistant Director Debbie Anderson gave a general description of Reading Machine, how requests are received, and locations are selected.
 - Need is determined by information provided by the Portrait of LA County such as high school graduation rates, literacy rates, and income.
- Commissioner Reve Gipson asked how often the Reading Machines are on the road?
 - Anderson responded that they are on the road 4 days a week and visit 2-4 locations per day.

MākMō Presentation

- Jose Parra and Adriana Albizures presented on Library's MākMō program.
- Highlights included:
 - STEAM programming and resources not otherwise available to these communities.
 - Normally when people think of libraries, they think of books, but people don't learn just by reading. They need to see things happen to learn.
 - Programs and activities offered:
 - Ozobots
 - Mindstorm Madness
 - Intro to Sewing program for older adults
 - Make Do cardboard construction
 - Cubelets
- Parra and Albizures distributed some MākMō kits so Commissioners could see them. The kits allow kids to think, give them direction, and let them figure out the puzzles themselves.
- Outreach
 - Program at libraries, resource fairs, LA County Fair.
 - The scale of events and number of attendees varies from small libraries or communities to large events such as the LA County Fair.
- They shared MākMō stats, citing how impressive they are:
 - Started in 2016 with 2 vans and expanded to 10 vans in 2018, serviced approximately 10,000 customers.
 - Downsized to 6 vans due to loss in funding.
 - 2,392 events and 89,206 customers served since program began in 2016.
- They ended the presentation by encouraging Commissioners to come by a library to view a MākMō activity. They stated that MākMō validates that

libraries are a fun and safe place for learning and that a few moments of creative impact can last a lifetime.

- Commissioner Angie Medina asked how locations are identified.
 - Jose Parra answered that they receive requests from the community, libraries, and Districts.
 - Commissioner Nancy Lyons stated that she requested a MākMō for their city's birthday celebration and it was very easy to secure.
- De Ramus stated when we started this program, not a lot of other libraries in the nation were doing something like this. It's an innovative way of getting into communities but they need help to identify funding to sustain the program.

Commissioner Comments

- Chair Corey Calaycay noted Commissioner Liao had an emergency but had forwarded information related to the Laura Bush Foundation grants.
- Chair Calaycay thanked Commissioners Lyons and Reilly for the bagels and coffee and Cleri Reale for the donuts.
- Commissioner Lyons reported that Diamond Bar would open its newly renovated Reading Garden next year. There are also two upcoming events at the Library: Read Together Diamond Bar and the Bookstore's 20th Anniversary. The Commission is invited.
- Chair Calaycay reminded everyone that former Commissioner Jay Chen returned to Active Duty and will no longer be with the Commission. Commissioner Vy Nguyen will not be in the rest of the year on a sabbatical.
- He noted that the Commission is down 6 Commissioners due mostly to the City Selection Committee vacancies.
 - Commissioner Lisa Cleri Reale asked if we can address the quorum issue by consulting with County Counsel about amending the quorum formula. She added that the Commission is being unfairly held to meet a number of Commissioners for which it has no control.
 - Chair Calaycay stated the Board of Supervisors were clear that we could not meet quorum any other way.
 - Commissioner Reale asked if we can make a written request with the Board of Supervisors.
 - Commissioner Jim Allen proposed we restart our bylaw revisions committee to focus on this.
 - Commissioners Allen, Reilly, Charney, and Medina will form the Ad Hoc Committee to focus on this.
- Chair Calaycay announced that the next meeting would be held at Topanga Library with a satellite location at Library Headquarters in Downey.

Public Comment

A member of the community who said his name is George asked, "What does somebody have to do to be kicked out of the Library?"

He commented on the number of homeless persons at libraries and discussed what he felt was the disruption of children and youth using the library to hang out—which results in disruption for other library patrons.

Chair Calaycay asked if he was referring to a specific library. George stated he frequents the Leland, Bell Gardens, South Gate, and Commerce Libraries.

Chair Calaycay advised that we can provide him with contact information for staff, because his concerns pertain to the location.

De Ramus thanked him for the comments, advised him that there is training for staff related to customer expectations, and asked that he share his information with Walker-Lanz after the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17am.