

# CITY OF SANTA MONICA LIBRARY BOARD



## Minutes of the SPECIAL Meeting of December 8, 2016 To Be Approved

**Call to Order** A SPECIAL meeting of the Santa Monica Library Board was called to order by Chair, Marc Morgenstern, at 7:01 p.m., Thursday, December 8, 2016 at the Main Library, Administration Conference Room, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.

**Roll Call**

**PRESENT:** Boardmember Victor Davich, Chair Marc Morgenstern, Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles, and Boardmember Kathleen Sheldon

**ABSENT:** Vice Chair Bryce Snell

**ALSO PRESENT:** Erica Cuyugan, Acting City Librarian; Norma Angel, Senior Administrative Analyst

**Public Input** None.

**Approval of the Library Board Minutes** Motion by Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles, seconded by Boardmember Victor Davich to approve the minutes of the Library Board meeting of October 6, 2016. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Boardmember Victor Davich, Chairperson Marc Morgenstern, Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles and Boardmember Kathleen Sheldon

NOES: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: Vice Chair Bryce Snell

**Report on the 2017 Santa Monica Reads Program by Robert Graves, Librarian I, Public Services** Robert Graves, Librarian I, Public Services reported to the Board on the 2017 Santa Monica Reads program. Santa Monica Reads is a community reading program that invites Santa Monica residents and visitors to read the same book and then come together in book discussions and special events to talk about it.

Santa Monica Reads is in its fifteenth year and the selected book for 2017 is *Fun Home* by Alison Bechdel. The book is a graphic memoir and is a new

format for Santa Monica Reads. The program is scheduled to run from Friday, February 24 to Friday, March 31. In addition to the Library's program the musical version of *Fun Home* opens at the Ahmanson Theatre on February 21.

Events and discussions planned for the program are:

- author event on Saturday, February 25
- Cartoon Yourself, a four-week program led by Carlos Nieto III that teaches you to draw a comic strip of your story
- a comic book craft
- a lecture by Professor Charles Hatfield of California State University, Northridge who specializes in comic book biographies and memoirs
- a screening of *Annie*
- a Women in Comics panel
- a Women in Film panel based on the Bechdel test, a test of the following three criteria: (1) it has to have at least two women in it, who (2) who talk to each other, about (3) something besides a man
- eight book discussions
- and in the works is a program with Scott McCloud author of *Understanding Comics* which examines the many aspects of visual communication and puts forth the idea that comics can be literature

**A First Look at  
YALLWEST 2017  
by Robert Graves,  
Librarian I, Public  
Services**

Mr. Graves reported on the beginning planning of YALLWEST 2017. YALLWEST is the young adult book festival held in Santa Monica. The festival will take place on April 29, 2017 at Santa Monica High School. The preview event will be at the Santa Monica Public Library, Main Library on Friday, April 28.

**Discussion of  
Friends Bookstore  
and Friends Board  
Updates with  
Edward Edwards,  
Friends of the  
Santa Monica  
Public Library**

The report on the Friends of the Library activities from the Chair of the Friends of the Library was tabled due to non-availability Edward Edwards.

**Library Board  
Review of the Past  
Year and  
Discussion of New  
Focuses for 2017 –  
Marc Morgenstern,  
Library Board Chair**

Library Board Chair Marc Morgenstern led the Board in a review of 2016 and a discussion of priorities for 2017.

Areas of support by the Library Board to help the Library provide service to the Community:

- The Library's Strategic Planning process
- Santa Monica Public Library at the Beach Pop Up Library
- YALLWEST
- Removal of the \$25.00 non-resident fee
- Representation of the Board at City/Library programs and events
- Creation of a space for community forum discussions

Boardmember Lucien Plauzoles offered his ideas on the role of the Library Board in 2017.

- Board Expansion - With seven members it would be easier to achieve a quorum and increase diversity (esp. of age) on to the Board.
- Library Tour – Have a tour of the back of house operations to better understand the way the Library works. Each member of the Board “twinned” with a senior or key staff member, meet on a monthly or bi-monthly basis to get more depth and understanding.
- Secretary’s Report – Move the secretary’s report to the beginning of the agenda. The report gives the context for the rest of the meeting.
- Promote more public attendance to Library Board meetings.
- Reinstate the What are you reading? agenda item.
- Be supportive of staff. Have positive contact with staff by going to In-Service Day.

Board discussion followed.

Action items for the Board include: scheduling meetings at the Branch Libraries; attending established neighborhood meetings to network about the Library Board; and contacting the City Manager about increasing the number of Library Boardmembers.

**Board Discussion  
of Nationwide  
Current Library  
Trends and Review  
of Library Journal  
Articles**

Chair Marc Morgenstern discussed an article from the *New York Times* about an increase in defacement of books in libraries related to hate crimes.

**Secretary’s Report**

A limited run of calendars featuring images from the Library Image Archives has been printed and will be free to Library patrons.

**Update on Library  
Services and  
Programs**

A Pop Up Santa Monica Public Library at the Farmers Market is planned on Sunday, December 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Users will be able to check out books and participate in a craft.

Dinner and a DJ co-produced with the Ocean Park Association was held on Tuesday, Nov. 29 at 7pm on the lawn of the Ocean Park Branch. Attendees were encouraged to get dinner from the Tuesday night food trucks at the Heritage Museum or from a Main Street restaurant, and enjoy their meal while listening to a DJ spin international music and classic Rock.

The Pico Branch held its 4<sup>th</sup> Canvas Painting Class. Canvas painting is a popular class and many patrons’ expressed gratitude for the class. The class allowed them to relax, have fun, and create something beautiful without

experience. The class brings together the diverse populations of the Pico neighborhood.

Kathy Lo, Reference Librarian II and Image Archive Librarian digitized black and white images of the construction of Pacific Ocean Park. The images were donated by retired, as-needed Library Service Officer, Roy Osterhout. The donated album contained 100 or more unique, high quality black and white photos of Pacific Ocean Park's creation.

Ms. Lo and Reference Librarian Andrea Eitsert have curated a collection of prints of the images, which are on display in the lobby at the Main Library during the month of December.

Staff is exploring a "Book a Librarian" model which will enable patrons to book one-on-one time with librarians for a variety of topics, such as using Library Apps and databases, Research Assistance, computer help, and more.

Find out what Lola our December Library Pal is reading at the Library. The Library Pals program continues to be popular with patrons and the Library's partners at the Santa Monica Animal Shelter.

Information Management Division Librarians Kane Tsay and Kelly Wortham held a STEAM program on Tuesday, November 22 and taught the principles of coding. In January the Library will host a Tech & U series for kids that covers various technology topics.

**Update on Library Staffing**

Library Director second round interviews took place on Monday, December 5.

**Update on Library Facilities and Equipment**

None.

**Update on Library Security and Safety**

Ms. Cuyugan reported that currently there are five active Library suspensions.

The Library Service Officers continue to work with Circulation staff, particularly Library Pages who work on the floor and at the Computer Commons desk in the areas of patron engagement and when to call a Library Service Officer.

Santa Monica Police Department did a presentation at the Circulation staff meeting and answered questions from staff.

Library staff continues to evaluate Library Service Officer patrols and ways to ensure more visibility of the Library Service Officers.

**Agenda Building for the Next Meeting**

The Board would like to include in the next agenda a report from the Friends of the Library on their activities; continuing discussion of the Library Board's priorities and role for 2017; a report from the City of Santa Monica's Team Meeting Addressing Homelessness; an update on any hate crimes occurring at

Santa Monica Public Library and a discussion of what the Board is reading.

**Adjournment**

On the order of the Chair, Marc Morgenstern, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Erica Cuyugan

Marc Morgenstern

Acting City Librarian

Library Board Chair

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