

**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)  
MINUTES – September 27, 2004  
Eastmont Branch Library**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Scott called the LAC meeting to order at 5:20 p.m., after a welcome and tour of the Eastmont Branch by Branch Librarian Bella Madara.

**Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Sharon Crandall, Evelyn Wesley, Marian Sylvestre, Tracey Scott, Genevieve Katz, Arthur Noble.

Commissioners Excused: Deborah Eudaley, Beatrice Wong.

Staff Present: Director Martínez, Gene Tom, Gerry Garzón, Rosalía Arteaga-Romo (recorder). Also present Mica Miro from Councilmember Desley Brooks.

**Disposition of Minutes**

Commissioner Katz made a motion to approve the minutes of July 26, 2004, as recorded.

Commissioner Sylvestre seconded the motion and all commissioners present approved the minutes.

**II. REPORTS**

**a. Chairperson's Report**

- ❖ Announced that the Governor approved Senate Bill 1161 Library Construction Bond. Staff will elaborate more about what this means to the Library.

**b. Director's Report**

- ❖ The Bookmobile has arrived after a 2½-year wait. It holds 5,000 volumes and various other materials in all media, great outreach and serves community centers, childcare centers, and senior homes. The Bookmobile makes about 58 stops per month, and we are trying to extend the service to more schools that lack libraries.
- ❖ As of September 11<sup>th</sup> all branch libraries are now open 6 days/week.
- ❖ Director Martínez acknowledged and thanked the community for passing Measure Q, and as a direct result of Measure Q funds, most of the branch libraries will be displaying new materials in a prominent area; we are also in the process of filling job vacancies.
- ❖ The Library received a scholarship grant for 14 OPL staff members currently going to library school.
- ❖ Good news for California Libraries. The Governor has finally signed SB 1161, the new Library Construction Bond Bill, now scheduled for the March 2006 statewide ballot. A big thanks to all our staff and supporters who took time to write letter, emails, and leave phone messages with the Governor's office. I met one supporter at a community meeting last night who wrote 12 letters of support. The Governor has heard our message--that new libraries in California are an urgent priority, and without local means to build new facilities, we need strong support from the State to help us rebuild, replace, and renovate our aging and inadequate libraries. More hard work is in store for us as we work over the next two years to get the votes

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necessary to carry this bill. Please remember to thank your friends and volunteers for helping to convince the Governor that this bill was an urgent, important need, locally and statewide.

- ❖ **Network Update.** We still have issues with our technical needs and problems keeping up with maintenance and fixing computers. The Library network is inadequate and we are in the process of doing a Request for Proposal to hire a consultant to revamp the system.
- ❖ **Budget Update.** We entered this new fiscal year with a \$1 million deficit, even after Measure Q revenues into account. Gene Tom gave a summary on the current budget status and what staff is planning to make sure that Measure Q funds hold up.
- ❖ **Master Facilities Plan Update.** Gerry Garzón gave an update presentation. The Citizens Action Committee and other volunteers are doing focus group presentations to the community to get their input. We are looking at making significant improvements/renovations to our libraries; a lot of library patrons do not have computer access anywhere else besides their branch library; some libraries do not have restroom facilities for the public; there's a lack of space for materials; the technology needs major upgrading. Please let us know if anyone is interested in having a presentation for a particular group.

#### c. **Commissioners Advocacy Report**

- ❖ Chairperson Scott shared an article about libraries & shopping malls.
- ❖ Commissioner Katz attended a CALTAC workshop and will give an update at the next LAC meeting.
- ❖ Commissioner Noble announced that after one year of struggle the Literacy Program has finally completed the move to the second floor of the West Oakland Community Center. Director Martínez added that staff is very pleased to have confidential space for the adult students, and the place is being painted and re-carpeted. 75% of the Literacy Program funding comes from state and private grants.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS - None**

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **V. AGENDA BUILDING**

### **VI. OPEN FORUM**

### **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ❖ Chairperson Scott announced that Commissioner Kelly has officially resigned from the LAC and she'd be working with the Friends of the Oakland Public Library (FOPL) on an event to promote and raise visibility for FOPL. The event is planned for next spring and she's looking for people who'd like to help on this project.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Submitted by,

Carmen Martínez  
Library Director