

**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)
MINUTES – January 31, 2005
Rockridge Branch Library**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Scott called the LAC meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Tracey Scott, Beatrice Wong, Arthur Noble, Bridget Berrigan, Genevieve Katz.

Commissioners Excused: Marion Wilson, Evelyn Wesley, Deborah Eudaley, Sharon Crandall.

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: Director Martínez, Julie Odofoin, Leslie Rodd, Gerry Garzon, Rick Moss, and Rosalía Arteaga-Romo (recorder).

Disposition of Minutes

Commissioner Wong made a motion to approve the minutes of October 25, 2004 as recorded. Commissioner Katz seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

Commissioner Noble made a motion to approve the minutes of November 22, 2004 as recorded. Commissioner Katz seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

REPORTS

a. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Scott acknowledged and introduced newly appointed commissioner Bridget Berrigan, and mentioned that the Commission is actively pursuing candidates and welcomes suggestions for possible members.

b. Director's Report

Director Martínez welcomed Ms. Berrigan and is happy to have her on the Commission. Ms. Martínez continued to give a brief overview of the Library's activities in the past month:

- ❖ The Library received an outstanding rating from the State Library and secured a grant for the Prop 14 Master Facilities Plan project.
- ❖ On February 8th, staff is presenting a report to the Council's Life Enrichment Committee, requesting an extension on the Group 4 contract to continue working on our Master Facilities Plan.
- ❖ Duff Axsom resigned as Executive Director for the Library Foundation, effective December 2004. Winona Adkins has been appointed Interim Executive Director.



1/31/05

- ❖ Staff has been working on the Library budget and preparing for a 5% cut to the General Fund. The share of our reduction, approximately \$580,400.00, will come from cuts to personnel expenses.
- ❖ **Measure Q Oversight** - There is a deficit on Measure Q beyond our control. Fees have increased, and we did not anticipate a charge for General Facilities Maintenance operations of \$400,000 for the first year; and \$700,000 on the 2nd year. Also, we did not anticipate an 11% increase on retirement and other employee benefits. The budget is due on February 1st followed by individual departmental review by City Administrator and Budget staff. The OPL budget priorities for FY 05-07 are to operate branches 6 days a week and Main 7 days a week, materials & collections development, and technology and library automation. Commissioner Katz is concerned that the citizens won't trust the City anymore, and won't raise another cent for the Library if they keep cutting funding.

c. Administrators' Reports

Program Administration. Leslie Rodd reported on the following:

- ❖ The Children's Room renovation is underway with 75% of the work completed. The targeted opening day is early March.
- ❖ Working on an agreement with Mills College to develop a writers program run by Mills students.
- ❖ The Library is proud to present Paul Rusesabagina, Hotel Rwanda real hero, as a guest speaker on February 28th. We are looking to create a series, "Conversations of Conscience", of which this will be the first. We welcome suggestions for future guest speakers.

Main Library Administration. Gerry Garzon reported on the following:

- ❖ The Library received its letter of commitment from the State Library for the construction grant of \$6.5 million to build a new library in East Oakland. We hope to open the 81st Ave. Branch in late 2007.
- ❖ Staff is working on a new project to improve the network technology and update the library on-line card catalog. We've narrowed it down to two companies: Dynix and Innovative. There will be demos for staff in February, and a Staff Committee will present its recommendations to the Library Director in March for implementation in June.

AAMLO. Rick Moss reported on the following:

- ❖ Had a great program and turn out for M.L. King, Jr. event. Director Martínez added that staff did a superb job and worked on their days off throughout February.
- ❖ Banners were installed outside the building. These banners are an attractive addition to the building and are bringing people into the museum.
- ❖ There are several programs and events to celebrate Black History Month, covering a range of topics from Academic & Scholarly trends to a fashion show.
- ❖ Staff is also working on the development of an interactive multi-media exhibit, funded by the \$1 million State grant to AAMLO.

Branch Division. Julie Odofin reported on the following:

- ❖ Mentioned the numerous events hosted by several branches.

- ❖ New expanded hours at all the branches (open 6 days/week)
- ❖ Several branches are getting much-needed cosmetic upgrades and enhancements. These include: Installation of a wrought iron fence around Elmhurst Branch to deter and prevent various crime-related activities; fixing the heat/ventilation system at Golden Gate and Dimond Branches; re-carpeting the Asian Branch and the 2nd floor of the West Oakland Branch.

d. Commissioners Advocacy Report

- ❖ Commissioner Katz reported that the Friends of the OPL held their annual retreat last Saturday.
- ❖ Commissioner Wong reported that the Asian Friends elected new officers and she was reappointed Chairperson. The Friends also held a Tea Program; planned their annual dinner/fundraiser for May 15th; hold monthly book sales; working on a grant from SBC for new computers (many of the donated computers in the Branch are not working/outdated.) Gerry Garzon clarified that all the computers in the branches are on a 3-year replacement calendar throughout the system. Ms. Wong also added that the branch will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary and wondered whether the OPL is planning something special?

II. OLD BUSINESS - None

III. NEW BUSINESS - None

IV. AGENDA BUILDING

V. OPEN FORUM

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ February 6th in Chinese Bazaar in Chinatown, as well as many programs to celebrate Chinese New Year.
- ❖ Staff is meeting with legislative aides for Don Perata and Wilma Chan as part of Legislative Day in Oakland on February 4th. Commissioners are invited to join staff. Issues to be discussed include Senate Bill 1161 in support of another Library Construction Bond.
- ❖ Also, on February 4th, we are previewing the New Popular Collection at the Main Library, with a small, informal opening.
- ❖ Chairperson Scott would like to plan for an LAC training sometime in March. Will have the City Attorney's Office come in and review the Sunshine Ordinance, and cover other administrative issues.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

Carmen Martínez
Library Director