

**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)
MINUTES – APRIL 25, 2005
Main Library West Auditorium**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Scott called the LAC meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Tracey Scott, Evelyn Wesley, Bridget Berrigan, Genevieve Katz, Marian Wilson, Beatrice Wong.

Commissioners Excused: Deborah Eudaley, Sharon Crandall, Arthur Noble

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: Director Martínez, Leslie Rodd, Gerry Garzón, Julie Odofin, Gene Tom, and Rosalía Arteaga-Romo (recorder).

Disposition of Minutes

Commissioner Berrigan made a motion to approve the minutes of January 31, 2005, as amended. Commissioner Wong seconded the motion; all commissioners present approved the minutes.

Commissioner Wesley made a motion to approve the minutes of March 21, 2005, as recorded. Commissioner Wilson-Sylvestre seconded the motion; all commissioners present approved the minutes.

II. REPORTS

a. Chairperson's Report - None

b. Director's Report

- ❖ **Budget Update.** The proposed Library budget was submitted to the City Administrator's Office and will become a public document on May 6, 2005. City Departments were instructed to make a 5% reduction. Gene Tom added that Measure Q funds need to be balanced over the next 2 years; personnel increases drastically ate into the MQ funds. The Library budget reductions will not affect services directly. The first budget public hearing is set for May 17th, with the Mayor and City Administrator giving an overview to the Council. Staff will keep the Commissioners posted on what action the LAC should take, or be prepared to support the Library.
- ❖ **Library Foundation.** The Foundation is going through some tough times and the lack of success in their fund raising efforts has led to the closing of their offices and staff lay offs. Staff continues to meet with the Foundation Board to decide whether to dissolve the Foundation or continue as a committee. Overall, foundations our size, throughout the country, are facing hardships in the current economy and are forced to make drastic decisions. Gene Tom added that the Library is in the process of reviewing the donations received on the

Library's behalf, as well as looking into other aspects that affect the Library, such as fundraising.

- ❖ **City Services Survey.** The City of Oakland conducted a survey on city services and the Library received an 8.2% in services; and 6.5% in customer service/satisfaction. These are high numbers compared to the other departments.
- ❖ There were a couple of articles from various newspapers and publications (among them the Oakland Magazine) highlighting the success of the Library's Paul Rusesabagina event, as well as the Dave Eggers' event.
- ❖ Staff continues to receive great comments regarding the renovated Children's Room.

c. Administrators' Report

Branch Division – Julie Odofin reported:

- The West Oakland and MLK branches are being re-carpeted. Also, the Library now administers the West Oakland Community Center. Commissioner Katz mentioned that she's heard comments from people who are not pleased with the new library hours. Ms Odofin explained that staff analyzed all the branches and service hours before changing the schedule. We have to compromise and make certain decisions that would serve the community appropriately.

Program Division – Leslie Rodd reported:

- The PASS Homework program hours have been reduced due to the Foundation lack of funding.
- Anthony Bernier has resigned as Teen Services Supervisor to become a professor in Library Science, specializing in youth services at UC San Jose.
- We recently submitted an LSTA grant asking for funds to expand the creation and use of the Books for Wider Horizons early literacy kits and to tailor them to be useful to Second Start parents of preschool children.

Main Division – Gerry Garzón reported:

- The Library is finalizing its contract with Integrated Library System to replace the old computer catalog system established in 1990. The project should be completed by the 1st quarter of 2006. Staff is looking forward to this new enhanced service.
- As part of this ILS upgrade, the network will also be updated.

d. Commissioners Advocacy Report

- Commissioner Wong announced that the annual reception hosted by the Friends of the Asian Library (FAPL) has been rescheduled to September 11th. She also distributed copies of their new brochure.
- A former member of the FAPL donated 20,000 books (in Chinese) to the Friends for their book sale. Commissioner Wong asked for volunteers to help in this huge task.
- Commissioner Berrigan attended the California Library Association Legislative Day in Sacramento, along with Dean Johnson from FOPL, staff, and Youth Leadership Council members. The OPL was the only library with teen representation. She also witnessed the confirmation of the new State Librarian. Overall, it was a busy, productive day.

III. OLD BUSINESS - None

IV. NEW BUSINESS - None

V. AGENDA BUILDING

VI. OPEN FORUM

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There are lots new DVD's (movies) in the Library's new Hot Pick's collection.
- The Golden Gate Library Chess Club has participated in tournaments and won several trophies.
- The FOPL Bookstore will be hosting an authors reading program on May 19th.
- The LAC May meeting will be moved to May 23rd due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Carmen Martínez
Library Director