

**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)
MINUTES – June 20, 2005
Main Library West Auditorium**

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

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Tracey Scott, Arthur Noble, and Genevieve Katz.

Commissioners Excused: Evelyn Wesley, Deborah Eudaley, Beatrice Wong, Sharon Crandall, Bridgett Barrigan, and Marian Sylvestre.

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

Others in attendance: Lottie Rose, Muhammad Alabi.

Disposition of Minutes

Due to a lack of a quorum, the approval of the May 23, 2005 minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

II. REPORTS

Chairperson's Report

- Chairperson Scott acknowledged the recent passing away of former Library Commissioner Judi Hirsch and requested a moment of silence in her memory. She praised her energy and enthusiasm in all the ideas she pursued.
- The LAC Annual report was presented to the Council's Life Enrichment Committee by Chairperson Scott, highlighting the Commission's activities during the past year. This year's main concern for the Commission was Measure Q funding and the City of Oakland appropriating some of these funds into the City's general fund, approximately \$725,000. Chairperson Scott, during her presentation to the Committee, remarked that this could not be ignored. We could not violate the trust of the people in Oakland, who supported the Library by voting for Measure Q. Council member Quan's response was that while the City couldn't take all of it; it could take some of it off. Chairperson Scott thanked the Library Commissioners for their participation, work and encouragement throughout the year.
- Chairperson Scott acknowledged the presence of Muhammad Alabi, who was recently appointed by the City of Emeryville to be its representative on the Library Advisory Commission. Mr. Alabi is waiting to be officially appointed by Mayor Brown.

a. Director's Report

- Director Martínez welcomed Mr. Alabi.
- Budget Update. At last Thursday's budget hearing, Council Member Quan made a motion to add back into the Library's budget two Librarian II positions (general fund), and the Literacy position (Measure Q). This motion was passed. The City Administrator is directed to find the funding for these positions. Council Member Quan also recommended that the Library Commission be the Oversight Committee for Measure Q. Staff should know more about the outcome and the Library's budget at next Tuesday's budget hearing.

b. Administrators' Report

Branch Division – Julie Odofin reported:

- The City Administration is planning to close the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center and Library staff is looking at the possibility of making this building the new Main Library. Staff has met with Peralta College members, including former Mayor Elihu Harris, now Chancellor of Peralta, to discuss what the two agencies could do as a joint project. Director Martínez added that this is a project in motion in its early discussion. We are looking at the feasibility of a joint library/academic project, similar to the partnership venture in San Jose.

Program Division - Leslie Rodd reported:

- The PASS! Homework program had a set back due to the dissolution of the Library Foundation. Staff is attempting to keep some of the homework sites open, and also following up with various foundations in collecting \$150,000 grant money.
- The grand opening celebration for the renovated Children's Room is set for August 2, from 2-3 p.m.

Main Library Division – Gerry Garzon reported:

- Regarding the Kaiser Convention project, the new Council member, Pat Kernighan, is very interested in this project. We are in the planning stages and we'll bring the Community Action Committee together to get its input to further this plan. A tour of the Kaiser Convention Center is scheduled for June 29th.
- Staff continues working with Group 4 on the 81st Avenue Project. The construction costs have increased substantially, therefore we have to adjust our budget accordingly as we go along.

c. Commissioners Advocacy Report

- Commissioner Katz reported that the Friends of the OPL approved a grant of \$56,000 to the OPL.
- Commissioner Katz reported that The League of Women's Voters is supporting S.737, the Security and Freedom Enhancement Act (SAFE) and would like the Library Commission to fully support this Bill. Director Martínez added that she would bring more information from the American Library Association (ALA) Conference to share at the next meeting.

- Director Martínez informed the LAC that Commissioner Berrigan would be attending an advocacy workshop at the ALA Conference.

III. OLD BUSINESS - None

IV. NEW BUSINESS – None

V. AGENDA BUILDING

VI. OPEN FORUM

- Mr. Muhammad Alabi praised the Library’s Homework assistance program and the staff for the work they do.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Carmen Martínez
Library Director