

**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY  
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)  
MINUTES – March 27, 2006  
Main Library West Auditorium**

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

**Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Tracey Scott, Bridget Berrigan, Genevieve Katz, Sharon Crandall, Arthur Noble, Muhammad Alabi.

Commissioners Excused: Beatrice Wong, Marian Wilson-Sylvestre, and Evelyn Wesley.

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: Julie Odofin, Gene Tom, and Rosalía Arteaga-Romo (recorder).

Others in attendance: Josephine Lee, Jamie Turbak, Jerry Henderson, and Paul Schiesser.

**Disposition of Minutes**

Commissioner Katz made a motion to approve the minutes of January 30, 2006 as recorded. Commissioner Berrigan seconded the motion. Minutes approved by all commissioners present.

**II. REPORTS**

**a. Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson Scott emphasized that the Commission has the opportunity to get more involved in library-related causes, and advocating for OPL for the Master Facilities Plan and Bond measures.

**b. Director's Report**

Director Martínez and Deputy Director Garzón are attending the Public Library Association (PLA) Conference. Julie Odofin was Acting Director and provided the following report.

- The estimated opening for the 81<sup>st</sup> Ave. Library would be in 2008. We don't have a date yet for the ground breaking.
- The PLA Conference is going on in Boston and OPL gave a presentation regarding Measure Q and how the bond measure did. It also explained how libraries could prepare bond measures.
- Staff presented an informational report on the Feasibility Study for a new Main Library to the Council's Life Enrichment Committee. The report was received well and Council was excited about this project.
- Reminder about Legislative Day in Sacramento on April 26.



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- There was a letter in the Editorial section of the Oakland Tribune criticizing the Library for considering moving the Main Library to the Kaiser Center. Director Martínez wrote a rebuttal to this letter.

#### **Financial Administrative Services Division – Gene Tom reported:**

- **Vacancy Report.** Mr. Tom presented a vacancy report in response to the Commission's request. Mr. Tom went over the report and highlighted the number of vacancies in the current fiscal year, and how the Library operates at a certain vacancy level. Most vacancies are in the process of being filled, with some Senior Librarian positions in Cataloging and Asian Branch. Staff is working hard to recruit for various positions.
- **Mid-cycle Budget Update -** The City is in the process of reviewing its mid-cycle budget, and we don't expect reductions or layoffs.
- **Potential Construction Bond Measure –** It is very tentative that the Library may go for a Construction Bond Measure in November 2006 for funding of a new Main Library and improvement of branch libraries, but at this point it is not firm. Councilmember Jean Quan is very supportive of this project.

#### **Policy & Strategic Planning – No Update**

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

- Chairperson Scott attended the Piedmont Avenue Library Appreciation Day to CityBank for their continued support of the Library. CityBank also made a donation of \$5,000 at this event.
- The Citizens Action Committee resumed its meeting and it's being reignited as we move forward on the 81<sup>st</sup> Ave. project. Commissioners could get involved on this project as speakers and getting in touch with our legislators and council members for support on this project.
- Chairperson Scott talked about the number of vacancies on the LAC and how this creates a problem in having quorums and holding regular meetings. She recommended holding bi-monthly meetings until a full commission is appointed, and also to allow for fuller agendas. She proposed the following dates for the remainder of the year: May 22, July 31, September 25, and November 20. It was the consensus of the Commissioners to go ahead with these dates until further notice. Staff will notify the City Clerk's Office.
- According to the City Clerk's records there are 11 vacancies (including commissioner whose terms have expired and need reappointment). Chairperson Scott welcomes suggestions from commissioners for consideration.

#### **III. OLD BUSINESS – None**

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS – None**

#### **V. AGENDA BUILDING**

## **VI. OPEN FORUM**

Josephine Lee, President of the Friends of the Golden Gate Library, had a few concerns:

1. computers not working at the branches;
2. the reduction of hours for the Computer Lab instructor at Golden Gate;
3. Proper/timely maintenance at Golden Gate

Ms. Odofin responded that the network is slow due to inadequate and outdated technology, and that the Library is in the process of installing a new system that would take care of the problem. In relation to the reduction of hours for the computer lab instructor, this program was funded by a grant and when the money run out, the Library had to absorb those personnel costs, which resulted on the reduction of hours as it was not part of the Library's budget. Regarding maintenance, the facilities are kept by the Public Works Agency and their budget reductions have created a slow response to our requests, it's difficult to keep up with the demand throughout the City.

Ms. Jamie Turbak, Piedmont Branch Library Manager, was also present in the audience and stated that she just wanted to observe the meeting.

Mr. Jerry Henderson is concerned about not having a branch library in the San Antonio area; he did mention that he'd spoken to Mr. Garzón about this, but wanted to bring it to the Commission's attention to make sure that it was taken in consideration when funding new projects. Ms. Odofin did confirm that this area is part of the Library's Master Facilities Plan.

## **VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Submitted by,

Julie Odofin  
Administrative Librarian