

**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)
MINUTES – JULY 16, 2007
Golden Gate Branch Library**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Scott called the LAC meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Tracey Scott, Evelyn Wesley, Tom Manley, Marilyn Citron, Sue Yascolt, Genevieve Katz and Arthur Noble.

Commissioners Excused: Beatrice Wong, Muhammad Alabi and Marian Sylvestre.

Commissioners Absent: Sharon Crandall.

Staff Present: Director Martínez, Gene Tom, Gerry Garzón, Winifred Walters (Grants Development), Jamie Turbak (GG Branch Manager), and Rosalía Arteaga-Romo (recorder).

Others Present: Donna Peers, Josephine Lee (Friends of GG Library), and Larry Benson.

1. Disposition of Minutes

Commissioner Katz made a motion to approve the minutes of May 7, 2007, as amended. Commissioner Citron seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Chairperson's Report

- Welcomed everyone to the Golden Gate Branch Library, and reminded everyone that this branch has been hosting the popular series - Jazz on Sundays - for 16 years now!

3. Staff Activities Reports

A. Director's Report -

- The OPL was featured in American Libraries magazine, showing a picture of the Youth Leadership Council with State Librarian Susan Hildreth, during their attendance at the Legislative Day back in April.
- Introduced new Library staff member Winifred Walters, in charge of the Grants and Development. Ms. Walters briefly addressed the Commission and explained that her priority assignment is to prepare a Strategic Fundraising Plan for the 81st Ave. Library Project. She will also direct the grant application process for the system.
- At tomorrow's City Council meeting, library staff Henry Linzie will be recognized for his 35 years of service; also, Commissioners Katz and Muhammad renewal for a new term on the LAC is scheduled.
- Moving ahead with the Strategic Plan; staff met to comment on the questionnaire. Ms. Satchwell will make a presentation at a future LAC next meeting.

B. Public Service – Deputy Director Garzón reported:

- **Teen Issues at Rockridge Library.** Administrative staff met with members of the public, branch staff, and staff from Councilmember Jane Brunner’s office and nearby school officials to discuss issues of after school student behavior in the library. Suggestions included added security and utilizing the school yard supervisor at the branch on targeted days. Ms. Brunner requested a Teen Area capital project in the 2007-09 budget. The item was approved, and library staff will work to begin the project planning this fall.
- **Other Capital Projects.** Library staff will work with Public Works and Community & Economic Development Agency on the CIP (\$2.5 million) funding for other library projects, beginning in September 2007.
- **Planning for Main Library Reference Desk Consolidation and Sundays.** As part of the budget balancing for Measure Q, the Library has reduced part-time Sunday staff and will consolidate service desks in order to meet the requested budget reduction. Staff will be meeting with the Union on this issue.

A brief discussion followed regarding the problems at Rockridge. Mr. Garzón noted that we also have similar problems at other branches, and he stressed that libraries have changed. Kids use the libraries differently and we need to acknowledge that teens also need their space. The Library is a place of socialization and it is very important to give them an appropriate space. There was a suggestion that there should be young people included in the planning sessions with staff.

C. Chief Financial Officer – Gene Tom reported:

- **Budget Update.** As reported previously, the City Council approved the proposed Library budget reductions of staff, fine/fees increase, and the Sunday hours transition. We have contacted the Cities of Piedmont and Emeryville to start renegotiating their contracts for the continuation of library services by proposing an increase per capita. Staff is also working to finalize CIP funds awarded to improve some branches; but at this point we’re still trying to get the exact amounts for these projects.

4. Commissioners’ Advocacy Reports

- Commissioner Katz reminded LAC that FOPL is having a Book Sale on September 19-22.
- Commissioner Citron announced that BALIS is rolling out a marketing campaign - - more TV & radio - - to promote libraries. Also, the next CALTAC Workshop will be on March 1, 2008, in San Mateo. She also noted that with the receipt of the \$500,000 grant to Rockridge, there will be a lot of input from the community.
- Chairperson Scott attended the Thacher Hurd mural opening in the Children’s Area of the Main Library.

5. Determination of Schedule of New/Outstanding Items

- **Measure Q Update**
- **CIP Update**
- **Strategic Service Plan**

6. Open Forum (Public Comment)

- Josephine Lee, Vice-Chair for the Friend of the Golden Gate Library voiced several concerns:
 - Is the PASS Program coming back?
 - What is the Library doing about the 4 vacancies at GG and the certification to make staff permanent?
 - She noted that the GG Jazz program is funded by the City of Emeryville.
 - Can't this library be expanded to provide better service/logistics?
 - There have been 3 fires in the past few months in the building next door to the library, and there's concern regarding the safety of the library. Could staff look into this situation?

Deputy Director Garzón responded to these concerns:

There is a Civil Service procedure to fill in vacancies at the branches through a transfer process. We just received a number of transfers today, which will be processed within the next 2 weeks. Director Martínez added that staff is aware of these vacancies, systemwide. We are losing a lot of staff via retirement, and are working with the Office of Personnel to fill these vacancies. Regarding the PASS Program, it was funded through a grant that has completed its purpose and funding. The Library does not have money allocated in the budget to fund this program because it is very expensive to run. The Library is reviewing carefully its role as an after-school homework provider and will report on a new vision for this service at the September meeting. Regarding the vacant building next door, staff will look into this to get the name of a contact/owner.

7. Announcements

- The new Harry Potter books are being released on Friday, July 20 and the Main Library is hosting a book party with lots of activities and kids will be able to check-out the book at midnight. The Harry Potter Magic Bus visited the Library last month. Other branches will also have book release parties on Saturday, July 21.

8. Adjournment - - Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Submitted by:

Carmen Martínez
Library Director