

**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)
MINUTES – June 23, 2008
AAMLO**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Citron called the regular Library Advisory Commission meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Arthur Noble, Steven Tidrick, Sue Yascolt, Carolyn Mixon, Susanna Gilden, Marilyn Citron, Genevieve Katz, Tom Manley, Marian Sylvestre, and Billie Wooldridge.

Commissioners Excused: Muhammad Alabi

Staff: Carmen Martínez, Gerry Garzón, Diane Satchwell, Gene Tom, Rosalía Arteaga-Romo (recorder).

Others: Anna Lee Allen

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Katz made a motion to approve the minutes of May 19, 2008, as recorded. Commissioner Gilden seconded the motion.

Minutes were approved unanimously. Yes - 10; Noes – 0; abstentions - 0

3. Chairperson's Report

- Attended the East Oakland Community Library @ 81st Ave. Groundbreaking ceremony, which was a wonderful event, and was well attended.
- On June 10, 2008, Chairperson Citron presented the Library Advisory Commission (LAC) Annual Report to the Council's Life Enrichment Committee, an informational report summary of the Commission's activities over the last 15 months.
- Also on June 10th, Chairperson Citron and Director Martínez presented a report to the Council's Life Enrichment Committee requesting an amendment to Ordinance No. 8064 C.M.S. to change the frequency of meetings of the Library Advisory Commission (LAC). This report prompted many questions from Council members regarding the role of the LAC and the lack of quorums at the meetings. The LAC requires 8 commissioners at each meeting for a quorum; Library staff was misinformed by the City Attorney's Office about the correct number. Staff is waiting for the Mayor's office to appoint 3 additional members. Also, there were some disparaging remarks made at the Council Committee meeting regarding conduct of the Commission's meetings/business. Director Martínez wants to assure the Commissioners that staff is working diligently to keep the Commission within the City's proscribed guidelines. Commissioners who attended the presentation were displeased with the Council members' lack of knowledge and unfamiliarity with the Commission's role and activities. Commissioner Gilden attended the hearing and added that there seems to be a disconnection between the

Council and the Commission. Chairperson Citron has asked staff to organize a retreat as part of an orientation/update.

4. Staff Activities Reports

A. Library Director

- The Groundbreaking event for the East Oakland Community Library @ 81st Ave. was a success. Mayor Dellums was in attendance and spent time with the students. There were approximately 200 people in attendance.
- AAMLO Multi-Media Exhibit. Rick Moss, Chief Curator for AAMLO, welcomed everyone and briefly explained the exhibit. There are different sections of the exhibit including multi-media, and the expectation is that it is an uplifting, challenging exhibit. Mr. Moss proceeded to provide a brief demo/tour to commissioners.

B. Public Service - - Main/Branches Report

Associate Director Garzón gave an update on the branch construction projects:

- Showed a flythrough presentation (animated walkthrough video) of the East Oakland Community Library @ 81st Ave. Project. There will be a pre-construction meeting with the principles involved on July 3rd.

Other Capital Improvements Projects include:

- King Branch – working on phase 2 of project. Staff held a meeting w/the community, friends, and architect to present several concepts for renovation; there are some redevelopment funds to expand the branch and the next step is to meet with Redevelopment staff and Council member Brooks to explore the potential for additional funding in order to complete the work.
- Restroom installation at Elmhurst Branch – meeting with the Friends to begin the planning and discuss the next steps within the budget that is currently available for this project for any additional improvements.
- Rockridge Teen Zone – meeting was held on May 19 to get feedback from teens to help develop a plan. Council member Brunner is also involved in this project.
- Main Library Teen Zone – this area was moved to the basement over a year ago and we had some delays that have slowed the project. We hope to start construction by June 27, 2008.
- The architect for the 81st Ave. Library is Group 4. An architect for Elmhurst Branch has not been selected; 3 different firms under contract with the city will be interviewed for selection.

C. Chief Financial Officer

Gene Tom gave an update on the City's mid-year budget cycle. On June 17, 2008, the Oakland City Council approved mid-cycle adjustments to the City's FY2008-09 budget that were necessary to close an anticipated General Purpose Fund (Fund 1010) budget gap of \$14.41 million. Although the Mayor

had submitted his mid-cycle budget proposal that would close the anticipated budget gap, a majority of Council members were opposed to a key element of his plan, a one day a month City-wide shutdown.

Without notice to the public nor prior review by the Mayor, City Administrator, her staff, or Agency and Department Directors, Council members Quan, De La Fuente, and Brunner introduced a motion that they had prepared prior to the meeting on Tuesday night, which proposed nine (9) specific changes to the Mayor's *Mid-Cycle Budget Proposal*. After minimal discussion and a minor change, but without public comment, the Council accepted the proposed changes to the Mayor's proposal and the City's FY2008-09 Budget was passed.

Of the approved changes, the following two (2) will have a direct impact on the Library:

- 1) Reduction of the Mayor's proposed City-wide shutdown from 12 workdays to 5 workdays, commencing on December 26, 2008, and lasting through January 2, 2009. One day may be covered by vacation and/or holiday.
- 2) The elimination of 26.42 of the 192.17 FTE General Fund positions that were identified by OP as being "vacant." Of those 26.42 FTE positions, 4.25 FTE were from the Library. The positions are as follows:

Org	Class Code	FTE
61511 -- AAMLO	TR178 Stationary Engineer	0.25
61121 -- FASO	SS161 Payroll Personnel Clerk II	1.00
61132 -- Cataloging	AP220 Librarian, Senior	1.00
61135 -- Acquisitions	SS153 Office Assistant II	1.00
61243 -- Circulation	AP221 Library Aide	1.00

These cuts are to be in addition to the \$124,217 in O&M reductions and 3.35 FTE that the Library was required to cut as part of the Mayor's original proposal. Those positions are as follows:

Org	Class Code	FTE
61135 -- Acquisitions	AP221 Library Aide	1.00
61135 -- Acquisitions	SS153 Office Assistant II	1.00
61236 -- SBSS	AP217 Librarian II	1.00
61344 -- Lakeview	AP222 Library Aide, PPT	0.35

Not only did Council not budget their proposal correctly, in fact, the budget presented is still under deficit. The changes were not brought to the Department Heads attention and the Mayor is not happy with the results and is looking at the City Charter as it is probably illegal. It is expected that the budget will be amended.

Questions followed Mr. Tom's report regarding the vacancy process. The Library needs to look at what kind of service does Council want us to offer given what we have. Mr. Tom is doing a study to illustrate the number of cuts the library has taken throughout the years and to show the severity of the

reductions and how staff has to work with people acting up. Director Martínez added that depending on the next steps in the process, we may need the help of the commissioners to lobby for the library. Staff will keep them informed.

5. Commissioner's Advocacy Report:

- Commissioner Katz – continues to work with Pete Villaseñor, Chavez Acting Branch Manager, regarding the use of headsets for participants in some of the teen zone activities.
- Commissioner Manly – attended the summer reading club opening at the Main Library.
- Commissioner Wooldridge – there is a Black folk art exhibit at Eastmont, as well as the Summer Reading Program.
- Commissioner Noble – no report.
- Commissioner Tidrick – visited the Piedmont Library and was very impressed. It is a very busy place. Director Martinez added that this branch circulates more items per sq.ft. than any other library. He also commented on the possibility of providing more comfortable seating at the East Oakland Community Library.
- Commissioner Yascolt – was out of town for 3 weeks; attended the Redwood Heights Center budget hearing. While attending a Laurel Village community meeting, someone complained that there was no library in the Laurel District, and Ms. Yascolt told them about the defeat of Measure N.
- Commissioner Mixon – working on a proposal to take over the store at AAMLO, and also to develop a literacy program and establish a friends group for AAMLO.
- Commissioner Gilden – after attending the June 10, 2008, Library's presentation to the Council's Life Enrichment Committee and hearing the Council's response and comments, suggested that the Commission strategize more about its role.
- Commissioner Citron – obtained Council approval to change the Commission meeting schedule to meet every other month, and now would like to have a retreat in September for a strategic plan. She suggested the following dates for the retreat: September 13, 20 or 27. For discussion at the next meeting.

6. Determination of Schedule of New/Outstanding Items -

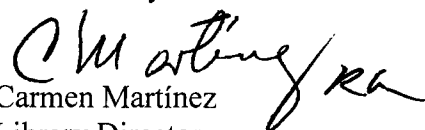
- Meeting Scheduling. Proposed meetings in July, September, and November.
- LAC Retreat.

7. Open Forum (Public Comment) - None

8. Announcements

9. Adjournment - - Meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Submitted by:


Carmen Martínez
Library Director