



**LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES**

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**DATE:** June 29, 2015

**LOCATION:** Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

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**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was convened by Chairperson Sterbenc at 5:25p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: 12** Kathryn Sterbenc, Chairperson  
Victoria Barbero  
Susanne Perkins  
Rosa Montgomery  
Ruby Bernstein  
Ain Bailey  
Lesley Mandros Bell  
April Harper  
Grant Inaba  
(one vacancy)

**COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Roy Chan  
Jeanine Shimatsu  
Noelle Tu Duong  
Andrew Racle, Vice Chair

**STAFF PRESENT:** Gerry Garzón, Library Director  
Jamie Turbak, Associate Director  
Winifred Walters, Recorder

**Others Present:** Aakaanksha Sharma  
Shanthi Gonzales  
Rebekah Randle  
Krystal Farmer  
Helen Sullivan

## 1. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Sterbenc called for a motion to approve the minutes of **May 19, 2015**. Commissioner Bernstein made a motion to approve the minutes as recorded; Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. All approved.

**Votes:** Yes – 9; Noes – 0; abstentions - 0

## 2. Chairperson’s Commission Activities Report – Commissioner Sterbenc reported:

- Thank you to outgoing Commissioner Shanthi Gonzales. Commissioner Sterbenc recognized Commissioner Gonzales’ service to Oakland as a member of the Library Advisory Commission from October 2011 to June 2015 and for her major contributions as Vice-Chairperson of the Commission from September 2012 to March 2014. Commissioner Sterbenc noted that Ms. Gonzales will continue to support the public libraries in her role as a School Board member.
- Update on commissioner vacancies: Commissioner Shimatsu did not seek renewal of her appointment, creating another vacancy. Several candidates are in the pipeline.
- Report on the successful June 4<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing with an all youth panel held at City Hall. About 30-40 attended; it was a great event. Thanks to all for the work to make this worthwhile event happen. The KTOP video of the hearing is now available at <https://vimeo.com/131702034>.
- Call to action for library advocates to speak at the Council meeting tomorrow on the budget. Need to emphasize support to “restore library funding” for additional hours that were lost during the recession. Councilmember Kalb proposed and President Gibson-McElhaney included in her budget proposal \$500K in the second year of the budget for additional service hours prioritized to serve youth from under-served and disadvantaged communities.

## 3. OPL Staff Activities Reports

### a. Director Report Highlights – Director Garzón referred to highlights of his report:

- Budget process and answering questions from the budget office;
- Negotiations with employee unions;
- Warriors parade was a great event for Oakland;
- Annual meetings with the Urban Libraries Council (San Jose) and American Library Association (San Francisco).

### b. Facilities Update – Jamie Turbak reported:

- 81<sup>st</sup> Ave – some broken glass needs repair – working with PWA to replace;
- Asian – infestation of mice – working with PWA to have vector control come out;
- Dimond – broken glass above front entrance – worked with PWA to replace on same day;
- Rockridge – graffiti on new paint job – worked with PWA to repaint;
- Rockridge, and in general – parked car break-ins. OPD reports that as this is a misdemeanor crime, it is becoming more prevalent.
- Other: Starting to fill vacancies—6 positions are open. Two transfers as a result of retirements: managers of Melrose and Eastmont are transferring to fill branch manager positions at Lakeview and Rockridge, respectively. A job offer to a candidate for Golden Gate Children’s Librarian is pending. Twenty new TPT aides start soon.

#### 4. Budget update:

- Director Garzón discussed the June 24 update of the Council President’s budget document. In Fiscal Year 2016-17 \$500K is allocated to expand library hours. “Additional service hours, effective July, 2016: additional hours to be prioritized for branches that serve the greatest number of youth from under-served and disadvantaged communities. Effort should be made to add hours among branches that are geographically dispersed throughout the city.”
- In response to questions about the Library’s plans for when and where service hours will be added, Mr. Garzón stated that such decisions depend on many factors including the staffing model employed. A number of issues related to the staffing model are the subject of ongoing negotiations between the City and its unions.

#### 5. Advocacy Standing Committee

- In Commissioner Duong’s absence, Chairperson Sterbenc gave the report.
- Library advocates met with Mayor Schaaf about a potential ballot initiative for library funding for the November 2016 election. A follow-up meeting to discuss a possible ballot initiative will be scheduled after passage on 6/30 of the budget.
- Commissioner Chan completed a 1 minute video about youth and libraries and continues to work on a video to feature all ages.

#### 6. Networking Standing Committee Update – Commissioner Harper gave the report.

- She posted photos from the June 4<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing on the LAC flickr stream <https://www.flickr.com/photos/oaklandlibraryadvisory/> ;
- The Networking Committee needs a Co-Chair to replace Commissioner Shimatsu;
- Plans for another public hearing in September were discussed;
- Looking for ways to make more friends, for example, by reaching out to bookstores, cafes, the literary community, and by having a presence at the Oakland Book Festival next year.

#### 7. Commissioner’s Advocacy Reports:

- Commissioner Bernstein announced the Jazz Festival starting this month at the Golden Gate Library. She attended the ALA national convention in San Francisco and won in a raffle a \$5,000 grant from Dollar General at a session about approaching foundations for funding.
- Commissioner Barbero also attended ALA and attended the “approaching foundations” session and a program featuring Gloria Steinem with Commissioner Bernstein.
- Commissioner Inaba attended ALA. He also reported that he represented LAC at a quarterly film festival at the Flight Deck. He arranged for the “Asian Branch at 40” video to be shown and it was well received. This is a good connection for the LAC. He also shared a book by a local author on Home Inspection.
- Commissioner Mandros Bell attended ALA. The OPL Youth Leadership Council panel was well done. She shared two books that she learned about at ALA, *Samurai Rising* and *George*.
- Commissioner Bailey attended the meeting with the Mayor. She reported that Montclair branch is cleaning up the back garden area to make it possible to have programs there in the future.
- Commissioner Perkins also attended ALA. In addition she promoted the Melrose Library at a Maxwell Park neighborhood event. Asked if OPL is participating in the September 13 Oakland Pride Parade? Still planning for the Melrose centennial: plans include a banner in March 2016 and something for the actual anniversary in September 2016. The branch manager has a list of tasks to spruce up the building, including power-washing the outside.

- Commissioner Montgomery reported that the problem of the small rocks on the Elmhurst branch sidewalk has been fixed. Friends of Elmhurst are participating in the National Night Out program on August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner Harper also attended ALA and won a box of books in a raffle.
- Commissioner Sterbenc attended the YLC panel at ALA and said it was excellent. She also attended City of Oakland Town Hall and Budget meetings.
- All Commissioners who attended ALA thanked Library Administration and especially Rosalía for making the arrangements for them to attend.

#### **8. Agenda Building: Next meeting – July 27, 2015.**

- Items suggested for future meetings:
  - Collections Management/Development (Commissioner Harper)
  - African American Museum and Library at Oakland (Commissioner Perkins)
  - Prisoner re-entry update from Oakland Unite (Commissioner Mandros Bell)
  - “Day in the Life” of a branch library, focusing on East Oakland (Commissioner Perkins)
  - Update on police officers storytimes at libraries

#### **9. Open Forum/Announcements –**

- Aadaanksha Sharma attended ALA.
- Helen Sullivan taught school in Oakland (now retired) and introduced her book, *Teaching in the Flatlands*, which she hopes will be added to the collections of OPL. She noted the lack of libraries in East Oakland.
- Rebekah Randle is interested in joining the LAC; also attended ALA.
- Krystal Farmer is planning to apply for an appointment to the LAC.

#### **10. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.**

Submitted by: Gerry Garzón, Library Director