



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) FINAL MINUTES

DATE: September 28, 2015

LOCATION: Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was convened by Vice Chairperson Racle at 5:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: 9

- Andrew Racle, Vice Chair
- Victoria Barbero
- Lesley Mandros Bell
- Susanne Perkins
- Grant Inaba
- Traci Griffin
- April Harper
- Rebekah Randle
- Noelle Tu Duong
- (one vacancy)

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED:

- Kathryn Sterbenc, Chairperson
- Roy Chan
- Ain Bailey
- Ruby Bernstein
- Rosa Montgomery

STAFF PRESENT:

- Gerry Garzón, Library Director
- Lana Adlawan, Teen Services Supervisor
- Rosalía A. Romo, Recorder

1. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Racle called for a motion to approve the minutes of July 28, 2015. Commissioner Barbero made a motion to approve the minutes as recorded; Commissioner Duong seconded the motion. All approved.

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

2. Teen Zone Presentation

Lana Adlawan, Supervising Librarian for Teen Services, made a presentation highlighting the Teen Services Department and its services:

- There are teen zones at the following branches: Rockridge, Main, Eastmont, Chavez, 81st Ave, Asian, and soon at Dimond;
- There are 8 teen librarians in the system who visit all branches providing a “pop-up” teen zone
- Attendance has grown steadily in the last 3 years
- Array of services includes programs, school outreach, teen volunteers, self-defense workshops and activities;
- Class visits/student connection participation has also increased
- Free snacks and supper for after school through an approved sponsor for the Child and Adult Care Food Program.
- Other important teen initiatives include:
 - Partnership with the Oakland Unified School District
 - Job fair – Oaklandhasjobs
 - Youth Leadership Council (YLC)
 - Ready. Set. Connect! Open for 20 participants.
 - Poet laureate event. 2015 winner is Tova Ricardo. Winner receives a \$5000 scholarship from FOPL and Youth Speaks.
 - Completed the Hip-Hop therapy workshop (state grant program)
 - STEP grant from the State Library in partnership with Youth Uprising - - for a skills workshop for teen parents at Eastmont branch.

3. Chairperson’s Commission Activities Report – Vice Chair Racle gave the report in Chairperson Sterbenc’s absence:

- Welcome to new commissioners Rebekah Randle and Traci Spencer Griffin.
- Vice Chair Racle announced he will step down from the Vice Chair role at the October meeting. Nominations and election of new Vice Chair will be on the October agenda. If interested, please contact Chairperson Sterbenc to talk about the duties of this role.
- Also, nomination and election of the Advocacy co-chair will be in October.
- 2016 Draft Strategic Plan – item for discussion for LAC, and Advocacy and Networking Committees at the October meetings. Review a draft and possibly adopt it at the November meeting (since there will be no December meeting).

4. OPL Staff Activities Reports

a. Director Report Highlights – Director Garzón

- Staff participated in the Oakland Pride Parade, and also had an activity table for kids.
- Attended the kick off for the development plan for the downtown area only. Downtown has not had a plan in many years, so this is a huge process. Among other things the Henry J. Kaiser building is going to be developed into offices and probably commercial spaces, not a Main library anymore, and the theater will remain. The development also includes major housing plans. Director Garzón mentioned the need for a new Main Library, with the planning director agreeing with this idea; there will be public forums for

the community to voice their opinions and comments. Staff will send the planning link to commissioners.

- The search for a bigger space for Tool Lending Library continues.
- Discussions started regarding how to allocate the \$500,000 money from Council for expanding service hours.

Commissioner Perkins is very interested in the proposal of building a new main library. What can commissioners do to help, is there a movement in support of this? Director Garzón replied that Henry Gardner is a big supporter for a new main library, but there are no groups or initiatives in place at the moment.

b. Facilities Update – Director Garzón reported in Jamie Turbak’s absence:

- New custodial supervisor. We hope to see improved cleanliness over the next few months. However, a couple branches do not have assigned custodians right now, so some service is still patchy.
- Renovation plans are complete for Rockridge and Dimond; however, neither has gone out for advertising to accept bids for the construction work. This process can take six months to complete.
- Exterior lights installed outside the Main Community Room doors. Plans to install lights outside Children's Room area.
- Jamie Turbak working with PWA/IT to improve our tracking of service tickets. Our current spreadsheet tracking system is neither efficient nor accurate. Much time wasted trying to determine if work has been done or not.
- Regarding bedbugs. Staff is not concerned at this moment; if something happens, the City has a procedure in place for dealing with this situation.

5. Advocacy Standing Committee – Commissioner Duong reported:

- Planning LAC Mixer on November 15th
- No OPL video promos update (Commissioner Chan absent)
- Commissioner Mandros Bell is working on the t-shirt production; will ask FOPL for funding; considering Oaklandish as a venue to sell t-shirts
- Came up with 10 promotional ideas for OPL

6. Networking Standing Committee Update – Commissioner Harper reported

- Decided not to issue a newsletter this month
- Mixer planning

Social Media

- Created an OPL Instagram account (send photos to April for uploading)
- Subscribed to Google for library news alerts
- Book Drive on social media
- Also talked about OPL promotional ideas

7. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports:

- Vic Chair Racle – no report.
- Commissioner Barbero – Lakeview is very busy; has a new branch manager. The chess tournament last week went real well.
- Commissioner Mandros Bell – Tool Lending continues to grow rapidly; looking for small tools; held training on plumbing. The Friends group is getting more active. Rachel Sher is the new staff, and got a few donations. Tool sales every Saturday.
- Commissioner Perkins – attended the last session jazz session at GG library. The Friends and staff of Melrose branch participated in the Day in the Park for Maxwell neighborhood. The Friends made over \$100 selling craft items. Susan Maldonado is the new branch manager, and has many ideas for the branch - - wants to get more use of the meeting room downstairs, bring the chess club, and doing more programming. Will mention the Teen Zone concept for the branch as well. Still planning centennial.
- Commissioner Duong – visited Rockridge branch (busy with kids and parents); there is a new branch manager, Paul Schiesser. Teen Zone has air conditioning; hopefully, the rest of the branch will be air conditioned. Some of the paper bag book towers need replacing.
- Commissioner Inaba – working on the LAC calendar; sent out invitations to commissioners to try the electronic calendar, which is a great organizational tool. Announced he is not seeking a second term and is leaving the LAC when his term ends in November.
- Commissioner Griffin – Attended the Advocacy Committee, and is looking forward in adopting a branch.
- Commissioner Harper – Piedmont Ave. is doing well, with lots of programs and book sales. Mentioned that West Oakland has not had WiFi access for several weeks now.
- Commissioner Randle – glad to be on the Commission; adopted West Oakland branch.

8. Agenda Building:

- Arguments for building a new main library; discussion of underserved areas: San Antonio and Hoover districts.
- Invite Henry Gardner to attend an LAC meeting to talk about a new main library.

9. Open Forum/Announcements – None**10. Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Submitted by: Gerry Garzón, Library Director