



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES

DATE: April 25, 2016

LOCATION: Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was convened by Vice Chairperson Randle at 5:20 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: 9 Kathryn Sterbenc, Chairperson
Rebekah Randle, Vice Chair
April Harper
Lesley Mandros Bell
Rosa Montgomery
Charles Sanchez
Victoria Barbero
Noelle Tu Duong
Susanne Perkins
(two vacancies)

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: 4 Andrew Racle
Traci Griffin
Ken Lupoff
Ain Bailey

Audience members: Rev. Aura Lewis, Gen Katz, Lou Katz, Rachel Flynn (presenter)

STAFF PRESENT: Gerry Garzón, Library Director
Rosalía A. Romo, Recorder

1. Approval of Minutes

- Vice Chair Randle called for a motion to approve the minutes of March 29, 2016. Chairperson Sterbenc made corrections to the draft minutes. Commissioner Barbero made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Chairperson Sterbenc seconded. All approved.

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

2. Downtown Plan Presentation

Rachel Flynn, Director of the Planning and Building Department and plan coordinator, gave an update (power point presentation) highlighting the plan.

The City of Oakland is preparing a specific plan for Downtown Oakland to ensure continued growth and revitalization to benefit both Downtown residents and the larger community. The plan will provide sound policy guidance on development, linking land use, transportation, economic development, housing, public spaces, cultural arts, and social equity. This is the sixth specific plan undertaken in Oakland in recent years, and the first ever for Downtown.

All specific plans involve significant participation from the public and other governmental agencies. The biggest issue is affordable housing, displacement.

Emerging themes include:

- Affordability & equity
- Cultural heritage & arts
- Preservation & urbanism
- The public realm
- Connectivity & mobility

Discussion and questions followed regarding the feasibility of including a new main library into the plan. Flynn mentioned that the Library needs to identify a new location (besides funding); or an alternative would be to remain in the existing facility and expand and build a new structure. A city owned parcel would be ideal and could be reserved for future city needs. It would be interesting to see what architects would propose in terms of rebuilding at existing location. It takes a lot of planning, start talking about it now to gain political support. Director Garzón added we can also have a parallel process at the same time to look at options & alternatives. Flynn mentioned that the Library can submit a letter of interest (sq ft, criteria, etc.) to the Planning Department to add it to plan. Also, register OPL with the historical society (if applicable) as a historic landmark to qualify for tax credits.

3. Chairperson's Commission Activities Report – Chairperson Sterbenc:

- LAC Annual Report to Life Enrichment Committee, April 26th.
- Oakland Book Festival, May 22nd. LAC and FOPL will each have a booth, commissioners and advocacy groups encouraged to participate and volunteer – great advocacy opportunity.

Discussion regarding branding name for the library advocates group that is inclusive of all library supporters as we are trying to reach more people. Please send input for a name by next Thursday.

- Recruitment: Rev. Dr. Lewis' nomination has been acknowledged by Mayor's Office. Reminded commissioners to please help with recruitment - still have two vacancies.
- May 3rd East Bay Gives match fundraiser – go online and support FOPL.
- Fentons Creamery will hold a fundraiser all month of May to benefit OPL's summer reading program.

4. OPL Staff Activities Reports

a. Director Report Highlights – Director Garzón:

- Staff participation/activities at PLA Conference in Denver.
- Legislative Day April 29th – meeting with Senator Loni Hancock meeting.
- Congratulated Commissioner Harper on completing her library master’s degree.

b. Facilities Update – Rockridge branch is closed for remodeling work. Reopening July 6th.

5. Advocacy Standing Committee – Commissioner Duong:

- Talked about scheduling meetings with electeds. Reviewed talking points, refined questions, discussed contents of folder/handouts.
- Oakland Book Festival participation, this would help with outreach and establishing relationship with other community groups.
- Re-ordering more t-shirts, including children’s sizes (additional cost of \$250 setting fee). Will add this to FOPL request.
- Rebranding Concept/Outreach Campaign: Find ways to outreach & inform more people about OPL services, building awareness.

Sustainability Update – Chairperson Sterbenc:

- Chairperson Sterbenc was invited by City Administrator to participate in a meeting (4/25) about the potential City Infrastructure Bond Measure for November 2016. This was a meeting to get feedback from different groups. Chairperson Sterbenc gave her comments regarding the Library’s budget and potential funds in this bond measure.
- Meeting with the City Mayor (4/26) regarding bond measure for feedback.
- Recommends the LAC prepare a resolution in support of the bond measure. Staff will draft.
- Recommends writing a letter to the Planning Department in support of a new main library in the City’s Downtown Plan. Staff will draft.
- Ballot Initiative/Poll Update and Political Discussion Update – Discussed postponement of ballot measure to 2018 and immediate focus on advocacy of OPL inclusion in impact fees and proposed infrastructure bond measure. Discussed upcoming city hearings on both pieces of legislation and issuing an action alert via OPL Advocate to alert potential speakers.

6. Networking Standing Committee – Commissioner Harper:

- Discussed the Book Festival, and naming for the advocacy group.
- Need a co-chair for the Networking Committee.

7. Commissioner’s Advocacy Reports:

- Commissioner Harper – Piedmont Ave. Branch Friends had a meeting; OUSD shares the adjacent rec center with the library and eventually would allow the library full use of it. E-reader pilot program currently being conducted at Eastmont branch; if successful, it will be available at all branches. Outreach program to senior centers. Planning a “word-for-word” stage play featuring a book story.
- Commissioner Mandros Bell – Tool Lending is still waiting for shipment container; tool drive received \$250 in donations. Building tutorial in April to make chicken coops.

- Commissioner Montgomery – announced that Mr. John C. Hampton passed away and left \$10,000 in his will to AAMLO.
- Commissioner Barbero – Lakeview branch held chess tournament, lots of participants. The friends bought portable tables & chairs for tournament. FOPL also supplies donated books for Lakeview’s book sale.
- Commissioner Duong – Rockridge temporarily closed for remodeling.
- Commissioner Perkins – Melrose held its centennial celebration on 4/9, Councilmembers Gallo and Campbell-Washington gave remarks; April 12 friends meeting; 4/18 Commissioner Lupoff and Perkins met with Councilmember Kaplan who mentioned that the state property tax is being handled different in its allocation, and the City will end up with a \$13 million shortfall, and she has been working on some particular business tax measures. Also talked about new main library; she is an advocate and supporter for a new main and Tool Lending Library as well; Perkins recommends we keep her informed.
- Chairperson Sterbenc –
 - a. April 5: Attended National Library Week proclamation from Council President McElhaney. Ronile Lathi and Peg Janosch from Piedmont Friends handed out heart stickers. Handed out about 50 bookmarks. The "100 Things I Love About OPL" scrolls prepared by Helen Bloch and Ronile were handed to each Council Member by two members of OPL Teen Advisory Boards.
 - b. April 16 and 24: Attended two annual Volunteer Info Sessions organized by OPL; told potential volunteers about serving on the LAC. We previously got 5 commissioners through this event. Met two new prospects.
 - c. As prep for my first retreat as a FOPL board member, I visited MLK Branch on Saturday morning the 16th. Every computer station in use by multiple ages; man, woman and children/family unit relaxing in Children's Area.
- Commissioner Randle – in the last 3 weeks visited 4 branches and plans to visit the rest, got a better perspective of branches. West Oakland got an order to replace key-box door; display case being moved still an issue, ant problems, Friends meetings are progressing. Met with Gene Tom (Library’s Chief Financial Officer) and will prepare a report to bring to a commission meeting soon. Reviewed LAC handout for branch distribution, went to Coalition meeting yesterday.

8. Agenda Building –

May meeting on May 23rd.

9. Open Forum/Announcements – Gen Katz announced that we are one library short from having a Friends groups at all branches; Friends network meeting this Saturday. Keep in mind that the Friends groups can do all types of advocacy in the community; concerned about safety issues, children crossing the street to go to the libraries around E14th and Bancroft (Eastmont and Brookfield.)

10. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Submitted by: Gerry Garzón, Library Director