



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES

DATE: February 27, 2017

LOCATION: Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was convened by Chairperson Randle at 6:15 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: 9 Rebekah Randle, Chairperson
Susanne Perkins
Ken Lupoff
Charles Sanchez
Aurea Lewis
Ain Bailey
Lesley Mandros Bell
Rosa Montgomery
Andrew Racle, Vice Chair

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: 3 Noelle Tu Duong
Victoria Barbero
Traci Griffin

STAFF PRESENT: Gerry Garzón, Library Director
Winifred Walters, Grants Development
Nina Lindsay, Children's Services
Rosalía A. Romo, Recorder

Guest: Kerrick Goodman-Lucker and Sarah McClung.

1. Children's Services & Programs Update – Nina Lindsay

Ms. Lindsay, Supervising Librarian for Children's Services reviewed a power point presentation and provided information on various children's programs. Highlights include:

- Measure Q supports a full time Children’s Services Librarian at every library location. Programs have increased, however library capacity at some branches is capping growth.
- Storytime is very popular and provides activities that help kids learn.
- Play Café: extended storytime with open-ended play and warm lunch pilot service at Elmhurst, Melrose and Martin Luther King, Jr. branches with support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Investigating scaling and sustainability for other locations.
- Toy Lending Library: started in 2014 with grant funds, currently at 6 locations with plans to expand to other branches.
- Literacy: supporting independent and free choice reading. Incentive programs for reading; summer reading and Winter Bingo. Share the love collection. Focus in reaching children – programs support diversity in learning styles. Parents always request tips for reading to kids. Ninety-one percent of children ages 6–17 say “my favorite books are the ones that I have picked out myself.”
- Collaborations with various agencies to improve the quality of our programs include: OUSD, Alameda County Community Food Bank, Mocha, Bananas, First Five
- Inclusivity: programs support diversity in learning styles, community perspectives and expertise, current needs of caregivers
- One of the most ambitious projects is the Oakland Promise Card Campaign, working with OUSD on a pilot program to get every student library cards (including high school students), and also allow teachers a second library card with extended benefits. Program to start in next couple of weeks at one school and extend to other schools later in the fall.
- Staff is working on another component of the Oakland Promise Card Campaign to eliminate fines for youth, and reduce fees for the community.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Randle called for a motion to approve the minutes of January 30, 2017.

Commissioner Mandros Bell made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Commissioner Lewis seconded. All approved.

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

3. Chairperson’s Commission Activities Report – Chairperson Randle

- Nidhi Khosla was appointed to the LAC on Feb 21. Reggie Constant and Kerrick Goodman-Lucker are waiting appointment date.
- Meeting on March 8th with a couple of Councilmembers. Waiting for replies from other council staff to schedule meetings.
- Attended Measure KK meeting; OPL Strategic Planning Retreat, and Youth Poet Laureate Azariah Cole-Shephard Council proclamation presentation.

4. Approve Letter in Support of Bill SCA 3 – Action

Approve letter of support for Bill SCA 3, introduced in the California State Senate by Senator Bill Dodds to lower the local vote threshold for library construction bonds from the current two-thirds vote to 55%.

Chairperson Randle called for a motion to approve the letter of support of Bill SCA 3. Commissioner Lupoff made a motion to approve letter. Commissioner Bailey seconded. All approved.

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

4. OPL Staff Activities Reports

a. Director Report Highlights – Director Garzón

- March 9th - CLA Advocacy & Legislation Committee & EveryLibrary training. Commissioners are invited to attend.
- Attended OPL retreat on strategic planning process. Chairperson sent the draft to all commissioners for review.
- Enjoyed the Youth Poet Laureate presentation at Council on Feb 7.
- Feb 28 – Presenting two reports at Life Enrichment Committee meeting. Invites commissioners to attend.
- The Library's draft budget was submitted to the City Administrator on Feb 12.
- Staff is working with supporters towards a tax measure for Nov 2018, and is planning a needs assessment.

b. Update on Police Officers Programming at Libraries – Director Garzón

The Library has not had police officers doing any programming for quite a while now. Staff had a chance to talk with the new police chief who is excited to revisit OPD participation. Commissioner Montgomery reminded commissioners and staff of the need to link with the NCPC groups, get them involved to get to know the library and support OPL.

5. Outreach Standing Committee Update – Commissioner Mandros Bell

- Selected date for next social mixer - Dec 3.
- Working on talking points and scheduling meetings with council members.

8. Sustainability Standing Committee – Commissioner Racle

- There was no meeting, but members are working on updating talking points.

9. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports:

- Commissioner Montgomery: no report.
- Commissioner Mandros Bell: Friends applied for the Cole Community Partners program for the Tool Lending Library; also working with Lowes on potential funding. Tool sales two Saturdays per month, doing more outreach.
Book recommendations: The Passion of Dolssa; The Land of Forgotten Girls; The Sun is Also a Star.
- Chairperson Randle: Already reported.
- Vice Chair Racle: No report. Announced he got married today.
- Commissioner Bailey: AAMLO has a leak in the basement. Staff prepared a Black History handout, and there were several activities around Black History month.
- Commissioner Lewis: Brookfield branch doing scientific activities for girls. Electrical circuit class/workshop for children. Would like to add new children's books to update collection.

- Commissioner Sanchez: Started new job and has been pretty busy. Chavez branch was having custodial services problems; homeless people locking themselves in the bathroom. The branch is very busy with different groups meeting in the public area, need more meeting spaces (carpet needs cleaning in meeting room). Not sure if usage has slowed down due to immigration raids. Director Garzón mentioned that staff submitted a capital improvement project request to replace carpeting in all of the libraries. Also, Public Works is losing custodial staff and maintenance has been impacted in all facilities.
- Commissioner Lupoff – no report.
- Commissioner Perkins: Melrose Friends met last Saturday, holding annual planning retreat in March, yard work party march 22. Talked to Winifred Walters about a fundraiser. How can the branch host a chess tournament? Staff replied that the branch has some programming money available for this type of projects; it would be up to the branch manager to try this and get it started. Last, Play Café is great and the branch wants to continue program.

10. Agenda Building

- List from past topics include: Library services, lawyers in the library, teen services; facilities management perspective maintenance.

11. Open Forum/Announcements

- Regarding rumors that the Immigration Office (ICE) is coming to libraries, staff reiterated that Oakland is a sanctuary city for immigrants. Libraries do not have to cooperate or offer any information on patrons. So far, that has not been the case at any of our libraries.
- Is there any conversation to remove MLIS requirement to allow more people to pursue library careers? Oakland did not remove requirement for Librarian positions.

12. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Submitted by: Gerry Garzón, Library Director