OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)
MINUTES – JANUARY 26, 2004
Main Library West Auditorium

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Scott called the LAC meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Roll Call
Commissioners Present: Tracey Scott, Deborah Eudaley, Evelyn Wesley, Lottie Rose, Rica Azarcon, Sharon Crandall, Victoria Kelly, Judi Hirsch, Beatrice Wong.

Commissioners Excused:

Commissioners Absent: Arthur Noble, Wanda Sabir

Staff Present: Director Martínez, Julie Odofin, Gerry Garzón, Gene Tom, Rosalía Arteaga-Romo (recorder).

Disposition of Minutes

Commissioner Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2003, with correction that Commissioner Eudaley was excused at this meeting. Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. Minutes were approved as amended by all present.

II. REPORTS

Chairperson’s Report
Chairperson Scott reported that her presentation to the Life Enrichment Committee on the LAC’s Semi-Annual Informational report went very smooth. When she asked Council whether they had any specific questions about the Commission, she was pleasantly surprised when each Council Committee member praised the Library Commission and complimented the commissioners on their hard work and advocacy on behalf of the Library. Chairperson Scott showed a video of her presentation to share the Council’s comments. Chairperson Scott congratulated the commissioners and thanked them for moving forward and being a strong advocacy body.

- Legislative Day is on April 28, 2004. We’ll have more information at the next LAC meeting.

a. Director’s Report
- Holiday Staff Party. The Library raised over $2000 for the López Family during the Library’s Holiday Party.
- The Library has filled all children’s librarian positions at the branch libraries.
- The new Chávez Branch will open on February 14, 2004 (soft opening). The Grand Opening will take place on Saturday, February 28 at noon. Commissioners are encouraged to attend this event. Staff has worked very hard to bring this project to completion.
- The Library is getting a new bookmobile by February 13th. This new vehicle is big enough to hold a book collection of 5000 items.
- Budget Update. Staff has not received information or instructions from the City Manager in preparation of the Library’s budget.
Measure Q Update. Gene Tom reported that the Library Director couldn’t comment or elaborate in advocating on this issue until we get further clarification from the City Attorney’s Office. He also added that the Commissioners couldn’t advocate for Measure Q while having a Library Commission meeting or acting in their official capacity as commissioners. We want to make sure that this campaign is run according to the rules.

There are several of activities taking place at AAMLO during February’s Black History Month.

Master Facilities Plan. Gerry Garzón reported that staff is gearing up to continue the Action Committee meetings to talk about the Master Plan next steps. The application was submitted to the State Library early on January.

b. Commissioners Advocacy Report

Commissioner Rose reported that she talked to the 56th Block Club about Measure Q.
Commissioner Hirsch is spreading the word about the Teen Zone and tutoring. She also wrote an article in support of Measure Q.
Commissioner Crandall is organizing a fundraiser for the PASS! Program on February 29th.
Commissioner Wesley is disappointed that we could not do phone banking at the college campus.
Commissioner Wong reported that the Asian Branch secured state funding for computer classes for seniors; also, a couple of organizations in Chinatown have made a $500 donation for computer classes. Director Martínez added that Marjorie Lee, Branch Librarian at Asian Branch, wrote a great grant, which is being used by the State Library as a model for this kind of program service. The Main Library and 4 other additional branch libraries also offer computer classes.
Commissioner Hirsch suggested that it would be nice to invite the teachers in the new Chavez Branch area to a special tour of the branch.

III. OLD BUSINESS  - None

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Name tags. Staff will order nametags for the Commissioners, similar to the ones library staff wears.
Measure Q. There was a consensus that this item would be scheduled for the February agenda. This meeting will be a public forum for the community to raise their concerns and questions.

V. AGENDA BUILDING

Measure Q – Public Forum

VI. OPEN FORUM

Gerry Garzón, speaking as a resident of Oakland and co-chair for Measure Q, stated that a Neighborhood Library Coalition was formed for Measure Q. The Coalition is working with Council members Quan and Brunner coordinating this campaign. There is a website which provides information on Measure Q; the coalition is looking for endorsements from the newspapers; Local 790
supports this measure; there will be an authors fundraiser event on February 21st; the Coalition needs volunteers for phone banking, sign making and posting lawn signs; a lot of money needs to be raised for this campaign and donations are needed; encourage people to spread the word in support of Measure Q. There will be a public forum on January 28th at Dimond Branch. Director Martínez added that it is very costly to run a campaign (FOPL donated $10,000) and there will be a lot of competition with 5 additional measures on the ballot. There’s no organized opposition on Measure Q.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

➢ There will be an unveiling ceremony of the Paul Robeson stamp on February 18th at the Merritt College Campus.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Carmen Martínez
Library Director