



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) FINAL MINUTES

DATE: July 29, 2019

LOCATION: Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Mandros Bell called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 12 Lesley Mandros Bell, Chairperson
Reginald Constant
Joseph Karwat
Cathy Smith
Nathaniel Dumas
Tyron Jordan
Alternier Cook
Mary Forte
Viola Gonzales
Ada Chan
Caleb Smith
Jessica Jung

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 3 Aurea Lewis, Vice-Chair
Carolyn Moskovitz
Amy Johnson

STAFF PRESENT: Jamie Turbak, Director
Bamidele Agbasegbe-Demerson, AAMLO Curator
Diane Tannenwald, Library Projects Manager
Rosalfá Arteaga Romo, Recorder

Members of the public: Danielle MacKey

1. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Mandros Bell called for a motion to approve the minutes of June 24, 2019. Commissioner Forte made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Gonzales seconded. Motion approved by all.

Votes: Yes – 12; Noes – 0; Abstentions – 0

2. Introducing New Library Staff

Director Turbak introduced new Library staff members Diane Tannenwald, Building Projects Manager, and Bamidele Agbasegbe-Demerson, AAMLO Chief Curator.

Bamidele briefly talked about his background in teaching, research, writing, programming, and working in West Africa. He graduated from the University of Michigan in anthropology and African studies, and from the Southern University in New Orleans with a Masters in museum studies. His plans include expansion of archival storage, changes to make AAMLO more interactive with community participation. He has also compiled a binder filled with ideas for exhibits and programs from people he met 3 days after his first day at AAMLO.

Ms. Tannenwald graduated from CAL in architecture, has experience in design, construction, and has worked in Public Works in various departments, including inspection services, engineering, transportation and maintenance.

Questions from Commissioners followed with various concerns:

- Support for a Hoover Durant library site.
- Making AAMLO more welcoming
- Creating more interactive programming to attract patrons to AAMLO
- Create a standard of maintenance to evaluate every facility
- Fix facilities on a timely manner
- Rent spaces for library use, explore other options

Ms. Tannenwald added that City Council provided funding for a feasibility study for Hoover Durant and this is in the works for a stakeholders meeting. Public Works is facing many challenges that prevent them from keeping up with building maintenance. The city has 309 facilities and 15 facility staff members; there are 15 vacancies in maintenance and other janitorial positions to be filled. Diane suggested the Commission write to Council and City Administrator to fill these positions to help the get resources to maintain all facilities. She has been discussing with library director building standards; conducting a survey based on public works data; created an intake form, “see, click, fix” to report maintenance problems. Will conduct a feasibility study for a new main library. Also, will start working on a plan that addresses the temperature issues at branch libraries during the summer.

Commissioners welcomed and thanked both for their comments and invited them to come back to give updates on their work progress.

3. Open Forum

Danielle MacKey briefly spoke about her organization, is interested on what's happening with the library as an artist and community leader. Recently met with Nina Lindsay and will be meeting with Bamidele on a project. Added that her organization is working on a project to recognize 13 community leaders, Commissioner Cook amongst them, as she has done a lot for the community in West Oakland. Glad to attend this meeting. Ms. MacKay was invited to consider applying for the Commission.

4. Chairperson's Activities Report – Chairperson Mandros Bell

- Commissioner Lewis is improving and most likely won't be returning to the Commission. Staff will look in to how to fill her seat.
- There are two potential candidates for consideration for LAC.

Nominations for Commission Officers for Co-Chairpersons and Vice-chair.

- Chairperson Mandros Bell opened the floor for nominations: Commissioner Dumas nominated Commissioner Gonzales for co-chair. Chairperson Mandros Bell nominated Commissioner Dumas as co-chair. There were no more nominations. Chairperson Mandros Bell called for a vote to appoint both Commissioner Gonzales and Commissioner Dumas as co-chairs. All approved.
Votes: Yes – 12; Noes – 0; Abstentions – 0
- Chairperson Mandros Bell is willing to stay for next couple of meetings until a new commissioner is appointed and ensure full membership.

5. Director's Report – Jamie Turbak

- Shared mission and vision statements for OPL.
- Gene Tom, Chief Financial Officer, is leaving the Library on August 9 to take another position at the Fire Department.

6. Meeting with Electeds Update

- Commissioners Cathy Smith and Jung met with Lea Salaverry, staffer for Council member Nicky Fortunato Bas (District 2). Talked about libraries in district 2 and feasibility study for a new main library. She was receptive and asked how they could support the library.
- Commissioner Karwat is meeting with CM Sheng Thao (District 4) on Aug 20.
- Commissioner Cook is willing to meet with CM Kaplan (at large and council president).
- Commissioners should also meet with the Mayor and City Administrator as part of the Commission's advocacy role. Add item to Outreach Committee agenda.

7. Update on Downtown Plan

Commissioners Ada Chan and Caleb Smith attended two days of Advisory Committee sessions for the Downtown Specific Plan. While the Plan has been in the works for 5 years, and library advocates participated over the five-year period, in the spring presentation of the plan to the LAC a new Main Library was not included in the Downtown Plan. Commissioner Chan reported that the draft plan that was presented in the Advisory Committee sessions included locating a site for a New Main, but at this point it is vague as to who is going to pay for it. Based on the Advisory Committee comments Planning Staff are preparing another draft which will be available for public comment in September. Commissioner Chan reported that she submitted a personal letter commenting on the draft plan, specifically clarifying that a new main library did not necessarily require a new site, in addition to including the cultural, social and economic contributions of the library throughout the plan.

8. Standing Committees Update

- Outreach Committee met and talked about the progress of meetings with council members and reviewed the LAC Annual Report. The committee cannot continue to meet at the Buttercup Café. Staff will check Main and other branches for alternatives.
- Sustainability Committee. Commissioner Chan gave update on Downtown Plan, reviewed adopted budget. Plan will be revealed in August for public discussion at September meeting. Committee would like to hold a public forum to bring attention to Plan, will talk to Chairperson to figure out a date.

9. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports

- Commissioner Forte: no report. Was not able to attend the East Oakland branch meeting.
 - Commissioner Gonzales – no report.
 - Commissioner Chan: air filters in Chinatown need replacing.
 - Commissioner Caleb Smith: no report as he does not have a branch.
 - Tool Lending, Piedmont, MLK (Jordan will adopt it), Eastmont, Montclair, Main.
 - Commissioner Jung: no report.
 - Commissioner Constant: West Oakland branch will participate in National Night Out on August 6, in conjunction with the NCPC.
 - Commissioner Karwat: Chavez branch elevator leak was resolved.
 - Commissioner Cathy Smith: Lakeview branch is also participating in National Night Out, met new librarian Ashley Bonifacio, branch would like to expand friends' group, losing volunteer who maintained ground landscape.
 - Commissioner Dumas: Golden Gate jazz program going strong, there is a problem with public restroom and branch had to close one day.
 - Commissioner Jordan: no report. He will adopt MLK branch.
 - Commissioner Cook: no report on Asian library. There was an issue last month with short staff impacting their programs.
- Director Turbak stated that there are still vacancies created when library expanded services hours. Will conduct library aide interviews in Aug.

- Hoover Durant update: each board member is exploring for spots for a service area, board in process of getting its infrastructure, have two volunteers who helped with Instagram and Twitter and Facebook design, participated in Friday Night Live at Hoover Elementary school on June 28 with 68 people signing up, book making, glad to have Many and the bicycle library – it draws a lot of people, issues library cards glad and he can answer library questions. Looking for fundraising options, planning a strategic plan workshop for board. Invited to attend Friends meeting at WO Youth Center.

10. Agenda Building:

- Main Library project.
- LAC strategic plan check in.
- Downtown Plan discussion.
- Budget advocacy to set budget priorities soon.
- Further discussion of outreach meetings with other departments – Sept
- Technology discussion at Sustainability Committee agenda.
- Census assistance in the libraries in Oct.

11. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jamie Turbak, Library Director