



**LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES**

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**Date:** April 26, 2021

**Recording:** [http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\\_id=0d6ab061-a9e5-11eb-8549-0050569183fa](http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=0d6ab061-a9e5-11eb-8549-0050569183fa)

**Location:** Zoom video conference

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, all members of the Oakland Public Library (OPL) Advisory Commission joined the meeting via phone/video conference and no teleconference locations were required.

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Co-Chair Caleb Smith called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 11**

Alternier Cook  
Mary Jo Cook  
Nathaniel Dumas, Co-Chair  
Mary Forte  
Mary Going  
Jessica Jung  
Joseph Karwat  
Carolyn Moskovitz, Vice-Chair  
Ayushi Roy  
Caleb Smith, Co-Chair  
Angelica Valentine

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 3**

Ada Chan  
Tyron Jordan  
Cathy Smith

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jamie Turbak, OPL Director  
Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director

**1. Approval of Draft Minutes: March 29, 2021**

Commissioner Mary Going made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Joseph Karwat seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

**2. Life Enrichment Committee Annual Report**

Co-chair Caleb Smith presented the Life Enrichment Committee Annual Report for review and input. It was clarified that this year's report is a written memo to City Council. Various commissioners made suggestions for edits and/or additions to the memo. The following action was suggested: Co-chair Caleb Smith will incorporate the commissioners' suggestions and the updated memo will be submitted to Council. Commissioner Carolyn Moskovitz made a motion to approve the action. Commissioner Mary Jo Cook seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

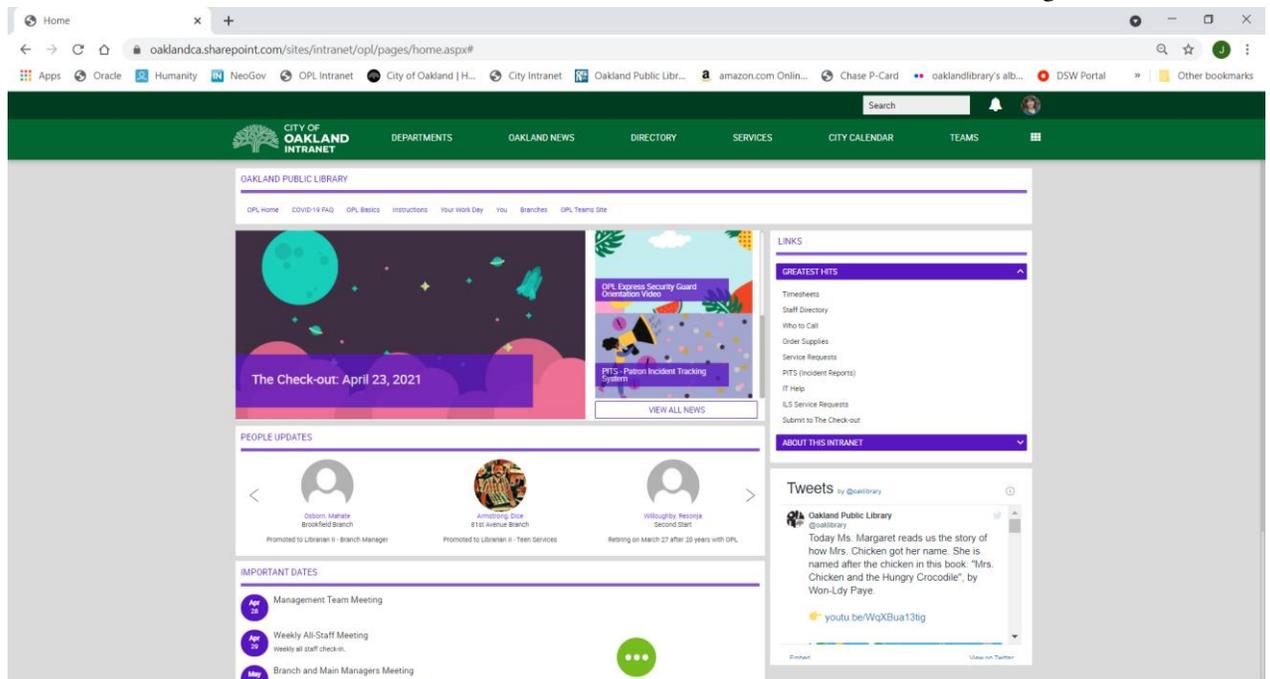
**3. Director's Report**

To: Library Advisory Commission  
From: Jamie Turbak, Director, Oakland Public Library  
Date: April 26, 2020  
Re: Oakland Public Library (OPL) – Director's Monthly Report

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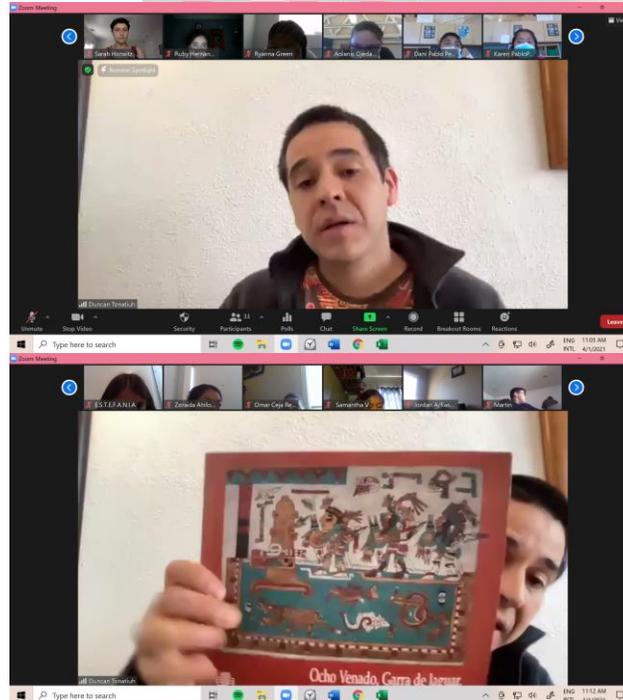
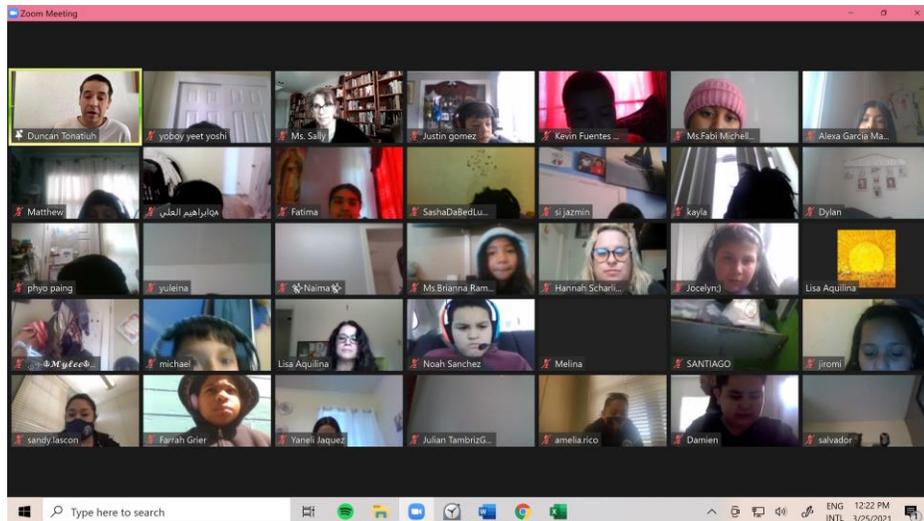
**General Updates:**

- On April 19, the library reopened its doors to the public for the first time since last March. The response from patrons, other City departments, and OPL staff has been overwhelmingly positive. People have been very respectful of the new rules and processes we've put in place to comply with health regulations, and also quite happy with the changes we implemented over the past 14 months: RFID tagging and self-check machines, newly organized collections set up for convenient, distanced browsing, and a new mobile check-out service.
- On May 1, 2021, Mayor Libby Schaaf will release her budget proposal for FY 2021-2023. [Background information and City Council Member priorities are listed on the City website.](#)
- The carpet at West Oakland Branch Library, including the lobby, has been replaced with new vinyl flooring. I have met with architects to review initial remodel or design concepts for Elmhurst, Tool Lending Library, Brookfield, Bike Repair container at Martin Luther King, Jr. and Main Library, including a refurbished Teen Zone. We have finished the first draft of the RFP for the feasibility studies for the Main Library and Hoover Durant.
- Oakland Unified School District will issue an RFP on May 1, 2021 to provide library services at the former Childhood Development Center (CDC) at 86 Echo Avenue. Oakland Public Library plans to respond and submit a proposal.
- We are submitting a grant application to install solar panels at 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
- Oakland Public Library has been invited to submit a full grant application for \$150K for capital improvements to the African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO). The National Trust received 519 letters of intent requesting a total of nearly \$53 million to preserve African American historic places in 40 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico and selected only 50 organizations to submit full grant applications. A highly-competitive process, they will award 16-20 grants in July 2021.
- We launched new Oakland Public Library intranet (internal staff website)



### Media:

- The African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO) is featured in the new NBC Bay Area documentary *The Moms of Magnolia Street*. Our segments are included in [Episode 3](#) and [Episode 4](#). Archival footage from AAMLO's A/V collections appears throughout all four episodes (here's an [example](#)). OPL's own Oakland History Center Librarian, Dorothy Lazard, can be seen in Episode 2 and Episode 4. You can find all four episodes in NBC's [Moms of Magnolia Street](#) YouTube playlist. The network is also producing a 1-hour broadcast version to air on NBC Bay Area/KNTV.
- April 7, 2021 Oaklandside article, [“Oakland Public Library will reopen for in-person book browsing, computer use: OPL Express will launch at 16 branches on April 19, offering limited indoor services with safety measures.”](#)
- Award-winning children’s book author, Duncan Tonatiuh, “visited” 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue Branch and 4 fourth grade classes to talk about his life, his writing and his art. See screenshots below.



- [Book lovers excited to head back to the library stacks as pandemic eases, by Vanessa Hua, Chronicle: April 22, 2021](#)
- On March 10, 2021, *Local News Matters Bay Area* featured Books for Wider Horizons volunteer Channing Kennedy, who has been posting virtual storytime to YouTube and Instagram since last March. Read Channing’s story [here](#).
- [Libraries reopen doors not just for books, but community, by Trisha Thadani, Sarah Ravani and Emma Talley | San Francisco Chronicle: April 21, 2021](#)
- Oakland Public Library is using its summer funding to purchase and distribute science kits “Kits Cubed” created by an amazing Oakland Youth, Ahmed Muhammad, who received this [recognition by KTVU](#)



[Oakland Technical High senior to be school's first Black male valedictorian](#)

OAKLAND, Calif. - When 18-year-old Ahmed Muhammad graduates from Oakland Technical High School next month, he will make history by becoming the school's first Black male to be named valedictorian.

*Hello Ms. Turbak and all Library Managers --*

*I wanted to write to say that my experience...today was outstanding. I went to pickup a book I had placed a hold on and fully expected to do so using sidewalk services. Instead, I was met with an orderly process for bringing me safely into the building. I then browsed the Children's and Adults sections, found excellent choices on display on various end-caps and tables, and successfully used the self-checkout station (with a librarian close at hand right when I ran into a library card issue). I felt safe and comfortable --- but most importantly I felt JOY as I left with a stack of books for myself, my partner and my 8yo daughter in hand!*

*Thank you for all that you and the staff across all library branches are doing to make this possible -- and all you've done to provide any services all these long months. There's something both comforting and invigorating about seeing the library be so thoughtful about using science and data to make thoughtful decisions in a way that enables community use and benefit. Please know your efforts are seen and so appreciated.*

*With so much gratitude,  
SD*



The Library is back in business!!!  
(a patron visiting OPL Express)

**4. Co-Chairpersons’ Commission Report**

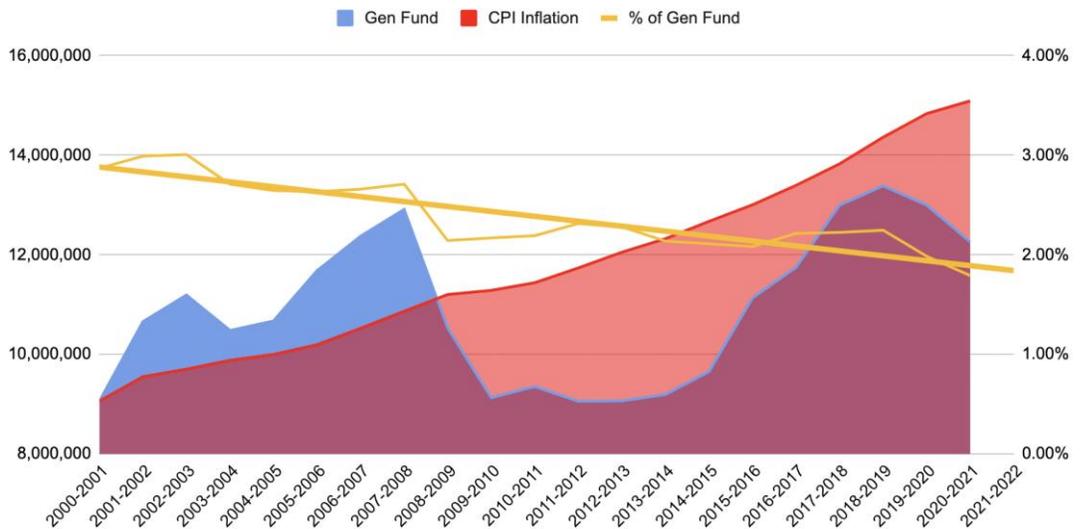
Co-Chair Nathaniel Dumas reported that he’d been working on Life Enrichment Committee report and gathering statistics and data to include for the Council.

Co-Chair Caleb Smith reported that the big focus at the OPL Advocates meeting has been the RFP for the feasibility study for Main and Hoover Durant. He thanked Director Jamie Turbak for soliciting input from stakeholders. Co-Chair Caleb Smith also welcomed feedback from commissioners on how co-chairing is going.

**5. Standing Committee Reports**

A. Sustainability – At the April meeting, they discussed the audit and key questions and concerns about it. They also updated the talking points and reviewed the action plan to ensure they were on point. Mary Going presented an interpretation of audit report findings. Here is a visual:

Gen Fund, CPI Inflation and % of Gen Fund



B. Outreach – At April meeting, they narrowed the scope of the relationship mapping project and are working on a summary of the audit that can be turned into an infographic or some other public facing document. The committee monthly meeting time has been changed to the first Tuesday at 5:30p. The group is very small with the loss/absence of commissioners; suggestions made were to have a member of Sustainability switch over and/or put conditions on being a member of Library Advisory Commission so that meeting attendance is required.

**6. Meeting with Electeds Update**

Commissioners Angelica Valentine, Mary Going, and Alternier Cook met with Councilmember Fife; she is a supporter of the Library. Councilmember Fife encouraged commissioners to get public support, speak to other councilmembers, and emphasize what will happen without appropriate funding.

Commissioner Nathaniel Dumas met with Councilmember Taylor about the importance of getting Measure Q passed.

Commissioners Caleb Smith is waiting to hear back from Councilmember Kaplan.

**7. Commissioner’s Advocacy Reports**

Commissioner Carolyn Moskowitz visited Rockridge branch and met the new branch manager.

Commissioner Alternier Cook noted that the Friends group is happy about the maintenance work happening at West Oakland. The Friends of Hoover Durant will get a response back on the RFP for the feasibility study.

Commissioner Mary Forte shared that her grandson’s school went to Elmhurst branch on the first day it reopened. He checked out books, used the computer, and really enjoyed the backyard.

**8. Agenda Building**

Suggestions were made for future agenda items:

- FOPL- on agenda in June or August.
- Adult Education- push to later in the year.
- Punch List- Commissioner Caleb Smith will follow up with Director Jamie Turbak.
- Ballot Measures- Have people who worked on Measure Q and Measure D come to August meeting to discuss their strategies and the campaign.

**9. Open Forum/ Public Comment (two-minute time limit)**

There were no public comments.

**10. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

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Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director