



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) FINAL MINUTES

DATE: January 30, 2017

LOCATION: Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was convened by Chairperson Randle at 5:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: 10 Rebekah Randle, Chairperson
Andrew Racle, Vice Chair
Ken Lupoff
Noelle Tu Duong
Sophia Rodríguez
Rosa Montgomery
Lesley Mandros Bell
Victoria Barbero
Aurea Lewis
Susanne Perkins

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: 3 Ain Bailey
Traci Griffin
Charles Sanchez

STAFF PRESENT: Gerry Garzón, Library Director
Winifred Walters, Grants Development
Rosalía A. Romo, Recorder

Others Present: Kathryn Sterbenc (Friends of the Oakland Public Library - FOPL), Reggie Constant, Kerrick Goodman-Lucker.

1. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Randle called for a motion to approve the minutes of November 28, 2016. Commissioner Mandros Bell made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Commissioner Barbero seconded. All approved.

Votes: Yes – 10; Noes – 0; abstentions - 0

2. Chairperson’s Commission Activities Report – Chairperson Randle

- There are three LAC applicants for consideration, two of whom are here.
- All Commissioners are working to schedule meetings with their council members.
- On January 27, Chairperson Randle and Director Garzón met with Councilmember Kalb.
- On February 7, the Youth Poet Laureate will be presented a Council proclamation.

3. Social Media Presentation by Kathryn Sterbenc

- Ms. Sterbenc, now a FOPL board member, gave a social media presentation for library advocacy groups. Social media is an umbrella term for a variety of methods to connect people and share resources: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts.
- The goal this year is to build a base for library supporters and use it when the library ballot measure comes up in order to reach out to supporters - - reaching an audience in support of library services.
- The OPL Advocate has 151 Instagram followers; 70 Facebook followers; 217 Twitter followers. We try to raise awareness and advocacy, focus that FOPL exists and emphasize this to help raise awareness and donations. The Library and FOPL have their own Facebook accounts.
- Ms. Sterbenc further explained how social media works and encouraged Commissioners to participate and use it to help spread information and support; tell your Friends groups to follow OPL Advocate. You can also send notes and pictures, snapshots, event information, comments or anything tied directly to OPL to Ms. Sterbenc for posting. Anything that is of interest to you that potential library fans are interested in is worth sharing.

4. OPL Staff Activities Reports

a. Director Report Highlights – Director Garzón

- Dimond Branch currently closed for remodeling. Winifred Walters is working steadily in getting more grants for the furniture. Hedco Foundation grant received, and FOPL approved a grant. An architect vendor is helping in the design process (pro-bono).
- Met with Councilmember Kalb last Friday re Piedmont Branch. The 5-year lease is up on 9/17/2017, and even though OPL has a 5-year extension, OUSD has other plans and won’t be able to renew lease. The Library is looking at alternative option to consider in the coming months.
- Tool Lending expansion. Options being considered include: capital improvement planning (CIP) funding request for expansion, use shipping containers, find and move Tool Lending to another location and make it part of a creative lab with a community space. Commissioners suggested to partner with schools, and look into ABAG for funding.
- Budget Update. The Mayor and City Administrator will give Council an update on the financial picture over the next 2-year budget on Tuesday.
- The City conducted a poll re City services with interesting feedback. Staff will send link to poll.

5. Outreach Standing Committee Update – Commissioner Mandros Bell

- Held its first meeting and discussed the LAC Strategic Plan
- Selected date for next social mixer; will meet second Monday of each month
- Create networking strategy for the year/review networking strategy; work with Sustainability Committee
- Commissioners Barbero and Mandros Bell were elected co-chairs.

8. Sustainability Standing Committee – Commissioner

- Held first meeting on January 23, and will meet the second Monday of each month.
- Discussed personal interest in sustainability.
- Went over LAC Strategic Plan, worked on fact finding, question for advocacy groups how to push forward. Second chart working with Outreach Committee, prepping speakers for events. There are already talking points in place, which each person/group can structure according to their meeting circumstances.
- Commissioners working on setting-up meetings with council members.
- Commissioners Rodriguez and Racle were elected co-chairs.

9. Commissioner’s Advocacy Reports:

- Commissioner Duong: visited Rockridge branch twice and connected with the teen librarian and branch librarian. Staff is pleased with the branch maintenance and with collection. Need new rack for manga collection. Teen librarian needs to reach out to people to mentor middle school students at the branch. Would like info about scholarship opportunity.
- Commissioner Lupoff: Brian, the branch manager of King Branch is fantastic. Commissioner Luppoff mentioned he lives in District 5 and would prefer to adopt Chavez Branch.
- Commissioner Lewis: Brookfield branch is doing great work; Branch Friends are doing quite a bit. Would like new children’s books to update collection. AAMLO had a great exhibit during the holidays.
- Commissioner Racle: No report.
- Chairperson Randle: attended the West Oakland Friends meeting – a strong group. The study room is now operational and is great. Obtained a FOPL grant to hang up 60 photos throughout the branch. Pending work orders, mirrors need replacement, electricity needs to be reinstated in two outlets in children’s area, replace ceiling tiles. Pizza party in April to recruit more Friends members. Branch is available for adoption. San Francisco Public Library is proposing amnesty days to waive penalty fees – is OPL doing something similar? Director Garzón responded that OPL is making modifications to its fines and fees schedule in combination with the Oakland Promise Card campaign, rather than doing a short term solution. This process will take time to finalize and staff will keep the Commission updated.
- Commissioner Perkins: Melrose maintenance issues have not been addressed. There are numerous leaks, and staff is concerned that repairs are just band aids, not sure if leaks are coming from pipes and not the roof; the mold issue is being addressed. There are two men who joined the Friends Group; planning an early retreat this Spring to plan for next couple of years; also focus on fund raising. Secured the petting zoo for National Night Out.

- Commissioner Barbero: Lakeview Branch is going well. We need more people to join the Friends Group.
- Commissioner Mandros Bell: Tool Lending was mentioned in a New York Times article. Bike maintenance workshop tomorrow; plumbing and water workshops are great; would like to do a heavy duty tool workshop series, trying to get a FOPL mini grant for this. Window needs to be fixed downstairs. Friends group is growing. Book recommendations: White Trash: the 400 Year History; Ashes (the Seeds of American Trilogy); The Pushcart War; Barack Obama's Reading List.
- Commissioner Montgomery: Elmhurst Branch has a very efficient Friends Group. She agrees that a commissioner should try to work with the library in their district. She is not going to friends meeting; for now, she's talking to staff and visiting branches. Working on an activity flyer for Elmhurst branch only.
- Chairperson Randle reminded commissioners that 81st Avenue, Dimond, Asian, Golden Gate, Piedmont Avenue, and West Oakland branches are waiting to be adopted.

10. Agenda Building

- Children's Services (February)
- Youth Leadership Council/Teen Services (March)

11. Open Forum/Announcements

12. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Submitted by: Gerry Garzón, Library Director