



## LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) FINAL MINUTES

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**DATE:** November 27, 2017

**LOCATION:** Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

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**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was convened by Chairperson Barbero at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: 12**

- Victoria Barbero, Chairperson
- Lesley Mandros Bell
- Reginald Constant
- Rebekah Randle
- Aurea Lewis
- Laura Liang
- Rosa Montgomery
- Ken Lupoff
- Kerrick Goodman-Lucker
- Susanne Perkins
- Andrew Racle, Vice Chair
- Sarah McClung

**COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: 1**

- Charles Sanchez

**STAFF PRESENT:**

- Gerry Garzón, Director
- Jamie Turbak, Associate Director
- Rosalía A. Romo, Recorder

### 1. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Barbero called for a motion to approve the minutes of October 25, 2017. Commissioner Lewis moved to approve the minutes as amended; Commissioner Perkins seconded. All approved.

**Votes:** Yes – 12; Noes – 0; abstentions - 0

**2. Chairperson's Commission Activities Report – Chairperson Barbero**

- Attended the Youth Leadership Council meeting. The group is energetic and eager to help.
- Attended the Friends Coalition meeting last week, and talked about campaign activities, getting organized, and possible donors. Reminded Commissioners that they cannot advocate for the ballot measure as commissioners, only as private citizens.
- Worked on the LAC Mixer, 79 people have rsvp'd, including CM Kalb. CM Guillen is sending his chief assistant. Commissioner Liang put program together. Commissioner Perkins will send instructions to Commissioners.

**4. OPL Staff Activities Reports**

## a. Director's report highlights:

- Attended Council meeting on Nov 7th to introduced Interim AAMLO Chief Curator, Susan Anderson, to Councilmembers.
- Planning an exhibit unveiling reception for the late Carter Gilmore on Dec 9. He was the first African American elected to council very active in northern CA. Commissioners are invited.
- Budget update, the vacancy rate was capped at 8.5% in efforts to help balance the budget. This new vacancy rate continues to be a challenge for the Library as it impacts hiring and makes it difficult to provide adequate services.
- Library tax measure. In January 2018, staff plans to present Council with an informational report and polling results for a tax measure. In Feb 2018, staff will request Council's approval to put a ballot measure on June 5. Regarding campaign advocating, staff and commissioners are considered city officials and cannot advocate for its passage. As a private citizen and on your own time, you can work and advocate on the campaign. At the January LAC meeting, there will be presentations from the City Attorney and the Ethics Commission to review the Sunshine Ordinance and the Brown Act, and to brief and clarify what we can and cannot do in our official capacity. The Ethics Commission is also making a presentation to staff.
- In response to a question, the budget vacancy rate issue is not related to the strike. SEIU decided to strike to help make progress in negotiations.

**5. Outreach Standing Committee Update – Commissioner Mandros Bell**

- Discuss updating the LAC's Google docs.
- Mixer planning. Commissioner Perkins will send guidelines and details about mixer to Commissioners.

**6. Sustainability Committee Update – Vice Chair Racle**

- Looking for a Co-Chair for this Committee.
- Encourage Commissioners to Chair a Committee to learn the ropes.

**7. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports**

- Commissioner Liang: met with Asian Branch manager.
- Commissioner McClung: met with Temescal Branch manager. Branch will celebrate centennial next year and Commissioner will help on this event. Staff is concerned about

branch maintenance/repairs; roof leaks, trees in front of entrance need to be removed or trimmed (they are at eye level and besides blocking the view, can be a safety hazard), telephones need updating. Staff informed Commissioners that the City's phone system is being replaced and the branches will be updated in the next couple of years. The roof is considered a maintenance issue, not capital improvement project, and is under Public Works to repair depending on their funding.

- Commissioner Randle: No major issues for Piedmont Avenue branch, but wanted to know if there were any updates regarding branch maintenance. OUSD is responsible for custodial services since branch is housed in a portable on school grounds (not a city facility). The branch manager should report custodial issues to the school staff.
- Commissioner Constant: West Oakland Friends group working with FOPL to help establish nonprofit 501(c)3 status for group. Group also revising donation forms.
- Vice Chair Racle: no report.
- Commissioner Mandros Bell: attended Tool Lending Friends meeting. Plumbing class on Nov 4, toy making workshop in Dec. Raised \$260 on tool sale. Friends and staff meeting with the Mayor's Office and City Architect to talk about the expansion project. Director Garzón added that staff is looking for a funder to fund the expansion project of TLL. Books recommendation: *The Epic Crush of Genie Lo*; *Refugee* by Alan Craftz.
- Commissioner Barbero: Lakeview going well. The stem program at the branch is very popular. Got about a dozen kids coming to library.
- Commissioner Perkins: attended the Evolutionary Blues documentary program at AAMLO, and proposed that every branch should have a copy of documentary. Melrose Friends is distributing branch poster in the neighborhood, planning a fundraiser drive. Off the Hook program attendant will donate scarves to Friends group as a fundraiser. Great turnout for ukulele program; jewelry and tamale making held last Tuesday. Branch would like to get a disable parking spot in front of library (a handicap patron had a hard time crossing the street to the branch). Custodial service is low. Parking situation is getting worse with the oil change business next door and abandoned cars, and the Friends Group has been in contact with Councilmember Campbell-Washington to get help with this situation. Library staff will look into matter.
- Commissioner Goodman-Lucker: visited Melrose for the tamale making program; attended the dance workshop at Main and Lakeview. Spoke with branch manager at Dimond, where patrons are complaining that the new chairs are not comfortable. Will try to reach out to 81st Avenue branch manager.
- Commissioner Lupoff: no new issues to report on Chavez Branch. No Amigos group meeting; trying to get more people engaged and to join the group.
- Commissioner Montgomery: Elmhurst Friends group planted daffodils, and worked the ground for the children's garden, litter walks continue. The Friends group is very efficient, but the biggest handicap is the area to get more people involved; people don't know the branch is there – need more signage on the street. Director Garzón replied that Piedmont Avenue branch has the same problem. The City has strict requirements for posting signs and welcomes alternative ideas; perhaps visual art on the sidewalks, such as the Fairy Tale Project. The branch poster might help. The other factor that prevents people from visiting some branches are the homeless.
- Commissioner Lewis: AAMLO volunteers are eager to start a friends group. Both AAMLO and Brookfield friends are trying to regroup. Brookfield Friends have a vision to blend the Friends with the senior group.

Director Garzón added that the conversation about homeless is a nation-wide issue, and as a public entity, we welcome all. Staff recognize there are hygienic concerns, and the Library offers programs to assist homeless with haircuts, info about places to take shower, etc. The Department of Human Services wants to partner with OPL for this program. Staff will invite Joe Devries to give LAC another update on the City's efforts.

**8. Agenda Building**

- Immigration issues, privacy issues.
- Joe Devries presentation on homeless.
- National issues related to libraries – opioid epidemic at branches – people using at branches.

**9. Open Forum/Announcements**

**10. Adjournment** - Meeting adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Submitted by: Gerry Garzón, Library Director