



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) FINAL MINUTES

DATE: October 30, 2017

LOCATION: Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was convened by Chairperson Barbero at 5:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: 12 Victoria Barbero, Chairperson
Lesley Mandros Bell
Reginald Constant
Charles Sanchez
Rebekah Randle
Aurea Lewis
Sarah McClung
Rosa Montgomery
Ken Lupoff
Susanne Perkins
Kerrick Goodman-Lucker
Laura Liang

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: 1 Andrew Racle, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Gerry Garzón, Director
Jamie Turbak, Associate Director
Lana Adlawan, Supv Lib, Teen Zone
Nina Lindsay, Supv Lib, Children's Services
Rosalia A. Romo, Recorder

Members of the public: Janet Noble Maxwell, Claudia Noble-Levingston, Karen Oyekanmi, Colette Winlock, Catherine Smith, Nathaniel Dumas, Henry Richardson.

1. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Barbero called for a motion to approve the minutes of September 25, 2017, as amended. Commissioner Mandros Bell moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Goodman-Lucker seconded. All approved.

Votes: Yes – 11; Noes – 0; abstentions - 0

2. OUSD/OPL Promise Card Update

Teen Services Supervising Librarian, Lana Adlawan, reviewed the background of the Oakland Promise Card, a joint library/school ID card for Oakland students. This was a White House initiative created three years ago as a project model in the country for schools and libraries to work together toward the goal of providing additional support to students through a library/school card. All entities (OUSD, OPL) participate under a memo of understanding and laws that govern this project and are committed to the same goal of providing a card to all kids in school. There are strict rules about safeguard and privacy, and all families' account information is kept private. Director Garzón acknowledged Ms. Lindsay and Ms. Adlawan for working on this project since its inception and added that although communications across OUSD have been frustrating sometimes, it has also improved OPL's relationship with the School District. The pilot program will expand, and our goal is to provide joint cards to the almost 50,000 students in Oakland and expanded resources available to them.

3. Chairperson's Commission Activities Report – Chairperson Barbero

- Presented the LAC Annual report to the Council's Life Enrichment Committee.
- Attended the Branch Friends Coalition meeting and presented information about the Library's ballot measure for next year, the Tool Lending program, and the recruitment at branches for more people to join the Friends' groups.
- Attended a library measure supporters' meeting to learn the results of the polling to decide whether to put a measure on ballot in June. The results were positive, with about 73% being positive and supporting idea. We should move ahead with a campaign in June as the November ballot will be crowded with other city measures. Commissioners Sanchez and Liang agreed to Co-Chair campaign.
- Encourages all commissioner to become members of The Friend of the OPL and support the Library. The Friends donations have helped make major renovations for branches, and other large ticket items to support OPL. Last year alone they donated \$100,000.
- Commissioner Nidhi Khosla moved to Hayward and resigned from the LAC.
- Nathaniel Dumas is expected to be appointed to LAC sometime in November.
- Working on LAC mixer and reminded commissioners to sign-up to bring a dish.

4. OPL Staff Activities Reports

a. Director's report highlights:

- Supervising Librarians Nina Lindsay (Children Services) and Lana Adlawan (Teen Services) met with the new OUSD Superintendent to acquaint her with OPL services and what libraries provide to students.
- Meeting with FOPL Board to present list of library projects that need funding, including operations & maintenance. We are fortunate to have FOPL's support, the group works hard to provide funding to the Library. Last year they granted \$110,000.
- Sept 12: attended the LAC Annual Report presentation at Life Enrichment Committee which opened a discussion about the Library needs and allowed staff to talk about an upcoming tax measure.

- Oct 18: Branch Friends Network group met at Temescal Branch, with many Friends groups attending. Topics included presentation about race and equity, and what the Library is doing about racial equity; also, Tool Lending program.
- Month of October was focused on a potential library tax measure. Hired a consultant to assist in developing the tax measure language to take to Council for approval in February. The polling results were positive and exactly the same for a June or November ballot. The initial response gave a 73% positive after the public were given a lot of positive reasons why they should help library with more funding. After supporting statements were given, it went up to 76%. The highest negative was when public was told Measure Q is already in effect and combined with other questions about the City not following through with other measures, it went down to 68%. This is still within the 2 thirds needed to pass a measure. Staff met with Council and the Mayor to brief them on the polling results and received positive comments from all.
- Jamie Turbak talked about what staff and Commissioners are allowed to do on their own time and city time. The next step is drafting ballot measure language and obtaining Council approval in February. After that, it will be delineated what the limitations are for staff regarding advocating on city time, same is true for Commissioners as they are political appointments and are an official board of the City; does not apply to Friends groups. Staff will arrange an Ethics Commission presentation to LAC in November.
- Susan Anderson, AAMLO Interim Chief Curator, was introduced to Council President Larry Reid. She will be introduced to Council in November, and to the community later.

b. OPL Strategic Plan Update

Director Garzón went over the 6-month plan, highlighting the goals. Everything listed under the 2016-2019 three-year goals relates to each one of those goals:

- Reach more people where they are
- Improve our physical spaces
- Increase operational efficiencies
- Increase funding
- Develop, retain and attract quality staff

Staff is also looking at expanding self-check and to check out laptops. Create list of programs to reach underserved marginalized communities. Working with commissioners and branch friends getting long term issues maintenance resolved, putting process in place to do this. Taking tax measure language to Council. Staff will review plan in February 2018.

5. Outreach Standing Committee Update – Commissioner Mandros Bell

- Talked about targeted audiences for outreach
- Mixer invites went out to Council
- Discussed idea if commissioners can't attend a committee meeting but want to give a report for discussion, they can send a summary to chairperson to share and committee can move forward with a discussion.

6. Sustainability Committee Update – Commissioner Goodman-Lucker

- Discussion focused on the ballot measure and talking points

7. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports

- Commissioner Montgomery: no report, Friends meeting was cancelled due to hot weather. (Director Garzón added that in September, 9 branch libraries were closed due to the heat. We had never closed these many branches in one day.)
- Commissioner Lupoff: visited Chavez Branch and met with manager Pete Villaseñor, and plans to attend their next Friends group. Two issues of concern are: carpet needs replacing, and space issue re the incredible huge information desk that takes up a lot of space that can be better used. Staff replied that the Library received \$15 million funding from measure KK for capital improvements and renovation work for branches. Unfortunately, Chavez Branch is a leased facility, not city owned, so measure KK cannot be used here. Staff is having discussions with the City's iBond Oversight Committee regarding this issue since Eastmont, Chavez and Piedmont Avenue branch libraries are all under lease.
- Commissioner Perkins: showed Melrose Branch poster that Friends volunteer designed to help promote branch in the neighborhood. If anyone wants a poster designed for their branch, contact Commissioner Perkins. Friends next project is to do a fundraising campaign letter. Kudos to Myron for custodial work. Vice Mayor Annie Campbell-Washington is interested in the lot next to the branch (oil change place that contributes to the ongoing parking problem with abandoned cars) and will talk at next Friends group meeting. On Nov 4, the Branch is starting a ukulele group for beginners; craft jewelry event also planned.
- Commissioner Goodman-Lucker: lots of well attended children's programs at Dimond; minor custodial issues going well.
- Chairperson Barbero: Lakeview going well, with a little drop in users now that Dimond branch reopened. Friend group is trying to recruit members.
- Commissioner Mandros Bell: Tool Lending presented at Branch Friends Network meeting, Tucker will make presentation at Mixer about project, programming at other branches; Friends are trying to figure out means to get tools to them. Plumbing workshop at Temescal.
Books recommended: *Librarian of Auschwitz*. *The 57 Bus*. *Midnight Without a Moon*.
- Commissioner Constant: West Oakland Friends raised over \$260 from book sales and use money for Grandparents Day event. Has dilemma about individually applying for 501c3 status, need more information on this. Repairs and maintenance issues continue at WO without resolution/response: no power in children's room, water leak over light fixtures, secure shelving in teen zone, replace rotten gutters, irrigation problems, repair windows, air conditioning not working, replace tiles in men's restroom, no waste basket in women's restroom, waiting for pictures to be hung for event, exposed wiring in children's room. Staff is aware of these issues and branch manager has submitted work orders; Public Works has been out there to make repairs. Jamie Turbak will follow-up.
- Commissioner Liang: no report for Asian Branch. She is excited to be Co-Chair for the library measure campaign.
- Commissioner Sanchez: no report. He is excited to meet more Friends and work on the campaign as Co-Chair as well.
- Commissioner Randle: concern regarding the adjacent child development center that is no longer being used and is now locked for over a year. Can Piedmont Ave. Branch use the space? This space was used while the Golden Gate Recreation Center was being renovated. Piedmont Ave. branch is also experiencing problems with maintenance and

custodial issues, minimum cleaning. Great attendance at events. Looking forward to meet with branch manager Pat. Regarding mixer, the brown paper invites are ready to go.

- Commissioner Lewis: AAMLO events are in the Calendar of Events, and now they have a gardener. No report on Brookfield. There are some people in the public today who expressed interest to start an AAMLO Friends group. Claudia Noble-Levingston stated she attended the Branch Friends Network meeting, it was rewarding to see collaborations amongst the established groups. She met Susan Anderson, Interim Chief Curator, and is excited for AAMLO and eager to start a Friends group and help integrate AAMLO into the community.
- Commissioner McClung: no report for Temescal. Working with Mixer committee and invitations.

8. Agenda Building

Staff mentioned list of past items, which can be presented again for new commissioners.

9. Open Forum/Announcements

- Commissioner Randle announced that she completed her Library Master's degree. Noticed a leak on the 3rd floor where collection section is. Public Works answers to the public when they hear from them. Use SeeClickFix app on phones to report and send pictures to call center. She added that Friends groups are good advocates in getting movement on some of the issues we have at branches.
- Janet Noble Maxwell. Very involved in community throughout her life and has volunteered at AAMLO for the past 3 years. Would like to attend mixer.
- Kathy Smith. Has attended meetings and is interested in building the communities.
- Nate Dumas. Always a joy to come and see what work is being done.
- Karen Oyekanmi. Volunteers at AAMLO and is looking forward to seeing things coming to be at AAMLO.
- Chairperson Barbero mentioned that Lakeview Friends also grappled with the 501c3 idea, and she can help WO Friends with this.
- In answer to questions about AAMLO's recruitment process, Director Garzón explained the Library issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) and received 1 proposal. Staff selected and submitted Bill Hawkins proposal last week. Next step is to talk and bring him under contract to start process. Susan Anderson was recommended by number of people in the museum business, and after interviews, she was selected as the Interim Chief Curator.

10. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Submitted by Gerry Garzón, Library Director