



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) FINAL MINUTES

DATE: January 28, 2019

LOCATION: Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:42p.m. by Chairperson Mandros Bell.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: 12

- Lesley Mandros Bell, Chairperson
- Aurea Lewis, Vice Chairperson
- Mary Forte
- Cathy Smith
- Alternier Cook
- Nathaniel Dumas
- Joseph Karwat
- Jessica Jung
- Sara McClung
- Ada Chan
- Amy Johnson
- Carolyn Moskovitz

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: 3

- Reginald Constant
- Victoria Barbero
- Tyron Jordan

STAFF PRESENT:

- Jamie Turbak, Library Director
- Rosalía A. Romo, Recorder

1. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Mandros Bell called for a motion to approve the minutes of November 28, 2018. Commissioner Forte made a motion to approve the minutes as recorded. Commissioner Jung seconded the motion. All approved.

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

2. Downtown Plan Update.

Joanna Winter, Planning & Building planner, went over outline of report. The preliminary plan is up for review to obtain community feedback and create a final draft by 2020. Report is over 200 pages and commissioners are encouraged to visit the official link and view full report.

The purpose of Plan. This preliminary draft plan is an initial version of the Downtown Oakland Specific Plan, describing transformative ideas and recommendations that connect the community's downtown goals to potential strategic actions. The preliminary draft plan shows the relationship between the community's desired future for downtown and existing conditions today. Given the rapid changes Oakland is undergoing, there is an urgent need to evaluate the city's existing regulations, policies, and programs to ensure sufficient support for downtown residents, businesses, artists and employees, some of whom are being displaced as this planning process is underway.

The Plan is organized by six topics:

- 1) Economic development
- 2) Housing and affordability
- 3) Mobility and connectivity
- 4) Culture keeping
- 5) Community health
- 6) Land use and urban form

Next phase is to conduct community meetings and consolidate comments for a final plan, and they expect there will be a lot of demands on this plan. Commissioners are encouraged to attend public hearings on Feb 6 and 13.

Questions followed re how to we get a new main library to serve the new development growth? Where does a new library fall into plan? Director Turbak mentioned that in 2006, the Library prepared a master plan for a new main library at the Henry J. Kaiser as part of a proposed ballot measure which did not pass. The Library currently has Measure D for improvements to branches, and also develop a new master facilities plan in the future.

Planning can put something in the plan for hopes of a new library. Commissioners are invited to attend planning meetings to give their input. The Commission reached a consensus to submit a letter to Planning and Building to consider a new main library site for the Downtown Plan.

3. Arguments for Building Branch Libraries in Underserved Areas: San Antonio / Hoover

Commissioner Cook, who is also Chairperson of The Friends of the Hoover Durant, gave overview of project. The Hoover neighborhood had a library branch (North Oakland Branch Library) located at 3424 San Pablo Avenue. There was also a Telegrove Branch housed in a much smaller storefront on 34th and Grove Streets. The branches were closed in the early 70's, and there is a need to restore service in this area. Potential sites for a branch library are: 3000 Market Street (27,911 sqft); 2810 West Street / Marcus Foster School (29,200 sqft). The Hoover/Durant Friends were established and met with previous library director Gerry Garzon numerous times. The group is seeking funding (\$22M), help from community and advocates for support and work; a grant researcher, book donations. The Friends operate on mini grants to

support this effort and operate a pop-up street corner library around the neighborhood. The group plans to meet with city and school officials, as well as foundations and private corporations. Upcoming fundraiser event is March 16; tentative date for street corner library is Feb 16.

The LAC commended Commissioner Cook and the Hoover Durant Friends for their tremendous effort on this project.

4. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports

- Commissioner Dumas: Golden Gate branch sewer problem continues. Tax help session will start in Feb. Women's March poster currently on exhibit.
- Commissioner Cook: Asian Branch – received a grant from FOPL to launch a refugee immigrant chef program. Hosting wonderful children's program, lunar event, participating in Street Fest book sale fundraiser.
- Commissioner Smith: Lakeview – held event of mural unveiling a couple of weeks ago. Movie nights for teens, STEM program for kids. New art installation inside with wood carvings sculptures.
- Commissioner Forte: Elmhurst – duplicating Lakeview's art displays. Hosting Black history month programs. Last Saturday the East Oakland libraries met with Jason Mitchell from Public Works and talked about general issues (custodian services, staffing needs, new security company, gardening, have large vacancy staff rate). Lt. Mausz also addressed the abandoned cars issue at Melrose. Director Turbak attended as well. Future topic of discussion: how to increase friends groups membership.
- Commissioner Lewis: AAMLO – held MLK movie event with great attendance. Commissioner Lewis spoke with MLK children's lib and wants to be active in this branch as well.
- Chair Mandros Bell: Tool Lending – held a water class; held the 100th Anniversary celebration for Temescal Branch. Matt Berson, Library's public information officer, talked about outreach.
- Commissioner Moskovitz: RR – no heat at branch due to design problem with the boiler. Teen librarian moved to be new manager at Montclair Branch. New furniture in teen area from a FOPL grant. Planning joint program with Summit Hospital; writers workshop, book club. Com. Moskovitz also requested that OPL Staff newsletter be forwarded to LAC.
- Commissioner Johnson: no report
- Commissioner Jung: Melrose – spoke with Branch manager Kate re removal of tree which poses danger. Illegal dumping, homeless camp continues around branch. Programs include grant cooking, gardening, Black History month celebrations in February, kids programming, movies.
- Commissioner Chan: 81st Ave. – no report. Chavez Branch elevator needs repair.
- Commissioner Karwat: will visit every library before deciding which to adopt.

5. Chairperson's Commission Activities Report – Chairperson Mandros Bell

- Branches that need adoption: Brookfield, Eastmont, Piedmont Ave, Montclair and Tool Lending Library.
- Due to lack of attendance at committee meetings, recommended talking about frequency of meetings at next LAC meeting.

6. Director’s Report – Jamie Turbak:

- Continue hiring process of 45 new part-time library aides.
- Conducted interviews for permanent library aide positions.
- Conducted interviews for AAMLO chief curator.
- Will conduct recruitment for a project manager, and associate director.
- The target date to start the extended hours schedule is April 1st. 81st Ave. Branch will go 7 days /week.
- City is going through budget review; the Library will prepare shortfall proposal to reduce the library’s general fund budget. Trying to be conservative about expanding hours during budget review before adding hours on Sundays.

7. Sustainability Standing Committee Update – Commissioner Forte

- Commissioners Chan and Forte met and worked on ideas for the orientation on library system and came up with general questions for budget 101 session.
Committee members: Smith, Forte, Dumas, McClung, Chan, Jung, and Jordan. No chair has been selected. Preparing draft letters to City Auditor re Measure Q audit and letter to Planning Commission re new library in the Downtown Plan.

8. Outreach Standing Committee Update – Chairperson Mandros Bell

- Planning to talk to Council members Gallo, McKelhany, Reid this month for a series of 2-3 meetings with electives to bring them up to speed re library.
Committee members: Mandros Bell, Constant, Lewis, Cook, Barbero, Johnson, Karwat.

9. Agenda Building:

- Committee frequency meetings – Feb
- Library Orientation Budget 101 – March
- Brown Act / Sunshine Ordinance Review – April

10. Open Forum/Announcements - none

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

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Jamie Turbak, Interim Library Director