



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) FINAL MINUTES

DATE: November 25, 2019

LOCATION: Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chair Dumas called the meeting to order at 5:48p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 9

- Viola Gonzales, Co-Chair
- Nathaniel Dumas, Co-Chair
- Lesley Mandros Bell
- Alternier Cook
- Amy Johnson
- Mary Forte
- Joseph Karwat
- Caleb Smith
- Ada Chan

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 4

- Tyron Jordan
- Cathy Smith
- Carolyn Moskovitz
- Aurea Lewis, Vice-Chair

STAFF PRESENT:

- Jamie Turbak, Director
- Nina Lindsay, Associate Director
- Tabitha Pulliam, HR Manager
- Rosalía Arteaga Romo, Recorder

Members of the public:

1. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Dumas called for a motion to approve the minutes of October 28, 2019.

Vice-chair Gonzales made a motion to approve the minutes as recorded. Commissioner Johnson seconded. Motion approved by all. Approval of minutes.

Votes: Yes – 9; Noes – 0; Abstentions – 0

2. Library Facilities Maintenance Issues

In response to a letter from the LAC regarding the various maintenance issues and concerns at all library locations, Darin Minor (building services manager) and Richard Battersby (assistant director), attended today's meeting to provide information and answers. The Commission would like to develop a survey to assess the maintenance standards at the libraries to help ensure proper services at all library locations.

Mr. Minor stated that Public Works is low in staffing in all fronts. Custodial unit consists of 6 full-time staff; most of the temporary part-time staff are assigned multiple sites. Will add additional staff beginning in January with 6 custodians, two of whom will be assigned to the Library. Roving engineers handle maintenance for all city departments. There are 30 positions citywide, with 15 full-time that include carpenters, engineers, etc. Keep in mind that the hiring process is slow, and it takes a long time to fill vacancies.

OPW received over 1700 work orders citywide monthly. Workorders get prioritized and placed in order on a list. There is not enough staff to take care of all orders in a timely manner. Urgent orders get priority. Every city department is dealing with the same maintenance issues. Both Mr. Minor and Mr. Battersby further explained the process of work orders, and the frustration of working with limited staff. Public Works is looking at different outside vendors to contract for some jobs. Another big problem that compounds the situation is the illegal dumping of trash throughout the city. In response to the Golden Gate library bathroom problem, the sewer line needs to be replaced and funding has not yet been identified to move on this project. Questions followed.

The Commission extended its support to Public Works, and thanked Mr. Minor and Mr. Battersby for their information.

3. Chairperson's Activities Report –

Co-Chair Gonzales:

- The Downtown Plan conversation continues. There will be a Zoning Committee meeting on December 11 to get additional input. The commissioners are invited to attend and provide comments.
- Helen Bloch is the lead person to support the Friends of Main. The group is getting more organized and looking for more people to join the group.
- National Small Business week will be in May.
- Visited the Chabot Space Center for the transit of Mercury event.

Co-Chair Dumas:

- Reviewing applicants for LAC.

4. Director's Report – Jamie Turbak

- The book *African American Trail Blazers* came out recently and was dedicated to Dorothy Lazard, librarian in the Oakland History Room.

- NBC did a coverage on the OPL Youth Poet Laureate.
- OPL does story times in the San Antonio area, where there is a lack of a library. Oakland Magazine and KTVU did some stories about this service in a laundrymat.
- Netflix filmed some footage for “Last Chance U” Oakland history.
- Tommy Orange event hosted 350 people, amazing event. Recorded online available.

5. Meetings with Electeds Update

- Commissioner Cook and Forte met with Council Member Kaplan. Discussed the heat conditions at the branches during the summer days, causing some branches to close. Funding is needed to make sure all libraries have a cooling system. Talked about the need for a new Main Library; new extended hours. CM Kaplan is an advocate to have libraries open and operating safely. Wants a tool lending library in east Oakland, likes idea of Hoover Durant library and suggested Commissioners contact CM Fortunato Bass to get her involved in this project. Director Turbak added that all the projects – such as tool lending, feasibility studies – need a project manager assigned by Public Works. LAC can send letter to CM Kaplan explaining and urging for OPW to get funding and staff for project managers to move on with projects. Director Turbak will follow-up and have update in Jan. CM Kaplan is very supportive of OPL.

6. Standing Committees Update

Sustainability Committee – Commissioners Chan and Forte reported:

- Talked about Piedmont Library, its Friends Group became a nonprofit, and its President is a 7/11 Committee member. Looking for location for a permanent library on the back of Piedmont Avenue school. The location is a vacant building owned by the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD), with talks of surplus. Commissioner Chan added that any surplus property becomes a site for affordable housing, once it goes into surplus it is out of our hands. Commissioner Caleb Smith attended the Friends meeting, and the 7/11 Committee did not reach a recommendation. Potentially going to OUSD Board meeting in January to decide if making it surplus.

7. Draft Letter to Oakland Unified School District Re Piedmont CDC Surplus Land

The LAC prepared a draft letter to Oakland Unified School District (Attachment B) on the disposition of the former Piedmont CDC building, 86 Echo Avenue, asking that the property that served as former Piedmont Child Development Center at 86 Echo Avenue not be surplus as part of the current 7-11 process, giving opportunity for joint occupancy of the site by OUSD and the Oakland Public Library for continuing to meet the educational needs of our students and their families.

Commissioner Chan made a motion to approve and send letter to OUSD. Commissioners Gonzales and Forte seconded. All approved

Outreach Committee – Commissioner Johnson:

- Talked about final preparation for Social Mixer. Will send reminders to commissioners.

8. Commissioner’s Advocacy Reports –

- Commissioner Chan: Need trash can at Asian Branch. CM Reid staff is willing to put library announcements on their newsletter.
- Commissioner Cook: visited Asian branch. Manager is happy have two Asian officers stay on the beat. Hoover Durant is having a winter event on Dec 5, not a meeting.
- Commissioner Forte: Elmhurst is hosting the African American quilt exhibit. There will be another program schedule during Black History month.
- Co-Chair Gonzales invited commissioner to visit the Pralinger library in San Francisco. It is a different type of library to visit / explore.

9. Open Forum / Public Comments – none

Agenda Building:

- Measure Q Audit – (find out when next audit is scheduled).

11. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jamie Turbak, Library Director