



## LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) FINAL MINUTES

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**DATE:** October 28, 2019

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

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### 1. Tour of the Main Library started at 5:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Co-Chair Gonzales resumed the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. after the tour.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 12**

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

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 2**

- Carolyn Moskovitz
- Aurea Lewis, Vice-Chair

**STAFF PRESENT:**

- Jamie Turbak, Director
- Rosalía Arteaga Romo, Recorder

Members of the public: Rachel Lucas, Angelica Valentine, Gina Sarti, Penn Hughes.

## 2. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Gonzales called for a motion to approve the minutes of September 30, 2019.

Commissioner Caleb Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as recorded. Commissioner Cook seconded. Motion approved by all.

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

## 3. Chairperson's Activities Report –

Co-Chair Gonzales:

- After the presentation for the Downtown Plan, Co-Chair Gonzales recommends writing a letter to the Planning Commission with observations re deficiencies and the fact that the Plan does not address the public library or was reflected as a resource for capital improvement projects, and also include the Hoover Durant Project. Co-Chair Gonzales will draft letter. Commissioner Cook made a motion to draft the letter and submit it to the Planning Commission. Commissioner Jung seconded. Motion approved by all.
- Councilmember Bas is presenting a report and resolution to Council on November 5<sup>th</sup> on the disposition of the Fire Alarm Building to enter into negotiations to lease property to the Museum of Jazz and Art (MOJA). Co-Chair Gonzales met briefly with David Allen, MOJA CEO Board Chair, and encouraged him to visit the Main Library and AAMLO and also contact Director Turbak. OPL Advocates would like MOJA or Councilmember Bas to consider some type of collaboration with the Library regarding the use of the Fire Alarm Building. This is still in planning stages and nothing has been decided. Director Turbak added that there is City support for the concept of a jazz museum, not so much the lease of this building. She added that the Fire Alarm Building has never been put on the table for the library, and in terms of moving forward, does not think it is beneficial for OPL or the Commission to be against it. Commissioner Caleb Smith recommended contacting MOJA directly to find out more information before sending letter. Maybe just send a letter to consider the Library and share their views with LAC. Co-Chair Gonzales will forward this report to commissioners.

Co-Chair Dumas:

- Reviewing applications to replace LAC vacancies coming up in Jan. Three people who applied are in attendance today.

## 4. Meetings with Electeds Update

- Commissioner Karwat met with Commissioner Sheng Thao and talked about the budget, library hours, branch initiative for Hoover Durant Project, city maintenance problems. It was a good meeting and she is very supportive of library.
- Waiting for Councilmember Kaplan to reply to Commissioner Cook.
- Commissioner Caleb Smith suggested arranging meeting with the Mayor. Commissioners Cook and Karwat will join him.
- Public Works will assign a project manager to develop scope of feasibility study. There is a lot of pressure to keep these things moving, hoping to start doing community meetings spring 2020.

## **6. Standing Committees Update**

### **Sustainability Committee –**

- Discussed potential CIP projects for FY2020. Measure KK bonds for CIP projects. OPW Director Jason Mitchell plan to attend the November LAC meeting to address the Library custodial issues.
- Will work on talking points.

### **Outreach Committee –**

- Discussed holiday mixer, expanding invitation list to other department heads, school principals, chamber of commerce. Save the date notification going out this week. Dec 8, 1-3. Developing program and tour.

## **5. Director's Report – Jamie Turbak**

- The big news was the power shutdown, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated and all staff is on standby to act for emergencies. The Library public information officer disseminated information and was at the EOC all day, Director Turbak covered last night's shift. Libraries, Health and Human Services departments are responsible for mass care and shelter. Staff may be called to do additional services, serving as community resilience centers. We hope as we perform these duties, CIP projects would take in consideration these kind of emergencies for heat, cooling, air quality, power outage. Hopefully there will be funding opportunities for the libraries.
- The Main Library suffered an unrelated power loss that took server down, no internet at all branches. Staff managed incident very well.
- Attended various community meetings: OUSD 7/11 Committee meeting for the Echo Ave. CDC; AAMLO meeting for bikes and no lanes for traffic on 14<sup>th</sup> St. area; CEDA meeting for Jazz Museum site.
- The CDC vacant building next to the Piedmont Avenue branch, and owned by the School District, is a property that OUSD is considering making surplus. There is a lot of public support for it to be the new site for the Piedmont Ave. library. The School Board makes decision on surplus facilities.
- Mosswood Recreation Center burned down a couple of years ago and looking to rebuild.

Commissioner Caleb Smith suggested that Sustainability Committee consider how LAC can support the Mosswood community and Piedmont Ave. Branch project. Strategizing how the library can lobby to support the surplus property project, and draft support letter.

## **7. OPL Collection Development Policy Presentation**

Director Turbak gave an overview on collection development and how the Library ensures books are discarded properly. Library staff are trained on the assessment of collection development and how to maintain and discard books. We follow standards and professional ethics when making these decisions. Oakland has 50 staff members working directly to buy books for different communities, staff attend professional conferences, lots of diversity in book buying. From the number of books discarded systemwide, which cover a wide range (referred to handouts), African American books removed was a small portion in comparison to all books discarded.

Collection development issues are huge and can become controversial at different times in all public library systems. There is an embargo on Ebooks on public libraries that puts a chokehold on Ematerials for the public in order to increase their cost margin. What staff would like to do is to make sure the community tells us what they want. Staff will ensure policy is posted at every branch library.

### **7. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports –**

- Commissioner Caleb Smith suggested forming a bio page to have better understanding of commissioners' interests and skills.
- Commission Jung met with Melrose branch manager and talked about tree removal and issues with disabled placard on sidewalk.
- Commissioner Cook: Hoover Durant street corner library participated in the McClymonds school reunion event, very successful.
- Commissioner Chan: Asian branch supported poet program from Hong Kong.

### **Open Forum / Public Comments**

- 7/11 Committee meetings on November 7 and 14. Going to OUSD Board to adopt final recommendation. Commissioners can send their comments directly to OUSD Board.

### **8. Agenda Building:**

- Public Work staff – Jan.
- Invite Museum of Jazz Director to the November meeting.

### **11. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jamie Turbak, Library Director