



**LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) FINAL MINUTES**

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**Date:** October 26, 2020

**Recording:** [http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\\_id=2267ef43-196f-11eb-a4b6-0050569183fa](http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=2267ef43-196f-11eb-a4b6-0050569183fa)

**Location:** Zoom video conference

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, all members of the Oakland Public Library (OPL) Advisory Commission joined the meeting via phone/video conference and no teleconference locations were required.

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Co-Chair Gonzales called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 12**

Ada Chan  
Alternier Cook  
Angelica Valentine  
Caleb Smith  
Carolyn Moskovitz  
Cathy Smith  
Jessica Jung  
Joseph Karwat  
Mary Forte  
Mary Going  
Mary Jo Cook  
Viola Gonzales, Co-Chair

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 2**

Nathaniel Dumas, Co-Chair  
Tyron Jordan

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Jamie Turbak, OPL Director  
Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director

### **1. Approval of Draft Minutes: September 28, 2020**

Commissioner Going requested that the spelling of her last name be corrected (no “s”).

Commissioner Caleb Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Ada Chan seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

### **2. Co-Chairpersons’ Report**

Discussion about the strategic plan with an action item to have an “ad-hoc” group consisting of Commissioners Cook, Valentine, Chan, Cathy Smith, Caleb Smith, and Karwat meet to create a draft strategic plan document and return to the full commission for review.

### **3. Oakland Public Library (OPL) Director Report**

To: Library Advisory Commission

From: Jamie Turbak, Director, Oakland Public Library

Date: October 26, 2020

Re: Oakland Public Library (OPL) – Director’s Monthly Report

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#### **General Updates:**

- Introduction of Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director. Kere will be the primary liaison for Library Advisory Commissioners. Her contact info is [kgonzales@oaklandca.gov](mailto:kgonzales@oaklandca.gov) and 510-238-3281.
- I met with Councilmember Kalb on Monday, October 5 to discuss “the Piedmont Ave branch and the CIP process” in response to community interest at 86 Echo Ave (former CDC at OUSD) for a new library. Also, pro-bono architect met with library staff on the property for a design charette in order to have a better cost estimate for construction.
- World Central Kitchen raised more money and is now committed to providing meals through the end of November (was going to end in October). These are the free restaurant-prepared meals that library staff distribute at 81<sup>st</sup> Ave and Chavez Branch Libraries. There is also food distribution at Melrose Branch in partnership with the Alameda County Food Bank.
- I participated in an “All Library Staff” meeting on Friday, October 23 to discuss phased-opening plans per Alameda County Health Department’s revised orders allowing libraries to allow up to 25% capacity. Staff workgroups will finalize proposals that will then go to SEIU Local 1021 in November and December. Tentative plans for libraries to reopen in January 2021 if COVID-19 infection rates remain stable in Oakland.
- I participated in emergency planning for Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event due to high winds and red flag for 10/25-1027. De-energization affected Montclair Branch Library on Monday, October 26. The Library Department is assigned to support “Mass Care and Shelter” emergency response in a disaster.
- I met with several City Departments to discuss “West Oakland Resiliency Hub” as part of Capital Improvement Project (CIP) process.
- The Main Library service elevator was rebuilt over the course of several months and recently finished. Public Works Maintenance Department managed and funded this project which cost approximately \$160,000.
- I met with Mayor’s Office regarding “Clean Mobility Options” grant for bike lending in East Oakland.

- I joined a meeting with library directors across the nation regarding online public service in time of COVID-19. Oakland Public Library is beginning plans to migrate the public website so this meeting helped explore options.
- Project Manager, Diane Tannenwald, completed submission of library departmental CIP requests.
- I met with library grant staff to plan for an application to State Library for \$30K for “copy-cat” grant funds to support diverse children’s book collections and adult/teen craft kits.
- In October, I met with the following stakeholder groups:
  - Friends of Hoover Durant Library
  - West Oakland Job centers (2<sup>nd</sup> floor West Oakland Library)
  - Library Advisory Commission Outreach Committee
  - Library Advisory Commission Sustainability Committee
  - Friends of Piedmont Avenue Library
  - Friends and Stewards of AAMLO
  - East Oakland Branch Libraries Friends group

### **Media and Public Services Highlights:**

- Samuel Getachew, 2019 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate, and Leila Mottley, 2018 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate, were recently featured in the *New York Times*. Please see this powerful piece, [Young Black Poets](#), which presents works from 10 young black poets from across the country.
- On Tuesday, October 6, Mayor Schaaf delivered her annual “[State of the City](#)” in a unique video presentation to City Council that pays special homage to the impressive work of library employees, among many others.
- [Teen Services launched a new Instagram account \(@oaklibraryteens\)](#) to reach teens where they are.
- MLK Branch hosted a tabling and school food giveaway at CCPA/Lockwood on August 27, September 24 and October 15
- People’s Kitchen Collective Cook-Along Free Breakfast for virtual Life is Living – Contributed Black Panther Free Breakfast Resource List, Library info, and books for their grocery bag giveaway. West Branch was a pick-up location.
- West Branch Library patio hosted a free COVID-19 testing “pop-up” on Saturday, October 24 in partnership with UCSF. The grounds at Lakeview Library host free COVID-19 testing on Saturdays through Thanksgiving.
- OPL received a \$5,000 grant from Southern California Library Cooperative “to address the increased demand from your community for e-resources as people practice physical distancing and access to physical library collections is restricted during the pandemic”.
- The OPL Podcast launched the “Fall Oakland History Miniseries” featuring Oakland History Center Librarian Dorothy Lazard in October. If you haven’t had the chance to listen yet, please do check it out at [www.oaklandlibrary.org/CheckYourShelf](http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/CheckYourShelf).



- An Instagram page with 2 million followers pushed out a story about Oakland Public Library:

“National news about institutionalized racism, including in the law enforcement sector, have led to searing debates about the different ways in which [Black people] and communities of color experience policing. Now, a group of Oakland librarians have created an online toolkit aimed at helping other librarians, teachers, and educators scrutinize children's books that depict the police—and think about where they may be coming up short. Amy Martin, a children's librarian for the [@oaklibrary](#), said she started working on the toolkit in 2016 in the days following the killing of Philando Castile by a police officer in Minnesota, which was recorded by his girlfriend and then went viral online. She started by going through her own library's collection of books about community helpers—firefighters, teachers, and so forth—and found patterns in how they discussed law enforcement.

When they talk about police officers, they are consistently very positive about how police officers keep people safe. And that's the ideal, but not the reality that we always see.” [Experiences with police are not monolithic]. The books Martin examined notably did not discuss that some children's early experiences with the police are frightening: “Even children who have never had a frightening experience with police officers may have been frightened by news stories about people being hurt or killed by police, or have questions about demonstrations that happen in response to these events. Children who have had frightening early experiences with police may be less likely to respond positively to books that depict police officers as friendly helpers; such books may instead undermine their lived experience and seem confusing or incorrect (OPL Toolkit).”

The librarians hope that it will start a conversation about how the police are portrayed and encourage publishers to consider books that represent other children's experiences. It can be deeply wounding for children to see only books that undermine their lived experiences, Martin said. “Yeah, it's a serious topic,” she said. “Children experience serious things, too.” (Stephen Sawchuk, Education Week) [#ChildrensBooks](#) [#BlackLivesMatter](#)

#### **4. Strategic Plan Discussion**

#### **5. Open Forum/Public Comment**

#### **6. Meetings with Electeds**

#### **7. Standing Committees Reports**

- Outreach – Annual Mixer on December 6, 2020
- Sustainability – Met with Calvin Hao from Public Works Department regarding Feasibility Studies process and timeline

**8. Commissioner’s Advocacy Reports**

**9. Agenda Building**

- Suggested topics
  - Re-elect Co-Chairs and elect Vice Chair – November
  - Authorize Co-Chairs to send a letter to City Auditor, if necessary - November
  - Strategic Plan – November
  - Audit – November or January
  - Race and Equity Team – January or February
  - Budget – February (request that Library Fiscal Staff join meeting)

**10. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

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Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director