



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) FINAL MINUTES

DATE: September 30, 2019

LOCATION: Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

1. CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chair Dumas called the meeting to order at 5:43 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 11

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 3

- Tyron Jordan
- Cathy Smith
- Aurea Lewis

STAFF PRESENT:

- Jamie Turbak, Director
- Rosalía Arteaga Romo, Recorder

Members of the public: Danielle MacKey

1. Approval of Minutes

Vice-Chair Dumas called for a motion to approve the minutes of July 29, 2019. Commissioner Forte added that she will join Commissioner Cook when meeting with Council member Kaplan. Commissioner Chan made a motion to approve the minutes as recorded. Commissioner Caleb Smith seconded. Motion approved by all. Votes: Yes – 11; Noes – 0; Abstentions – 0

2. Review the Draft Downtown Oakland Specific Plan (DOSP) and the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Joanna Winter and Alicia Parker, Planning Division, presented an overview. The preliminary draft plan was published back in March 2019. Received a lot of input regarding a Main Library and changes were made. Plan is being presented at several public forums for review; final plan to be adopted in June 2020.

Overall Plan vision includes:

- Jobs & retail; housing; civic improvements; future projects. Setting the stage for what the library is doing in their strategic plan; important to the Downtown Plan to add a library, but the Plan does not include this portion about library now.
- What's new: relationships & outcomes. Plan policies, programs or actions.
- What's new: Implementation Matrix – Actions Organized by Type: • Capital Improvements • City Policy/Regulation • City Program/Service • Planning Study & Public Process
- Library Content Components: Economic opportunity; Housing & affordability; Mobility; Culture Keeping; Community Health; Land Use and Urban Form.

LIBRARY FEEDBACK ON DRAFT PLAN TO DATE

- Focus more on libraries as a tool for economic opportunity
- Address how libraries help all residents, not just the most vulnerable
- Revise policy regarding daytime “shelter” and emergencies
- Public/private library projects are not necessarily successful
- Emphasize historic importance of existing Main Library structure

Library Next Steps

- Oakland Public Library
 - Main Library Feasibility Study
- DOSP
 - Update policies to respond to stakeholder feedback
 - Capital Improvements Impact Fee Study update (post adoption)
 - Fire, police, library, parks & recreation, or storm drain facilities
 - Implementation Steering Committee (post adoption)
 - Tracking measures of success (post adoption)

DOSP Next Steps

- Fall 2019
 - Community review of Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)
- Winter 2019-2020
 - Development of Zoning and Zoning Incentive Program
- Summer 2020
 - Final Downtown Oakland Specific Plan • Final EIR • General Plan and Zoning Amendments

Next Step: Zoning Incentive Study

- Studies how upzoning areas of downtown would affect land value
- How land value increases could fund pre-defined community benefits
- Draft study will be reviewed by Community Advisory Group in Fall/Winter 2019
- Final Public Draft Report will include case studies, research, financial analysis technical approach and outputs, program recommendations, and implementation strategies.

Send additional input to plandowntownoakland@oaklandca.gov

View the Draft Downtown Oakland Specific Plan at:

<https://oaklandca.gov/topics/downtownoakland-specific-plan>

3. Open Forum / Public Comments

Naomi Schiff: Wants to urge the Commission to make comments in writing re the Plan, do not give up current main library site. Fire alarm site is a historical landmark and should be reserved for library use also. The library needs social workers and additional space for the homeless people who are always in the library.

Kathleen DiGiovanni, representing Friends of the Oakland History Room, and recently retired librarian after more than 30 years of service. The Main Library is a public asset, and in need of funding for capital improvements.

Assata Olugbala: would like clarification about the process of discarding library books, specifically, African American book collection in West Oakland. Concerned re equity of employment at OPL; and the system to notify library users about library holds does not work.

Kathryn Sterbenc, former LAC chair and now current FOPL President. Thanked the Planning staff for including library feedback for Plan.

Victoria Barbero, citizen of Oakland, president of Friends of Lakeview branch, and former LAC chair. Concerned about homelessness and libraries being used as shelters. There is a great need for technology access. Listed the different services and resources that libraries provide.

Questions and comments followed from commissioners. Commission Chan thanked for inclusion of all library related comments into the Plan.

Commissioner Caleb Smith stated that he did some research on the financial impact the Plan will have on the Library. The Commission and staff need to take a look at the CIP fee as it will impact funding for library space and capital needs. Commissioner Smith will present a detailed report at the Sustainability Committee, and then bring it to the LAC's November meeting for discussion.

Commissioners can submit comments as individuals and as a Commission. There was a consensus that LAC will draft letter with additional comments to the Planning Commission.

4. Chairperson's Activities Report – Co-Chair Gonzales

- Met with OPL Advocate group
- Attended the Planning Commission forum; LAC to raise points to the Plan.
- Spoke at the Oakland Chamber of Commerce
- Plans to visit all branch libraries and try to learn more about them.

5. Director's Report – Jamie Turbak

- Upcoming activities. Attend “Happy Hour” event for Reading Partners – looking for volunteers to tutor kids.
- OPL fall lecture series explores Oakland neighborhoods
- AAMLO offering weekly story hour - - checkout OPL calendar of events
- Extended job offers to 19 library aides and 12 librarians, held interviews to fill the financial officer and HR positions. Started recruitment for supervising librarian for children services. Closed recruitment for librarians.
- OPL has been working with Alameda County, and planning accordingly, in preparation for the 2020 census, first year census will be entirely online. Important for County and Oakland to get everyone to participate as the entities will get money for each person who completes census. Commissioner Cook would like information when available to distribute to the homeless population in Hoover Durant area.
- Staff continues to work with Public Works regarding custodial services at the branches. Libraries are open on Mondays and paying for custodial services that they are not getting.

6. Standing Committees Update

Sustainability Committee –

- Met and discussed Public Works vacancies and its impact in custodial services at all the branches. Draft letter was prepared requesting that these vacancies be filled, also addressing concerns re custodial maintenance at all the branches. LAC reviewed draft letter and made changes, including lack of service on Mondays. Staff added that Parks and Recreation conducts a survey on facilities maintenance. LAC would like to adopt a similar survey for libraries. Staff will follow-up. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve letter with changes. Commissioner Chan seconded the motion. All approved. Sustainability members: Commissioners Cathy Smith, Chan, Jung, Gonzales, Forte. Meets bi-monthly, second Wednesday at the Chavez Branch.

Outreach Committee – no report.

- Commissioner Constant resigned and there was no follow-up. There are too many commissioners in Sustainability Committee. Need to have commissioners enlist in Outreach.

Outreach members: Commissioners Johnson (Chairperson), Cook (Vice chair), Mandros Bell, Moskovitz, Caleb Smith, Karwat. Meets 2nd Tue of month. Need to change location; staff will check on availability at Dimond, Chavez and Main Library.

7. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports – no reports due to timing.

8. Agenda Building:

- October 28: fiscal impacts on downtown plan, finalize letter downtown plan, book discarding policy (specifically what happened to the books in West Oakland branch), tour of main library.
- Nov: LAC Strategic plan Update
- Jan: Coll Dev and services, libraries services
- Parking near libraries, extend time periods for parking in front of libraries.
- Jan: census assistance in the libraries

11. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jamie Turbak, Library Director