



## LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES

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**Date:** March 29, 2021

**Recording:** [http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\\_id=7108c387-9893-11eb-8549-0050569183fa](http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=7108c387-9893-11eb-8549-0050569183fa)

**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 Nathaniel Dumas called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 12**

Ada Chan  
Alternier Cook  
Angelica Valentine  
Caleb Smith, Co-Chair  
Carolyn Moskovitz, Vice-Chair  
Jessica Jung  
Joseph Karwat  
Mary Forte  
Mary Going  
Nathaniel Dumas, Co-Chair

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 2**

Mary Jo Cook  
Tyron Jordan  
Ayushi Roy  
Cathy Smith

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

**1. Approval of Draft Minutes: February 22, 2021**

Commissioner Ada Chan made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mary Forte seconded the motion. Commissioner Mary Going abstained. All others in favor. Motion approved.

**2. Youth Leadership Council**

Supervising Librarian and Youth Leadership Council (YLC) liaison Sharon McKellar discussed the following:

- A. A Youth Development Librarian has been hired.
- B. Youth Leadership Council- Trying to get them engaged virtually. Most members are about to graduate high school and so it has been a challenge. Will put a pause on the group until fall and hit reset and regroup in a September relaunch.
- C. Teen Advisory Board- Has been meeting with Librarians, helping with social media, doing a blog, advising on COVID FAQ, developing activities such as the popular Social Saturdays.
- D. Youth Poet Laureate- The 2021 finalists have been confirmed and posted on website. Judging will be in April.
- E. An intern from Urban Leaders Fellowship will come on to organize information and build out programs for Ready-Set-Connect.

**3. Build America's Library Act (**SB-127**) (**S 127**) **HR1581****

Commissioner Caleb Smith discussed the Build America's Library act resolution. Commissioner Joseph Karwat made note that agenda item should be corrected to (S 127) as his search of SB 127 yielded no results. The correction has been made to these minutes. Commissioner Carolyn Moskowitz made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Ada Chan seconded. All in favor; the resolution was adopted unanimously. The resolution will be sent to Councilmember Kalb.

**4. Director's Report**

To: Library Advisory Commission  
From: Jamie Turbak, Director, Oakland Public Library  
Date: March 29, 2020  
Re: Oakland Public Library (OPL) – Director's Monthly Report

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**General Updates:**

- The Library Department reached an agreement with SEIU Local 1021 regarding reopening plans and now that Alameda County is in the Red Tier, four library computer labs opened last week. The computer labs are at Melrose, Golden Gate, 81<sup>st</sup> Ave and West Branch Libraries. When Alameda County enters the Orange Tier, library locations will begin to sunset “sidewalk check out” and roll out modified “inside services”, called OPL Express. This is tentatively planned for late April. Following the launch of OPL Express, we will continue operate with reduced hours (compared to pre-pandemic) as we rebuild our staffing capacity.

- On Thursday, March 11, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan which is expected to generate between \$163 and \$192 million for the City of Oakland in two disbursements, the first this spring and the second disbursement next spring. Without this stimulus package, the city was projecting a \$218 million dollar deficit in the general purpose fund over the next two year budget cycle. With this new source of one-time revenue, City Administrator Ed Reiskin plans to submit a proposal to the City Council for recommendations on how to allocate this stimulus package. Based on comments made during today's City Council meeting, I expect City Council to consider allocations for this stimulus package on April 12th.

In addition to funds that will flow directly to cities, the American Rescue Plan grants approximately \$10 million to California libraries through the state library to be used for technology, workforce development and job seeking programs.

- I attended several capital project meetings recently. Plans are moving forward for remodels at:
  - Brookfield
  - Elmhurst
  - Tool Lending Library expansion
  - The Shed (@MLK) remodel/expansion
  - Main Library electrical upgrades and “refresh”
- The Library Department is using private donations to do a light remodel at West Oakland Branch Library including floor replacement and new furniture.
- There was a major leak from roof water at the Asian Branch Library. The damage is significant enough that we will delay reopening for inside services in order to rip out and replace carpet, furniture and ceiling tiles. We will continue to provide sidewalk check-out at Asian Branch Library until repairs are complete.
- We have begun migration for a new public website called “Bibliocommons”. The migration is estimated to be complete in August 2021. The internal staff website is estimated to be complete June 2021.
- Completion of RFID tagging of all library materials and installation of Self-Check machines at every location.
- Food distribution at 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue Branch Library has been cancelled on Mondays but continues on Wednesdays and Fridays through March. This is due to decreased funding by World Central Kitchen. Food distribution continues unchanged at Chavez and Melrose Branch Libraries.
- I will be scheduling a meeting with City Administration to discuss the Library Measure Q reauthorization so that ballot language is ready to be considered by City Council in anticipation of an election in 2022.
- Jason Mitchell, Assistant City Administrator, has tendered his resignation effective end of April. I report to Jason Mitchell and have not yet been informed of the City's planned organizational structure after Jason leaves.

**Media:**

- [Story on NBC Bay Area](#): East Bay Librarian Talks Preserving Oakland's History - Dorothy Lazard has been the head librarian at the Oakland Public Library's History Center for 11 years. Inside, there are thousands of books, photos and maps that tell the history of the East Bay. She talked to Marcus Washington about preserving Oakland's history.
- Oakland Public Library librarian, Erica Siskind, featured in *American Libraries Magazine* [the article about Kamishibai storytimes](#).
- [Oakland's Melrose Branch Library Workers During COVID-19: Photo Essay by William Truong - Oakland Voices](#)

**5. Co-Chairpersons' Commission Report**

Co-Chair Caleb Smith encouraged advocacy to the council members. He provided a document which outlined how to participate in meetings and contact council members. Also provided was the OPL Responds infographic which contains specific numbers and accomplishments by the Library over the past year. Commissioners were encouraged to share the infographic with their electeds.

**6. Standing Committee Reports**

- A. Sustainability – Committee is advocating to have janitorial vacancies in Public Works filled and requested to make advocacy a standing item on the agenda.
- B. Outreach – Is currently short a member following Commissioner Gonzales' departure. Is still working on relationship mapping; if anyone is connected to a group, please let Commission Joseph Karwat know. Asked if there is a way for public to see the Audit results because compliance will work in favor of Library when next measure goes on ballot.
- C. Jamie will summarize ISF calculation and send to commission.

**7. Meeting with Electeds Update**

Commissioners Nate Dumas and Carolyn Moskovitz met with Councilmember Kalb and discussed Build America's Library Act, facility issues, and Measure Q. Commissioner Dumas has a meeting scheduled with Councilmember Taylor on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioners Jessica Jung and Cathy Smith met with Councilmember Fortunato Bas on March 3rd and discussed the Library's successes and the budget. They will meet again in a few months. Commissioners Alternier Cook, Mary Going, and Angelica Valentine have a meeting scheduled with Councilmember Fife on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**8. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports**

Commissioner Caleb Smith shared his experience with a community conversation on housing equity in another county and suggested that perhaps the Library or City could do something similar in Oakland. Commissioner Jessica Jung shared that a [love letter to the Library](#) that had been published in an article in Oaklandsider and how a keynote speaker reflected on the library as a constant in his otherwise constantly shifting childhood.

Commissioner Carolyn Moskovitz shared that Beverly Cleary and Larry McMurtry both died in the past week. Commissioner Mary Forte asked about restroom use at Elmhurst. There will be a portable restroom placed outside and part of the Elmhurst remodel includes adding a restroom.

**9. Agenda Building**

Suggestions were made for future agenda items:

Relationship mapping- Commissioner Karwat bring to a future meeting.

Strategic plan- Committees do the work and report back in the context of the plan in their committee reports.

Youth position on commission- Co-chairs will follow up with Jamie.

**10. Open Forum/ Public Comment (two-minute time limit)**

There were no public comments.

**11. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

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Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director