



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES

DATE: June 25, 2018

LOCATION: Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairperson Barbero.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: 8

Victoria Barbero, Chairperson
Lesley Mandros Bell
Reginald Constant
Nathaniel Dumas
Rosa Montgomery
Tyron Jordan
Aurea Lewis
Susanne Perkins

COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED: 4

Laura Liang
Rebekah Randle
Sarah McClung
Andrew Racle

STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Turbak, Interim Library Director
Lana Adlawan, Special Projects Supervisor
Mana Tominaga, Supervising Lib/Main Lib
Andrea Guzmán, Teen Services
Rosalía A. Romo, Recorder

Members of public: Assata Olugbala, Ailene Warren, Claudia Noble-Levingston, Edward Berne, Cathy Smith.

1. Approval of Minutes

Chairperson Barbero called for a motion to approve the minutes of April 30, 2018.

Commissioner Mandros Bell made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Jordan seconded the motion. All approved.

Votes: Yes – 8; Noes – 0; Abstentions – 0

2. Teen Services Report

Lana Adlawan, former Teen Services supervisor, introduced Andrea Guzmán, Coordinator for the Ready, Set, Connect program. Ms. Guzmán gave an overview of the program and listed the accomplishments for last year. The focus of the program is to help young people by preparing them along the way of a professional journey. Connections and partnerships with tech companies are extremely important, with site visits to these companies. There are 20 young people participating at nine branches, assisting patrons on how to work with computers. Branches are selected according to demand, foot traffic, computers available. Explained application process, primarily looking for young people who are connected with the community and want to help at the libraries.

Highlights of programs include: teen volunteers to help job skill development - so far over 1000 volunteers at all branches have worked over 5000 hours; there are 7 recreational teen areas at various branches; youth voice connection with community and schools; various programs and opportunities for teens. Top challenges: funding, capacity and staffing.

Adult Services Report

Supervising Librarian for the Main Library, Mana Tominaga, gave an overview of programming highlights. She encourages everyone to sign up for Adult Summer Reading, and then highlighted various large annual events at Oakland Library: biggest one is the Awesome Orchestra during National Night Out; LitQuake, a local author event; National Poetry Month programs for April, and Bike to Work Month programs in May. This year, Main also hosted an Eclipse Viewing Party (provided eclipse viewing glasses) in the fall, and the Working in America traveling photo exhibit; two job fairs, Care Villages with free haircuts and services, and travel programs. With FOPL funding, adult program in a box kits were launched. Also, the Library received a grant to establish a Veteran's Resource Center run by volunteers to help veterans through partnerships, and has now morphed into a Community Kiosk, hosting various partner agencies on a regular basis. Ideas come from the public and we always welcome suggestions. Questions followed.

3. Chairperson's Commission Activities Report – Chairperson Barbero

- Worked on the campaign
- Attended a focus session for the library director national search.
- The LAC has to finalize its Strategic Plan after the Committees review it.
- Cathy Smith was confirmed as a new LAC board member. Also, in the next few months there will be additional vacancies. Welcomes commissioners input for new candidates.

4. OPL Staff Activities Reports

Director's report highlights – Jamie Turbak

- City Auditor issued a Measure Q audit report, which is available on the City's website.
- On June 19, Council approved the City budget. The Library's budget included 77 full time employees (54 new positions, and about 22 positions funded) that would have been cut. With the passage of Measure D staff is working on next phase to expand hours, purchase materials, replace public computers, and a number of things that need attention.

- 20 people showed up at the director's search forums. Most of comments were directed to qualifications, efficiency, love of community and diversity. Recruitment process will take about 4 months.

5. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports

- Commissioner Montgomery: introduced Aileen Warren, Elmhurst Friends Group President, whom she is trying to recruit for the Commission. Ms. Warren stated that the Friends groups in East Oakland feel the needs in this area are different from other neighborhoods, and they will be meeting to strategize marketing and outreach to recruit and retain volunteers, neighbors around Elmhurst branch have asked how they can help. The Elmhurst Friends also obtained a FOPL grant and did landscape and built a ramp for the patio and bought chairs for teen room area. Public Works built planter boxes for gardening with the kids. Bathrooms are limited to staff use only. Commissioner Montgomery adopted Elmhurst Branch because it was her old neighborhood but lives in San Antonio area.
- Commissioner Dumas: Golden Gate branch is planning centennial celebration, fundraiser with Friends group, jazz sessions on Sundays, no maintenance concerns currently.
- Commissioner Constant: no report for West Oakland.
- Commissioner Mandros Bell: would like to increase Friends group membership. Held a Tool Lending Library street fair, chainsaw basic training, tool petting zoo - need adult volunteers to train for this to do at other branches.
- Commissioner Barbero: Lakeview branch busy with summer programs. Parking continues to be a problem as people park on the grass in the park.
- Commissioner Perkins: attended one of the City's capital improvement project (CIP) meetings at the Main Library. This is a series of meetings for the downtown renovation plan and she encourages commissioners to attend these meetings and bring attention to the need of a new Main Library. Visit the City's website for more information. Also attended the East Oakland Friends meeting at Elmhurst Branch, one of the goals is to speak with one voice for East Oakland and draft a letter to the Mayor about safety and other issues in the area; the group will meet quarterly. Melrose branch kick-off their seed lending library; great turnout for summer reading kick-off party, increased use of meeting room, and the ukulele group provided music for the summer party. Upcoming events NCPC fair and petting zoo for National Night Out.
- Commissioner Lewis: the Brookfield and AAMLO Friends are collaborating on a program at West Oakland. Introduced the new AAMLO Friends President Claudia Noble-Levingston, who addressed the Commission and added that the group is working on a career day in collaboration with AAMLO and Main Library for Oct 13; would also like to participate at the Art and Soul festival. OPL will have a space at festival and AAMLO Friends are welcome to participate.

6. Agenda Building

- Discussion of LAC Standing Committees.
- Downtown Plan (Public Works staff Cristina Reid)

7. Open Forum/Announcements

Ms. Olugbala stated that an audit report was presented at Council on Measure Q funding, and that expenditures were not conforming with Measure Q requirements. Report on discarding of African American books at all branches will be presented at Council tomorrow, June 26.

Ms. Turbak encourages commissioners to review audit (available online) and will put it on the LAC agenda for review at next meeting.

Ms. Noble-Levingston asked with the passage of Measure D, how is the money appropriated for libraries? Money was intended for exhibits and programming at AAMLO. Staff replied that funding is put in the City's baseline strictly to fund programming for children, adult and AAMLO – previously funded by FOPL.

8. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Jamie Turbak, Interim Library Director