



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES

DATE: February 24, 2020

Recording: D19/19

LOCATION: Main Library Brad Walters Community Room

CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chair Gonzales called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 11

Cathy Smith
Carolyn Moskovitz
Caleb Smith
Mary Jo Cook
Nathaniel Dumas, Co-Chair
Viola Gonzales, Co-Chair
Amy Johnson
Mary Forte
Angelica Valentine
Alternier Cook
Ada Chan

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 4

Lesley Mandros Bell
Jessica Jung
Joseph Karwat
Tyron Jordan

STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Turbak, Director
Nina Lindsay, Associate Director
Rosalía Arteaga Romo, Recorder

1. Approval of Minutes

Vice-chair Dumas called for a motion to approve the draft minutes of January 27, 2020. Commissioner Caleb Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as recorded. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Votes: Yes – 10; Noes – 0; Abstentions – 1

2. Chairperson Report

Co-Chair Gonzales:

- Reviewed Measure D and Measure Q scope of work for audit from City Auditor. Audit is expected to be to complete in April.
- Reviewed branch adoption and suggested rotating for those who do not have a branch/commission assignment in order to cover all branches.

Co-Chair Dumas:

- Redesigning the commission packet and preparing orientation for new members, hopefully by the end of March.

3. Director's Report – Jamie Turbak

- Flew to Washington DC in February through the American Library Association to meet with legislative representatives, including Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Lee, to restore the IMLS funding at federal level and other funding for school libraries. This is the 4th year that funding has been eliminated.
- Kamala Harris staff is considering donating her presidential run papers to AAMLO.
- Received a Pacific Partnership grant for 2 staff members from Los Angeles County to tach the Icount process training. 30 OPL staff participated.
- Measure D and Measure Q audit is in process. Both Library and City Auditor staff met and the work is going well.
- Working on the mid-cycle budget, balancing funding (balancing cuts) shift money to fund other measures, not really making cuts or reductions. The revenues in Measure D are coming in lower than anticipated. The Library's new chief financial officer, Janelle Veresa, will make a budget presentation to the LAC in May.
- We have a new custodial supervisor for the library, Mark Hayes.
- Elmhurst Branch received new furniture.
- Attending the Feb 26th OUSD School Board meeting regarding the potential new Piedmont branch library using an unused school property on Echo Avenue.
- Staff is still waiting for news regarding project manager assignment for a new feasibility study.

4. Comment Letter Regarding Incentives for Downtown Oakland Specific Plan

Commissioner Chan is in process of editing a letter on behalf of the LAC to the Planning Commission re increasing the impact fees for the Main Library and not just for downtown facilities included in the DOSP. We want to assert that cultural centers (such as the library) should be the priority as they serve everyone. Strategically, we are asking that the Fire Alarm Building and category be identified and included, not to exclude. Also include the Hoover Durant project in the Downtown Plan (West Oakland, AMMLO and Hoover Durant); and ask for a separate library impact fee. March 11th is next DOSP community meeting and other commissioners are encouraged to attend as Commissioner Chan won't be available.

5. LAC Strategic Plan Review

Commissioners went over the Plan and updated the goals. Staff will send the OPL's Strategic Plan to LAC. Director Turbak added that this was an internal process for a 3-year plan that focused on services (subject to Measure D passage). Also, OPW feasibility study has a project manager working with Dianne Tannenwald (Library's project manager) on various library facilities issues.

It was recommended that the Sustainability and Outreach Committees review the Strategic Plan changes and create a first draft and a vision statement and bring back to the next LAC meeting.

6. Meetings with Electeds Update

- Commissioner Dumas waiting for reply to schedule meetings with CM Taylor.
- Commissioners A. Cook, Caleb Smith and Valentine will meet with CM McElhany and Kaplan.
- Commissioner MJ Cook will meet with CM Bas.
- Commissioner Johnson will meet Tao.
- Commissioner Jung will meet district Kalb.
- Commissioners Chan and Forte will meet CM Larry Reid.
- Commissioner Caleb Smith will meet CM Noel Gallo.

Commissioners Cathy Smith and Ada Chan will work on talking points for these meetings.

6. Standing Committees Update – no reports

8. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports –

- Commissioner Caleb Smith: OUSD continues talks to surplus the former pre-school Child Development Center site located on Echo Ave. The Piedmont Branch Library Friends and the community have been actively outspoken in support of convincing the School District not to surplus the site and allow the Piedmont Branch Library to use it as a new permanent location. The Library does not have a backup plan for a permanent site. OUSD is not entirely sold on this idea and is considering two other uses for the facility. The School Board plans to meet this Wednesday to continue discussion. The LAC sent a letter to the School Board, and Commissioners are encouraged to attend meeting and contact the School Board members to lobby for the library before Wednesday's meeting. Commissioner Chan agreed to attend. Director Turbak is meeting with Council member Dan Kalb to talk about cost of leasing the current Piedmont Branch Library and other issues.
- Commissioner Cook: the Hoover Durant Street Corner Library is also providing voter registration. They are in the process of getting new committee members, looking for long-term grants and donation, and plan to hold regular meetings the first Wednesday of the month. Would like to set-up an intro meeting with Friends of Hoover Durant and OUSD. West Oakland branch needs a new kitchen.

- Commissioner Forte: Elmhurst branch obtained new furniture, waiting for a new second bathroom. Staff planning a program on May 1st featuring Samuel Getachew, the new youth poet, with middle school students.
- Commissioner Moskowitz visited the new Hayward Public Library and can arrange a tour for LAC to visit this and the Castro Valley libraries. Contact her if interested.

9. Open Forum / Public Comments – none

Agenda Building:

- Race and equity presentation
- LAC Annual report to Life Enrichment Committee

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Jamie Turbak, Library Director