

## **Oakland Public Library Advisory Commission Sustainability Committee Meeting Draft Minutes**

July 10, 2019

Cesar Chavez Library

Call to order at 6:34PM

Commissioners in attendance: Dumas, Gonzales, Forte, Chan, Smith, Jeung

**Review of April minutes.** Commissioner Forte noted that the Mayor proposes budget changes in May, not June. Commissioner Chan moved that the draft minutes be approved as-amended, Commissioner Forte seconded the motion. The amended minutes were unanimously approved.

### **Updates on downtown planning commission meeting:**

The meeting was attended by Commissioners Caleb Smith and Ada Chan.

Certain members of the public were concerned about the possibility of a new main library in a new location. There is a concern that the city could negotiate away the existing city land holdings where the current main branch is now if the main branch changed locations. There was also concern that there would be pushback from city officials on funding because library wasn't previously a part of the budget for the Downtown Plan.

The commissioners discussed messages to bring to the Planning Commission. Potential messaging points would be: generating financing for a new main, exploring the possibility of renovating the existing building instead of building a new building, activation of public space and investment in public space, development of cultural space that is accessible by all members of the public, and prioritization of public facilities with a focus on libraries as a public recreation and use facility. There should also be an emphasis and recognition that the new downtown development presents a once in a generation opportunity to develop a new Main Library Branch. At this stage, there needs to be a focus on where and how to get financing for this project and that should be emphasized to the planning commission. There was a discussion of financing strategies that should be considered such as private funding in addition to public funding.

The commissioners then discussed positive experiences with newer libraries such as Denver, San Diego and Hayward.

**Other items:** our plans for the next full commission meeting are to: (i) get clarification on the mission and goals of the library under Director Jamie Turbak; (ii) get clarification on any plans replacing Gene Tom and how that will affect the commissions ability to receive an annual budget summary.

**Review of Oakland City 2019-2021 adopted budget.** The city funded the library according to Measure D and Measure Q standards.

**Frequency of meetings:** Given the budget cycle, there isn't a current need to have monthly subcommittee meetings. It was proposed that the Sustainability subcommittee meet on a bi-monthly basis. Commissioner Chan moved to approve, Commissioner Jeung seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Future agenda:**

September: Commissioners plan to review the downtown plan and discuss talking points for future discussions with the planning commission and elected officials.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Smith