



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES

Date: August 30, 2021

Recording: http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=bcf2689d-0b56-11ec-9f1e-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.

CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chair Caleb Smith called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 12

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 1

Cathy Smith

STAFF PRESENT:

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

1. Approval of Draft Minutes: June 28, 2021

Commissioner Ada Chan made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mary Forte seconded the motion. Commissioners Alternier Cook and Mary Going were not present for this portion of the agenda and did not cast a vote. Commissioner Angelica Valentine abstained. All others in favor. Motion approved.

2. Measure Q Renewal Update

Director Jamie Turbak encouraged commissioners to review the documents regarding political activities provided by Public Ethics. She also shared that there is a volunteer advocate group planning for a measure to go on the ballot in 2022. There are two opportunities; either June or November. There will be a community poll to determine which services are most important and then advocates will begin working on campaign.

3. Commission Membership Update

Vice-chair Carolyn Moskovitz opened a discussion around continuing membership. Commissioners Alternier Cook, Mary Forte, Carolyn Moskovitz, and Ayushi Roy expressed interest in continuing to serve on the commission. Commissioner Mary Forte asked to be resent the application to reapply. Commissioners Joseph Karwat and Jessica Jung were undecided. Commissioner Ada Chan expressed that she will not renew and may join a Friend’s group. Commissioner Cathy Smith is in holdover status until her return from leave. As part of the discussion, feedback was given to update the action plan, focus on fewer things and put more action into those things, troubleshoot the LAC process to be more action oriented, and keep in mind the great work being done and the impact of the work.

4. Director’s Report

To: Library Advisory Commission
 From: Jamie Turbak, Director, Oakland Public Library
 Date: August 30, 2021
 Re: Oakland Public Library (OPL) – Director’s Monthly Report

Summer Programs. Adult Summer Reading, Teen Passport, and Kids’ Summer Reading programs ended on Saturday, July 31. All 2021 summer programming was virtual, although some of the Kids’ programs incorporated take-home supplies. Some of this year’s participants won fabulous prizes via raffle.

- Kids: 2,037 participants. 1,369 children completed the program and earned a prize.
- Teens: 242 participants. 2,594 activities were completed, and 208 reviews were written.
- Adults: 454 participants. 2,624 activities completed and 608 book reviews written.

We reached more participants this summer than we did last year, but we are still not back to pre-pandemic levels. For comparison, please see the chart below.

| Total Participants | Kids | Teens | Adults |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2019 | 10,530 | 1,184 | 2,443 |
| 2020 | 1,026 | 136 | 346 |
| 2021 | 2,037 | 242 | 454 |

With schools returning to in-person instruction, we anticipate being able to reach greater numbers of children and families next spring. Next summer's participation numbers should be closer to those we saw in 2019.



Winner of a gift certificate to the Bookmark Bookstore!

AAMLO to receive \$50,000 Grant. The African American Museum & Library of Oakland was awarded a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund. This award will allow OPL to engage a preservation architect to develop a design plan for repairs and improvements to AAMLO's historic building.

Food Distribution. After more than a year of service, staff at the 81st Avenue and Cesar Chavez Branch Libraries discontinued free meal distribution last week as the World Central Kitchen (WCK) scales back its Oakland operations. The Melrose Branch will continue its partnership with the Alameda County Community Food Bank and will maintain its weekly produce and pantry giveaway.

In early August, WCK approached the City about partnering on a new program where persons in need of food can text a number and receive a free meal by a local restaurant. Throughout the last few weeks of meal service, library staff helped enroll people into the program. So far, OPL has enrolled approximately 50 families.

New Website. The launch of OPL's new website continues to be a top priority, and we are on track for a public launch in November. Currently, staff are being trained on the new site and identifying bugs and issues.

Friends of the OPL MLIS Scholarship Program. OPL was pleased to offer a generous scholarship award of \$1,500 each to three staff members who are pursuing their Master of Library and Information Science degrees. The 2021 scholarship winners are Library Aides and Library Assistants from Asian, Melrose and Rockridge Branches. The scholarship is made possible by the Friends of Oakland Public Library (FOPL).

Staffing Updates. Like many library systems across the Bay Area, OPL is currently experiencing many employee transitions. Here are some recent hires and promotions.

Promotions:

Donielle Woods, promoted to Branch Manager at AAMLO.
Sabah Abdulla, promoted to Teen Librarian at Asian Branch.

New Hires:

Shani Boyd, joins the OPL staff as the Children's Librarian at the Piedmont Avenue Branch.
Brianna Meli, joins OPL as the Children's Librarian at the Elmhurst Branch.

OPL in the News:

The City of Oakland’s Department of Transportation’s [summer edition of “We \[Bike\] Oakland.”](#) included a story about OPL’s Earn-a-Bike programs for kids at 81st Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr. Branches.

[Editorial: California is open. Why aren't San Francisco's libraries?](#) June 18, 2021



[Christian Robinson](#) art installed at Main, Elmhurst and West Branches. Children’s book artist and Oakland resident, Christian Robinson, had his work reproduced larger than life at a Target product launch at Jack London Square. Following the event, the pieces were donated to the Oakland Public Library to beautiful effect.

5. Co-Chairpersons’ Commission Report

Co-Chair Nathaniel Dumas reported that he had been reviewing applications for the vacant commission seats.

Co-Chair Caleb Smith reported that the Friends group is quite interested in the Measure Q renewal and are keeping an eye out for other ballot measures that may be coming up as well.

6. Standing Committee Reports

A. Sustainability – Commissioner Mary Forte reported that about 65% of open tickets were resolved and closed. It was noted that the dedicated painter is making a difference. Committee needs more information in the report; would like to come up with a dashboard or other tracking tool to measure and compare the maintenance in a meaningful way. Commissioner Mary Jo Cook reported that the talking points she sent out are no longer relevant.

B. Outreach – Commissioner Angelica Valentine reported that Outreach was unable to have a meeting because they did not reach quorum. There was discussion about the Annual Mixer being in person or virtual due to the COVID-19 restrictions and concerns. The consensus was that the event should be virtual.

7. Meeting with Electeds Update

Commissioner Ada Chan stated that the Sustainability committee would meet in September and work on talking points for electeds. The committee will “lean in” on Measure Q and highlight what did and did not work in the current measure and bring back to larger commission so that all commissioners will have the same messaging when meeting with electeds.

8. Commissioner’s Advocacy Reports

This agenda item was not discussed due to time constraints.

9. Agenda Building

- **September-** FOPL and Virtual meeting update
- **October-** Feasibility study update
- **November-** Update on annual mixer.
- **December-** Add December 5th as date of mixer.

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

A member of the public commented that the lights still had not been repaired at AAMLO. Director Turbak will follow up with Public Works and the commenter. Co-chair Caleb Smith asked Director Turbak to include the update in the Director’s report as well.

A member of the public expressed her appreciation of the work of the commission and that she looked forward to the opportunity to serve as a commissioner.

11. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

/ s /

Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director