



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES

Date: September 27, 2021

Recording: http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=d589692b-220a-11ec-9f1e-0050569183fa

Location: Zoom video conference

Pursuant to California Government Code section 54953(e), Library Advisory Commission Board Members/Commissioners, as well as City staff, will participate via phone/video conference, and no physical teleconference locations are required.

CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chair Caleb Smith called the meeting to order at 5:33 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
Cathy Smith
Ayushi Roy

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 1

Angelica Valentine

STAFF PRESENT:

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

1. Approval of Draft Minutes: August 30, 2021

Commissioner Ada Chan made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mary Going seconded the motion. Commissioner Ayushi Roy was not present for this portion of the agenda and did not cast a vote. Commissioner Cathy Smith abstained. All others in favor. Motion approved.

2. Friends of the Oakland Public Library

Kathryn Sterbenc, President of the Friends of the Oakland Public Library (FOPL) shared that the Friends of the Oakland Public Library non-profit was founded in 1950. Its mission is to advance the role of OPL as a vital community resource and as an institution critical to the culture, education, and welfare of our diverse community. FOPL supports OPL systemwide which differentiates it from the individual branch Friends groups that support individual branches. It gives approximately \$200,000 in grants annually to OPL. FOPL funds the Poet Laureate, systemwide programming, facility improvements and scholarships for staff. FOPL opened The Bookmark bookstore 28 years ago and it has continued operating through the pandemic. FOPL has about 900 dues-paying members, virtually all of whom are volunteers. FOPL only pays for an accountant and a part-time bookstore manager; everyone else is a volunteer.

FOPL is anticipating four upcoming vacant director positions and is actively recruiting. Lastly, Kathryn thanked the LAC for being a co-host of the 9th Annual Holiday mixer which will take place via Zoom.

3. Measure Q Update

Commissioner Mary Jo Cook is working on a scorecard that lists the requirements of Measure Q and Measure D and whether we've delivered on the requirements. She will meet with Jamie and finalize the document and bring it to the next LAC meeting.

Director Jamie Turbak reported that FOPL approved funding for community polling which would start in the next two weeks. The poll results will help inform Jamie's conversations with City Council who will put the Measure on the ballot.

Commissioners asked if poll results could be shared prior to going to Council. Kathryn Sterbenc responded that she would take the question back to the board and let Co-chair Caleb Smith know if poll results could be shared with LAC.

4. AB-361 Adoption of Teleconference Resolution

Last year, due to Covid-19, the Governor issued emergency executive order N-29-20 which suspended the teleconferencing requirements of the Brown Act. That executive order expires on September 30, 2021.

Assembly Bill 361 was signed and authorized local agencies to use teleconference without complying with the teleconference requirements imposed by the Brown Act when the legislative body holds a meeting during a declared state of emergency. This resolution is being adopted so that the commission can meet via teleconference.

Commissioner Alternier Cook made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Nathaniel Dumas seconded the motion. All others in favor. Motion approved and resolution adopted.

5. Feedback on New LAC webpage

Commissioner Mary Going shared that she was very impressed with the Poet Laureate videos and was very glad that they were front and center on the main webpage. Other feedback given was:

- It's nice that LAC page was linked directly off main page through the footer.
- The headers at the top of LAC page give a lot of options and that might be overwhelming.
- It's great to have the reference documents on the page.
- The privacy statement is unclear; it would be great if it was simplified so user understands what they are agreeing to.
- Website is easy to navigate. Signing up for the newsletter was quick and easy.
- The zoom links for the meeting are in the agenda and it takes several clicks to drill down to actual meeting link from the main LAC page. Can we put link directly on page so it's not hard to discover?
- Language accessibility is great on website and mobile.
- Kudos for site being organized by what people need instead of what we do.
- Will the URL for the new site ultimately switch from the bibliocommons to the current OPL URL? This will make for fewer clicks from Google search results.
- Something to watch out for regarding accessibility for those who use a screen reader for visual impairment: the ALT text on the non-English sites is not fully up to date which may hinder the screen reader's ability. Commissioner Ayushi Roy offered to assist if needed.

6. Director's Report

To: Library Advisory Commission

From: Jamie Turbak, Director, Oakland Public Library

Date: September 27, 2021

Re: Oakland Public Library (OPL) – Director's Monthly Report

New Website. Monday, September 20, 2021, OPL launched public preview of the new website. Feedback has been positive. One “complaint” was a request take down the old site now. The cutover will be complete on November 8.

Community Engagement. I attended two community meetings hosted by the Friends of San Antonio Park to provide information and listen to interest for a library in the San Antonio neighborhood, a need identified in the 2006 OPL Master Facility Plan.

Partnerships. For informational purposes, I share recent or upcoming service partnerships:

- “Pop Up” **tax help with AARP** at Main Library on two Saturdays in October
- Promoting **Alameda County Age Friendly Council's** “Digital Inclusion Survey”
- Blood Drive with **San Francisco Zion Church**
- Help for Renters with **Oakland Tenants Union**
- Book Giveaway and Outreach with **Curry Foundation** (see article below)
- Promoting Oakland Resilient Families guaranteed income pilot with **Oakland Thrives Leadership Council**

- Share information about CA COVID-19 Rent Relief from the **Office of Senator Nancy Skinner**
 - Program expires on Thursday, September 30. Register at: [HousingIsKey.com](https://www.housingiskey.com) or call 830-430-2122
- Remote Business Assistance Center (BAC) pilot by **Oakland Economic & Workforce Development** staff
 - 30-minute appointments at five library locations:
 - West Oakland (every other Monday morning)
 - 81st Avenue (every other Tuesday evening)
 - César E. Chávez (every other Wednesday evening)
 - Golden Gate (every other Thursday morning)
 - Eastmont (every other Friday afternoon)
- Plans to partner with **Tech Exchange** to provide adult computer instruction at 81st Avenue Library
 - Patrons will learn: parts of the computer, how to access the internet, how to create an email account, icons and apps, how to create Word documents, online safety and privacy. Patrons will receive a refurbished laptop upon completion of the class.
- Tabled with **Oakland Firesafe Council** for community disaster preparedness
 - Staff from **Asian Pacific Environmental Network** joined in to translate in Chinese. 150 people stopped by the table on September 18, and all ages had fun posing in firefighter hats!



- Provided services at City Hall through **Lava Mae's Pop-Up Care Village**
 - The event provided a one-stop-shop for people experiencing homelessness, from free job preparedness advice, to hygiene kits, adult education opportunities, clothes, health services, food, books, and haircuts.



AAMLO Facility Update. In response to last month’s meeting expressing concern about the lights at AAMLO, I provide this update from City of Oakland Public Works Department. Here are the details:

- The remaining high exterior lights will be serviced within the next 2 weeks. This service will require a bucket truck, transformer replacement, and lamp replacement.
- The high interior lights will require scaffolding to reach them (our lift is too heavy for the elevator). PWA is in the process of obtaining a quote. PWA will ensure that the custodian can clean the globes while the lights are serviced.

New Hires and Promotions.

- **Stanley Lamontagne**, Librarian I, Youth Services Support, **Rockridge Branch**
- **Sunny Kim**, Librarian II, Children's Services, **Dimond Branch**

OPL in the News.

- SFChronicle.com, September 8, 2021, by Ann Killion, *Steph and Ayesha Curry's newest vehicle for serving Oakland: A transformed bus*

When Stephen and Ayesha Curry launched their foundation Eat. Learn. Play. (ELP), they viewed it as a way to mobilize forces to help underserved communities.

Now, they’re taking that term “mobilize” quite literally.

On Wednesday, ELP will unveil a mobile resource center: a custom-built former school bus that will deliver all three pillars of the foundation’s purpose — nutrition, education and recreation — directly to the Oakland community.

“It is crazy to see it come to fruition,” Ayesha said Tuesday. “It’s very exciting.”

How do you get all three concepts into one vehicle?

“It has exceeded our expectations,” Stephen said. “It’s like a Transformer.”

The Currys, along with their partners, have sought innovative ways to bring needed resources directly into the Oakland community. When the pandemic hit, they leaped into action, partnering with the Alameda County Community Food Bank and World Central Kitchen, among others, to help provide more than 18 million meals in Oakland.

Now the brightly colored bus, designed by Cruising Kitchens based in San Antonio, is part food truck, mobile library and funmobile. The passenger side is a food service area, which will distribute pre-made meals, grocery staples and fresh produce. The other side will be a free bookstore and mobile library. The bus also comes with a basketball hoop, a roof deck that can hold up to 35 people, and a sound system and screens that will enhance community events.



“Initially, I wanted to go into areas where there are food deserts — no access to fresh produce within a 5-mile radius,” Ayesha said. “We decided to put it on wheels and meet people where they are.”

The Currys have been eager to lean into the “Learn” pillar of their foundation, especially as the educational toll of the pandemic is still being revealed. Children have missed learning opportunities, and those who don’t have easy access to technology or have parents who must work outside the home are at greater risk than ever of being left behind.

“We want to create joy and excitement around learning,” Stephen said. “Teachers are challenged every day with how to make their classrooms fun and make learning cool. I hope we can provide some assistance in that respect.”

The goal is to distribute 100,000 books annually. The books are curated through partnerships that include the Oakland Public Library. The Currys hope to have events such as readings by children’s book authors and backpack distributions.

“There are a lot of statistics that if kids are not at reading level by third grade, they are at risk of being left behind,” Stephen said. “We want to help be involved early in the process.”

Though the bus will be launched at a private event, the Currys hope it will become part of the community, that people will be able to find it through ELP’s social media and even request that it appear at various events. And sometimes the Currys will be there, too.

“We don’t want to set the expectations that we are going to be driving the bus everywhere,” Stephen said. “But there will be special occasions where we will be there, for sure, and we want to be able to broadcast that loud and clear.”



New Resource.

The Oakland Public Library is pleased to add [MakeMake](#) to its collection of online resources. MakeMake is a digital platform of 300 Spanish-language eBooks for children that offers no check out limits or wait lists. The collection includes picture books, read-along books, and interactive books from Latin America. The interface and search options are also in Spanish.



7. Co-Chairpersons' Commission Report

Co-Chair Nathaniel Dumas reported that he and the other chairs had reviewed applications for the upcoming vacancies and made a couple of selections.

Co-Chair Caleb Smith reported that he attended OPL advocates meeting and the mixer planning is going well. Co-chair Caleb Smith also asked committee members to please let Co-chairs know in advance if they cannot make a meeting.

8. Standing Committees Reports

A. Sustainability – Commissioner Mary Forte reported that they met in September and had guest Steve Lavoie, local 1021 union representative to discuss the maintenance workers and custodian testing. The written test has been done and there are 63 candidates on eligible list. There are currently 15 vacancies, two of which belong to the Library. Sustainability would like the Feasibility Study to be a standing agenda item so they are kept abreast of the updates. Last, they came up with a format for the maintenance report which was shared to Jamie for feedback.

B. Outreach – Co-chair Caleb Smith reported that Outreach was unable to have a meeting because they did not reach quorum.

9. Meeting with Electeds Update

There were no updates for this agenda item.

10. Commissioner's Advocacy Reports

Commissioner Alternier Cook reported that the Chair of the West Oakland Library Friends group reported attempts to have various items worked on in the Library. She forwarded the information to Commissioners Mary Forte and Ada Chan.

11. Agenda Building

- **November-** Update on annual mixer.
- **December-** Add December 5th as date of mixer.

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

A member of the public gave an update on various events taking place at AAMLO.

13. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,

/ s /

Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director