



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES

Date: November 29, 2021

Recording: http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=07de94c1-3690-11ec-88a7-0050569183fa

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: 11

Alternier Cook
Nathaniel Dumas, Co-Chair
Mary Forte
Jessica Jung
Carolyn Moskovitz, Vice-Chair
Ayushi Roy
Karen Roye
Caleb Smith, Co-Chair
Cathy Smith
Cristina Tostado
Angelica Valentine

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 1

Mary Jo Cook

STAFF PRESENT:

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

1. Approval of Draft Minutes: October 25, 2021

Commissioner Jessica Jung made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mary Forte seconded the motion. Commissioner Cristina Tostado was not present for this portion of the agenda and did not cast a vote. All in favor. Motion approved.

2. Welcome New Commissioners Karen & Cristina

Co-chair Nate Dumas welcomed Karen Roye and Cristina Tostado to the commission. Both new commissioners expressed their excitement about being on the commission and their readiness for the work of the commission.

3. Annual Mixer Update

Commissioner Angelica Valentine reported that mixer preparation was almost complete and there were 54 registrants. She shared the registration link and asked commissioners to share it far and wide to spread the word. Library staff Kere Gonzales reported that the event and registration link had gone up on the Library's social media pages.

4. Co-Chairperson's Commission Update

Co-chair Nate Dumas reported that he had completed the orientations with the new commissioners. He also reported that he would send the Measure Q scorecard to FOPL. Co-chair Caleb Smith reported that he'd learned the results of the recent opinion poll conducted by FOPL regarding future Library funding. He stated that the full report belongs to FOPL and could not be given to the commission but highlighted a few key data points from the poll. The most important was that the Library has a strong favorability rating among voters.

5. Measure Q-Letter to City Council

Co-chair Caleb Smith asked commissioners for feedback regarding the Council letter that had been sent. Multiple commissioners commented that they agreed with the letter. Commissioner Carolyn Moskovitz made a motion to approve letter, authorize the Co-chairs to make minor revisions, and forward the letter to Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mary Forte. All in favor. Motion approved. Library Staff Kere Gonzales will send the finalized letter and previous budget presentations to commissioners next week.

6. AB-361 Adoption of Teleconference Resolution

In 2020, 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 expired on September 30, 2021.

In September 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 re-adopted so that the commission can meet via teleconference.

Commissioner Mary Forte made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Nate Dumas seconded the motion. Commissioner Jessica Jung abstained. All others in favor. Motion approved and resolution adopted.

7. Director’s Update

Community Poll Result Summary

- Generally, voters are happy with and value Oakland Public Libraries and see a need to support them with additional funding
- There is support for extending the current tax (Library Measure Q)
- Priorities included youth spaces/programs and keeping libraries open, clean and maintained
- Approval ratings, especially among those who use the libraries most often, are up since 2017 by approximately 14 points (about 77% for strongly approve or somewhat approve)
- In 2017, 33% of respondents said “don’t know / have no opinion” about performance of libraries. In 2021, only 15% of respondents said, “don’t know / have no opinion”, while the percentage of those who approve increased.

Piedmont Avenue Library

- The City received an extension to respond to OUSD’s counter proposal for lease terms for the property at 86 Echo Avenue

Feasibility Studies

- Consultants for the Main and Hoover Durant Libraries feasibility studies have been selected and will be recommended to City Council who has authority for final approval.

The Oakland Public Library Annual Report is available online.

8. Standing Committees Updates

Sustainability – Commissioner Mary Forte reported that interviews have occurred for the custodians for Main Library. There are two job offers and Public Works is waiting for Human Resources to get employees in place. She also reported that she and Ada Chan had met with Director Jamie Turbak and saw a sample of a maintenance report that can be run for each branch. Commissioner Mary Forte said that the focus of this report will be on custodial and cleanliness rather than maintenance items.

Outreach – Commissioner Angelica Valentine reported out for the Outreach committee in agenda item #3 above.

9. Meeting with Electeds Update

Co-chair Caleb Smith stated that once the Measure Q Council letter is ready it will be a good time to meet with elected officials, ideally by the end of January. The Council assignments are as follows:

Councilmember	District	Commissioner
Kalb	1	Carolyn Moskovitz
Kalb	1	Nate Dumas
Fortunato Bas	2	Cathy Smith
Fortunato Bas	2	Cristina Tostado
Fife	3	Alternier Cook

Fife	3	Angelica Valentine
Thao	4	Karen Roye
Thao	4	Mary Jo Cook
Gallo	5	Caleb Smith
Taylor	6	Nate Dumas
Reid	7	Mary Forte
Reid	7	Cristina Tostado
Kaplan	At large	Alternier Cook
Kaplan	At large	Caleb Smith
Mayor	-	Alternier Cook
Mayor	-	Caleb Smith
Mayor	-	Karen Roye

10. Agenda Building

- **January** – Mixer Debrief, Committee Assignments and Functions, Meeting Frequency, Strategic Plan.
- **February**- Public Ethics Refresher, Elections
- **March**- Budget Update, Life Enrichment Committee Memo

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

Public commenter Claudia Noble-Levingston reported that the exterior lighting at AAMLO is now working however, the interior lighting on the second floor still needs repair. Commissioner Cristina Tostado will continue working to get maintenance issues addressed.

12. Farewell to Departing Commissioners

Various commissioners and Director Turbak gave kudos, well wishes and expressed gratitude to our departing commissioners Jessica Jung and Mary Going.

13. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,

/ s /

Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director