



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) FINAL MINUTES

Date: January 31, 2022

Recording: http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=74500af2-891a-11ec-972b-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 5:34 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 9

Mary Jo Cook
Mary Forte
Carolyn Moskovitz, Vice-Chair
Ayushi Roy
Karen Roye
Caleb Smith, Co-Chair
Cathy Smith
Cristina Tostado
Angelica Valentine

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 2

Alternier Cook
Nathaniel Dumas, Co-Chair

STAFF PRESENT: 2

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

1. Approval of Draft Minutes: November 29, 2021

Commissioner Mary Forte made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Karen Roye 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. Open Forum/ Public Comment (two-minute time limit)

Public commenters were:

Kathryn Sterbenc- Reported that the kickoff of the reauthorization of Measure Q campaign has started. It will go on ballot in June. The first renewal meeting will take place on February 7th. Please contact Kathryn at email: OPLadvocates@gmail.com for more information.

Claudia Noble-Levingston- Reported that the interior lighting at AAMLO is getting dimmer; requested an update on the status of maintenance. The exterior is coming along nicely; the neighbors have expressed appreciation at the beautification being done at AAMLO. The Voices and Vision of Change five-week pilot program students performed their own pieces of work at an afternoon program for family and friends.

Cherry Campbell- Echoed previous speaker's concerns about lighting at AAMLO. Asked for clarity around why doesn't AAMLO get the attention and funding that is needed due to its dual role as a library and museum.

Assata Olugbala- Reported concern regarding replacing a child development center at Piedmont with a library.

3. Annual Mixer Debrief

Commissioner Angelica Valentine reported that mixer attendance was great. There were 50 attendees in 2021 which was 50% of the people who signed up. People were very engaged and excited. Commissioner Mary Forte reported that she made a connection with a staff member from the bike program at 81st Avenue branch who later came to pick up two bikes that she donated. Other commissioners expressed gratitude for the event.

4. Committee Assignments and Meeting Frequency

Co-chair Caleb Smith started the discussion by defining each committee's role as an introduction to the larger conversation regarding meeting frequency. He opened the floor to feedback regarding committees' roles and effectiveness. The following feedback was received:

- Change the names of each of the committees so that they are easily understood and reflect the committee's goals.
- Define/identify the work to be done by committee vs. the work done by whole commission to determine the actual amount of time needed for the work.
- Fewer, more efficient meetings are the most sustainable for volunteer positions.
- Full commission can/should go to bi-monthly meetings.
- Full commission meets 10 times per year and should stay with the current frequency.
- Library staff Kere Gonzales provided clarity regarding meeting frequency requirements for public noticing and committee requirements per the 2019 ordinance.
- Commissioner Carolyn Moskowitz made a motion to change the name of the Outreach Committee to Community Engagement Committee. Commissioner Mary Forte seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion approved.

- Commissioner Karen Roye will join the Sustainability Committee.
- Commissioner Cristina Tostado will join the Community Engagement Committee.
- Community Engagement will begin to meet in even months only. A special meeting will be noticed at the end of the year when it's time to discuss mixer plans.

The discussion regarding meeting frequency is ongoing; Co-chair Caleb Smith will continue to consult with the other chairs to discuss a more specific proposal to put to the group at the next meeting.

5. Strategic Plan Update

Co-chair Caleb Smith told the commissioners to start thinking about the strategic plan, and it will be updated later this year after the results of the Measure Q reauthorization are known.

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 Karen Roye made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Cathy Smith seconded the motion. All others in favor. Motion approved and resolution adopted.

7. Director's Update

- Measure Q Reauthorization language is still being finalized by City Attorney, Budget and CAO. It was scheduled to go to Rules Committee on February 3rd and has been postponed by two weeks and is going on February 17th.
- January has seen a significant uptick in staff that tested positive for COVID-19 and it did impact operations, however, we did not need to close locations or reduce hours. Management went out to work at a few locations to keep them open in cases where staffing was thin. There were no known workplace transmissions and everyone who had COVID-19 has recovered and returned to work.

8. Co-Chairpersons' Commission Update

Co-chair Caleb Smith stated that the meeting frequency is still being discussed so that we end up at the right conclusion. He also reported that the League of Women Voters put out a report on the effectiveness of oversight commissions in Oakland and within it stated, "The Library Advisory Commission is one example of what a model oversight body could look like."

Vice chair Carolyn Moskovitz reported that one of the advocates spoke at the City Council meetings regarding the resolution to exclude people who did not provide proof of vaccination status and identification from facilities. As a result, libraries were exempted from the resolution.

9. Meeting with Electeds Update

Commission Karen Roye reported that she met with Dan Kalb’s Chief of Staff regarding maintenance at AAMLO and within the system.

Co-chair Caleb Smith reported that a small group of commissioners met with the Mayor. Commissioner Cristina Tostado reported that the group discussed doing book giveaways and resources for engaging the community. Commissioner Karen Roye reported that the Mayor has an incredible commitment to the Library as a community hub and a space where people can gather. Co-chair Caleb Smith reported that the Mayor was in support an inflation adjustment for the maintenance of effort.

There was a question of talking points since the budget has passed and councilmembers are already on board for Measure Q renewal. Co-chair Caleb Smith asked the Sustainability Committee to work on updating talking points with elected.

10. Standing Committees Updates

Sustainability – Commissioner Mary Forte shared the new maintenance report format which is now sorted by branch. This report will be generated quarterly. The Main branch was omitted and will be added in.

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

11. Agenda Building

- **February**- Public Ethics Refresher, Elections
- **March**- Budget Update, Life Enrichment Committee Memo
- **April**- no plans yet.

12. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

/ s /

Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director