



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES

Date: April 25, 2022

Recording: https://oakland.granicus.com/player/clip/4849?publish_id=a358fedc-c80e-11ec-a5da-0050569183fa&redirect=true

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 Nathaniel Dumas called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 8

Alternier Cook
Nathaniel Dumas, Co-Chair
Mary Forte, Vice-Chair
Carolyn Moskovitz, Co-Chair
Karen Roye
Caleb Smith,
Cathy Smith
Angelica Valentine

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 3

Mary Jo Cook
Ayushi Roy
Cristina Tostado

STAFF PRESENT: 2

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

1. Approval of Draft Minutes: March 28, 2022

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

2. 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 Nathaniel Dumas made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Karen Roye seconded the motion. Commissioner Caleb Smith was not present for this portion of the meeting and did not cast a vote. All others in favor. Motion approved and resolution adopted.

3. Open Forum/Public Comment (2-minute limit)

Public comments were taken and can be heard by clicking the link to the recording at the top of these minutes.

4. Membership Update

Co-chair Moskovitz introduced this agenda item as open for discussion regarding commissioners taking on branches as advocates and ideas for outreach since the LAC has four vacancies. Commissioners will encourage community members to apply for the vacant seats. Staff Kere Gonzales briefly explained the process and asked that people interested in the commission be directed to her to email address at kgonzales@oaklandlibrary.org.

It was suggested to create flyers to post in branches without representation to recruit for commissioners. Commissioner Angelica Valentine stated that Community Engagement committee would be willing to create flyers.

It was suggested that LAC members who do not currently have a branch assigned for advocacy to take a branch on. Staff Kere Gonzales will send the commissioner listing to the Co-chairs so they can see the current branch representation and reach out to commissioners as needed.

It was suggested that LAC terms be staggered in the future so that the commission doesn't lose a lot of people at the same time. Staff Kere Gonzales will have a conversation with her contact at the mayor's office to discuss how this can be accomplished.

5. **Standing Committees Update**

Community Engagement- Commissioner Angelica Valentine reported that the committee met on April 5th. They created suggestions for the Life Enrichment report that will be sent to Commissioner Nate Dumas.

Sustainability- Commissioner Karen Roye reported that the committee met on April 13th. They created suggestions for the Life Enrichment report that will be sent to Commissioner Nate Dumas. Committee also discussed supporting Measure C, bi-annual audits for OPL, the quarterly maintenance report and the branch survey. Committee will discuss the mission and vision of the committee and the renaming at next meeting in June.

6. **Life Enrichment Committee Annual Memo**

Co-chair Nate Dumas will incorporate suggestions from the subcommittees into the Life Enrichment report. The final document will be available at next meeting and will also be published on the webpage after it has been accepted by Council.

It was suggested that next year's memo be started earlier in the year so that commissioners can see the final draft of the document before it is sent. Staff Kere Gonzales duly noted that creation of the memo will be agendized starting in January 2023.

Commissioner Karen Roye made a motion to allow Co-chairs to draft and move forward the report. Commissioner Mary Forte seconded the motion. All others in favor. Motion approved.

7. **Director's Update**

Director Jamie Turbak covered the following:

- **High-Speed Broadband in California Libraries Grant.** On April 18, the California State Library approved an application for broadband equipment upgrades. A total \$323,367 has been awarded and now requires City Council approval.
- **Stronger Together, Out of School Time: OPL's Art for All Project 2022-24.** OPL submitted an application to the California State Library, requesting funds to carry out the Art for All project as weekly, in-person classes at branch libraries in underserved neighborhoods. The grant program officer invited OPL to submit a revised application in March, increasing the budget to \$175,000. While the final announcement has not yet arrived, we're hopeful that the Art for All program will continue through 2024 thanks to this grant.
- OPL resumed regular "in-person" storytimes (for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and families) the week of April 4.
- In 2007, the West Oakland branch library created a program that used charter buses to bring classrooms of local children (ages 3-6) from 14 underserved neighborhood schools to visit the library regularly, every 5-6 weeks. The children

and their teachers enjoyed a special storytime and then checked out books to bring back to their classrooms. Thanks to funding from a State & Federal transportation grant that is no longer available to the library, this successful and popular program ran for 13 years – through early March 2020, when the grant was spent out and closed. In mid-March, the West Oakland branch library resumed this beloved and impactful program with funding through the Children’s Literacy Programming Fund and gave it a new name: The Story Bus.

- New lighting has been installed at Dimond and Asian, improving the visual appearance as well as being more environmentally friendly.
- The contracts for the feasibility studies for Main Library and Hoover Durant are expected to go before the City Council on May 31st.
- In partnership with the California State Library and State Parks, OPL now offers free vehicle day-use entry to over 200 participating state park units operated by California State Parks. Passes can be checked out at any OPL location or put on holds. They are good for one week and are already in high demand.
- Earlier this month, Megan Keane joined OPL as the new Community Relations Librarian, and Andrea Guzman was promoted to OPL Web Specialist.
- The library is gearing up for a busy summer full of in-person programs and (at select locations) free lunches for children. <https://oaklandlibrary.org/opl-summer/opl-summer-for-kids/opl-summer-kids-events/>
- Link to the City Council agenda report and resolution regarding library services for the City of Emeryville. The grant agreement stipulates that City of Emeryville shall pay \$120,000 per year to City of Oakland through June 30, 2023 in order that Emeryville residents have the same OPL privileges as those who reside in Oakland. <https://oakland.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4800503&GUID=D0659912-C30E-4006-805A-CA973F2AB517&Options=&Search=>
- There is no contract or grant agreement for City of Piedmont. Since 2003, City of Piedmont has paid \$350,471 per year for City of Piedmont residents to have the same OPL privileges as those who reside in Oakland. This revenue is received under City Council authorization as part of the Budget process.



OPL in the Media:

- OPL was mentioned in numerous articles about the March 31 launch of the Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation’s Little Town Library initiative, including: [The Press Democrat](#), [Because of Them We Can](#), [Get Up! Mornings](#), and [ABC 7](#).
- *The Mercury News* profiled [Measure C](#) on April 22.
- Civil Eats recently published “ [Public Libraries Are Making It Easy to Check Out Seeds—and Plant a Garden](#).” The article includes many photos and quotes which highlight OPL seed lending libraries.

- *The Oaklandside* promoted the April 25 [Eastmont Branch Library program](#) with Harold Green III, author of *Black Roses: Odes Celebrating Powerful Black Women*.

8. Co-chairperson' Commission Update

Co-chair Nate Dumas reported that he is drafting the Life Enrichment Committee report and will incorporate the suggestions from the committee.

Co-chair Carolyn Moskovitz reported that a commissioner, Diane Davenport, from the City of Berkeley Library Commission will speak at our next meeting along with a commissioner from the City of San Francisco.

9. Meeting with Electeds Update

There were no reports of meetings with electeds.

10. Commissioner Advocacy Update

Commissioner Mary Forte reported that Elmhurst Library held an Earth Day gardening and planting event on Saturday, April 23rd. Vegetables and plants were planted in the backyard while children painted and did other activities. She also reported that there is a nearby unsheltered encampment that is across the street from the branch; it has several cars and vans which are in a location that used to be for patron parking. Lastly, Elmhurst has spent branch equity funds on a PlayStation 4, and a new large screen, and a new projector that can be used for game days and movie nights for the kids.

Commissioner Karen Roye reported that people have visited the seed lending library at AAMLO. There will be a beautification day at AAMLO on Saturday, April 30th. There is a celebration of the Jenkins musical family on Saturday, May 14th.

Commissioner Alternier Cook reported that Friends of Hoover Durant participated in an Earth Day event on Saturday, April 23rd at the old Community Market site. They handed out books and engaged community. They also handed out the flyers from the committee for Measure C. Friends of Hoover Durant are also developing a writing and drawing contest to be presented to the City Council for the feasibility study.

11. Agenda Building

- **May-** Presentation from Neighboring Library Commissioners/Membership Update
- **June-** Strategic Plan Revision/Discuss Legislation for Oversight Committee
- **July-** Recess
- **August-** Racial Equity Team Presentation/HR Director
- **Fall-** Budget Update, Public Works

12. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director