



**LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES**

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**Date:** May 23, 2022

**Recording:** [http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\\_id=fb662cec-dbb2-11ec-9ad4-0050569183fa](http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=fb662cec-dbb2-11ec-9ad4-0050569183fa)

**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.

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Co-Chair Carolyn Moskowitz called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 11**

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

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 0**

**STAFF PRESENT: 2**

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

**1. Approval of Draft Minutes: April 25, 2022**

Commissioner Mary Forte reported errors in three sections of the minutes and asked that minutes be amended to include the corrections. Commissioner Mary Forte then made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Alternier Cook seconded the motion. Commissioners Mary Jo Cook and Cristina Tostado abstained. Commissioners Ayushi Roy and Karen Roye were not present for this portion of the meeting and did not cast a vote. All others in favor. Motion approved.

The minutes, as amended and approved, will be posted to the website.

**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 Caleb Smith made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Mary Forte seconded the motion. Commissioners Ayushi Roy and Karen Roye were 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. Neighboring Commission Presentation- Berkeley**

Guest speaker Diane Davenport shared insight about the Board of Library Trustees and how they govern the Berkeley Public Library. The Board of Library Trustees is a governing board of five-members with one of its members appointed by the mayor and the four others selected by the board.

The Board of Library Trustees gets its authority from the city charter and has authority to appoint the director and employees, set salaries and wages, purchase and lease property, purchase books and materials, approve library policy and to set the budget.

Diane shared the history of the Berkeley Library's turmoil and the efforts made by the board to help improve the morale and culture within the library system. She also shared how the system operated and employees were redeployed during the COVID-19 closure.

In closing, Diane shared how the library and board are looking ahead during reopening. Part of that process has included increased hiring, staff training, and redevelopment of the strategic plan.

## 5. Neighboring Commission Presentation- San Francisco

Guest speaker Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi shared a presentation entitled, “How do we institutionalize love?” which is an account of her research and efforts, as the Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, to make the University of the Pacific a model anti-racist university.

Mary shared the steps and work that is necessary in becoming an anti-racist institution. One of the critical steps is to prioritize policy and decision making. She also shared the framework that should be used which includes budget processes, recruitment, goal setting and accountability measures.

In closing, Mary shared that the San Francisco Public Library just submitted its Racial Equity Progress Report; it is available for viewing online.

## 6. Director’s Update

Director Jamie Turbak covered the following:

- Nadia Elbgal, 18 years old, has been named the 2022 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate, winning a \$5,000 college scholarship. The award was announced by Mayor Libby Schaaf this past Saturday at the Lake Merritt Amphitheater at the culmination of a live event during which all seven Finalists performed.

The Oakland Youth Poet Laureate program, in its eleventh year, is run by Oakland Public Library Teen Services and is a citywide effort to celebrate literacy through poetry and connect young writers to far-reaching opportunities. Each year, OPL accepts submissions from talented Oakland writers (ages 13-18) to be considered for the honor.

- Starting May 28th, people of all ages can register to participate in our annual summer programs.
  - With Kids Summer Reading, kids who complete 20 days of reading during the summer can choose a free prize book and are eligible to win other prizes. Prize books will be distributed beginning June 18, 2022. The Grand Prize raffle winners will be drawn Friday, August 12, 2022.
  - In the Teen Summer Program, teens (13-17) can win prizes for doing what they already love to do: reading, writing online reviews, playing games, hanging out with friends, attending library programs, volunteering, and more. Grand prizes for teens include a Nintendo Switch Lite, a Chromebook, an electric guitar, Bose earbuds, and gift cards.
  - The Adult Summer Program offers adults chances to win a prize, including gift cards or vouchers to local restaurants and venues, for reviewing books and movies or logging activities. Adult Summer prizes are offered to participants 18 and over.
  - Grand prize winners will be announced after August 6.
- Today is last day to register to vote for June 7th election. Anyone who needs to register, can still do so online.
- Four reports will go before City Council on June 7th. These reports are for permission to accept and allocate over \$5 million in grants. It should be noted that the bulk of the funding has not yet been awarded.

- Tomorrow, Tuesday, May 24th, PWA Committee will hear the item regarding the two feasibility studies at 10:30am. The agenda items are numbers 5 and 6

**7. Co-chairperson' Commission Update**

Co-chair Nate Dumas reported that he incorporated the feedback from both committees in the Life Enrichment Committee report. The report was finalized and published for this meeting. It will be sent to Council later this month.

**8. Meeting with Electeds Update**

Commissioner Mary Forte reported that she has not met with CM Reid but has been emailing her regarding the status of the custodial hires; there has been no movement and no updates.

There were no other reports of meetings with electeds.

**9. Commissioner Advocacy Update**

Commissioner Mary Forte reported that Elmhurst branch is losing two employees to Berkeley and the branch manager will also be leaving in mid-June. She also reported that there is an encampment across the street that is impacting the branch parking and creating issues with litter and trash in front of the branch.

Commissioner Cristina Tostado reported that she is now assigned the Asian branch and had visited the branch to introduce herself, spoke to staff, and gave her cards to them. She reported that they are pleased to have a commissioner and have given her materials to distribute on their behalf.

There were no other advocacy reports.

**10. Agenda Building**

Staff Kere Gonzales informed the commissioners that City Council is recessing in August this year and proposed that committees discuss moving the LAC recess to August to match with the city council.

- **June-**Strategic Plan Revision/Discuss Legislation for Oversight Committee
- **July-** Recess
- **August-** Racial Equity Team Presentation/HR Director
- **Fall-** Budget Update/ Public Works

**11. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

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Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director