



LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC) DRAFT MINUTES

Date: September 26, 2022

Recording: http://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=77d6f726-3e8b-11ed-95a3-0050569183fa

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 Carolyn Moskowitz called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 8

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 1

Ayushi Roy, Co-Chair

STAFF PRESENT: 2

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

1. Approval of Draft Minutes: July 25, 2022

Commissioner Mary Forte reported an error in a section of the minutes and asked that the minutes be amended to include the correction. Commissioner Caleb Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Mary Forte seconded the motion. Commissioners Karen Roye was not present for this portion of the meeting and did not cast a vote. Commissioner Angelica Valentine abstained. 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 Mary Forte made a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Alternier Cook seconded the motion. Commissioner Karen Roye 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)

There were no public comments made during this meeting.

4. Oakland E-Bike Presentation

Kerby Olsen from OakDOT, Parking and Mobility Division, introduced the Electric Bike Library created from a million-dollar grant received from the state. He explained that the term “library” is being used conceptually in the name of the program and that it is not based in or affiliated with Oakland Public Library. Kerby also explained that OakDOT manages the grant, while the main contractor, Grid Alternatives, an Oakland-based non-profit organization, manages the day-to-day operations of electric bike reservations, lending, repairs, and maintenance.

Kerby introduced Edgar Arellano, of Grid Alternatives, to discuss and answer questions about the program. Edgar talked about the program’s desire to get feedback from the community as it is scheduled to run through October 2026. He then opened the floor for feedback from commissioners.

Feedback received was as follows:

- E-bikes should be free. Any cost at all is a deterrent to getting the bikes into the hands of residents that need them most.
- E-bikes should be accessible. There should be no minimum qualifications such as credit card, credit check, identification cards (due to our status as a sanctuary city), etc. that would exclude the residents the program is trying to target.
- The fact that this being called a “library” is uncomfortable because OPL’s offerings are free. Calling it a library will confuse patrons and is misleading since it’s not associated with OPL.

- Who covers liability? If a resident rents the bike and has an accident, is the resident or the program responsible for damage to the bicycle and/or the personal property and/or bodily injury of others?
- There isn't a planned location in West Oakland. The area described as West Oakland is actually considered North Oakland. There is a critical need for this in the area of the city that is true West Oakland.
- 300 bikes may not be enough to maintain an on-demand service; this contributes to the concern about financial aspect of the program.

The discussion wrapped up with Kerby Olsen explaining that operating costs will be covered by the grant in an effort to keep the program low-cost to residents.

5. Joint Letter to City Council

Commissioner Caleb Smith drafted a letter to City Council requesting they amend the City's Consolidated Fiscal Policy to write an adjustment for inflation into the maintenance of effort contribution for OPL. Commissioner Caleb Smith had discussed this previously, solicited feedback, and shared a draft of the letter at the last meeting. Today, he presented the finalized document that will go to council.

Commissioner Caleb Smith made a motion to forward the letter as written to City Council. Commissioner Mary Forte seconded. All in favor. Motion approved.

6. OPL Advocates Mixer

Co-chair Carolyn Moskovitz explained that the Community Engagement committee wanted to get feedback and opinions from the commissioners about the upcoming mixer in December. She explained that there were four choices to consider to for the mixer: 1) In-person, 2) Virtual on Zoom, 3) Hybrid and 4) A virtual event in December and in-person event in the Spring 2023. Of the eight commissioners present, four expressed interest in option 2 the other four in option 4. Commissioner Caleb Smith remarked that the decision didn't have to be unanimous but rather as feedback for FOPL. This information will be given to them so that a final decision can be made.

7. Director's Update

Director Jamie Turbak covered the following:

Summer Programs. Adult Summer Reading, Teen Summer Program, and Kids' Summer Reading programs ended in August. This summer was the first since 2019 with in-person programming at OPL. And while attendance and participation numbers were still lower than they were before the pandemic, 2022 saw significant increases. Below are the statistics from the 2022 Kids', Teen, and Adult Summer programs:

- Kids: 4,299 participants. 2,926 children completed the program and earned a prize.
- Teens: 588 participants. 3,847 activities were completed, and 131 reviews were written.
- Adults: 656 participants. 2,722 activities were completed, and 1,320 reviews were written.

For comparison, please see 2022 results compared with the previous three years:

Total Participants	Kids	Teens	Adults
2019	10,530	1,184	2,443
2020	1,026	136	346
2021	2,037	242	454
2022	4,299	588	656

Teen Volunteer Appreciation. A successful Teen Volunteer Appreciation Party was held on August 5. Approximately 35 teens participated at an event at Bowlero where they bowled and played arcade games. They received goodie bags, including snacks, teen zone swag and boba take and makes. These fieldtrips / team-building excursions are a great opportunity for teens to be able to meet teens from other libraries/communities. They can network and socialize with other youth and share ideas they have about the library and themselves.

Books for Wider Horizons is back! This innovative OPL program trains and then places volunteers as regular story-readers in Head Starts and Child Development Centers throughout Oakland. Program Coordinator Zully Batres is organizing the first annual training since 2019 and it launched on September 14.

Remodel. The Finance and Community Relations offices at the Main Library is being remodeled with fresh paint, carpet, and new cubicles to accommodate more support staff funded by the passage of Measure D and Measure C. The remodel project started on August 29 and is expected to wrap up in about 3 weeks (mid-October). OPL received great support from PWA’s painters, electricians, custodians and carpenters as well as from IT’s telecom division.

Piedmont Avenue Library. A report is tentatively expected to go before the Life Enrichment Committee on October 24th regarding a long-term lease with Oakland Unified School District for a potential Piedmont Avenue Library next to the trailer where the existing library operates.

Funding / Grants:

Building Forward: Library Infrastructure Program. OPL received grant awards from the State of California for infrastructure improvements to AAMLO and Brookfield. The awards are \$1,689,314 for AAMLO and \$2,148,333 for Brookfield for a combined grant award of \$3.8 million dollars.

Sunlight Giving Foundation. The Sunlight Giving Foundation’s Board of Directors will consider a recommendation to grant \$40,000 to the Elmhurst Branch Library for backyard improvements, including a shade solution for outdoor events, landscaping and seating for children’s meal programs.

Estate Gift from Joseph Thomas. Mr. Thomas, most recently of Walnut Creek, left 20% of his estate – more than \$350,000 – to the Oakland Public Library after his death in 2019. The protracted probate process is coming to an end and a distribution is expected in the coming year, so OPL will take a resolution to the City Council to request approval to accept this extremely generous gift.

Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation Grant. The Friends of Oakland Public Library received a generous two-year grant from Stephen and Ayesha Curry’s Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation. This grant will support multiple initiatives: OPL’s new Family Book Giveaway Project, the Children’s Literacy Programming Fund, and the Eat. Learn. Play. project announced earlier this year: Little Town Libraries. The first installment of this \$200,000 grant arrived at the Friends in August.

Branch Equity Grants. Due to the high impact, effective and efficient nature of Branch Equity grants, the Friends of Oakland Public Library (FOPL) generously increased the annual allocation provided to each library located in a neighborhood designated as Medium, High, or Highest Priority per the [OakDOT Equity Toolbox](#) to \$2,500 per eligible site for a total of \$22,500 total. Sites include, 81st Avenue, Asian, Brookfield, César E. Chávez, Eastmont, Elmhurst, Martin Luther King, Jr., Melrose, and West Oakland. AAMLO has a separate line item from FOPL that exceeds this amount.

Publicity

- Outreach staffer Manny Hernandez – wearing an OPL t-shirt – [appears in a promotion](#) for the Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation’s community works.
- Children’s Librarian Annabelle Blackman wrote an inspiring article [for The Family Gamers](#) on how board games can be used as an effective and welcoming literacy tool.
- OPL’s Sally Engelfried (Children’s Librarian, 81st Avenue Branch) has her debut novel coming out September 6! Mrs. Dalloway’s in Berkeley hosted a [special book launch event](#) on Sunday, September 11, 10:30 am-12 pm. Sally read from her middle grade novel “Learning to Fall” and was joined in conversation by author [Lisa Moore-Ramee](#).
- Commissioner Mary Forte was on tv doing excellent work sharing stories about illegal dumping and encampments in East Oakland. The clip can be viewed on YouTube using search words “Mary Forte” and “KPIX”.

8. Standing Committees Updates

Commissioner Cathy Smith reported that Sustainability is down three members now; if anyone is interested in joining, they are welcomed. She and Mary Forte met and discussed the staffing update from Mark Hayes. Commissioner Cathy Smith also reported they voted to change the committee meeting date from Wednesday to Thursday. When all members are present, the discussions about the branch survey, committee name change, and action plan will continue.

Commissioner Angelica Valentine reported that the Community Engagement committee had met and mainly discussed the mixer. Since it was covered earlier in the agenda, there was nothing to add.

9. Quarterly Maintenance Report

Commissioner Mary Forte reported that the full report will be published and discussed at the next meeting. There was a mix-up with staff Kere Gonzales and it wasn't published so it couldn't be discussed. However, the summary by branch was published and commissioners can look at their individual branch on it and look forward to the full report next meeting and then again in January 2023.

10. Commissioner Advocacy Update

Co-chair Carolyn Moskovitz reported that Co-chair Ayushi Roy is working on a rubric for screening applications. Currently, we have six applicants and one selection that is awaiting an appointment date.

Commissioner Mary Forte reported that there is a new branch manager and a new children's librarian at Elmhurst Library Branch. She also reported that the nearby encampment was not fully closed down. The Friends of the Elmhurst Library is having an "Urban Gardening 101" with Thai Basil on October 22nd at 10:15a.m.

Commissioner Alternier Cook reported that Friends of Hoover Durant Public Library and the West Oakland Library participated in the McClymonds High School Annual Picnic on Saturday, September 24th. They engaged over 100 people and gave away approximately 400 books.

Commissioner Karen Roye expressed excitement at AAMLO receiving grant money. The Friends and Stewards of AAMLO held a community clean-up event on Saturday, September 24th in the area around AAMLO.

11. Agenda Building

- **October-** Update to LAC Ordinance, Budget Update, Quarterly Maintenance Report
- **November-** Amplifying Service Delivery in OPL
- **Early 2023-** Co-chair Elections, Impact of Infrastructure Bond, Schedule Annual Audit.

12. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,

/ s /

Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director