



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

---

---

**Date:** May 22, 2023

**Recording:** <https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/HV0l4grnBy4dWSHAm4tKPFnFq5Ib8u3xTMz-2qNzFBK9OgKti6e3weg5w9Ep3tjS.4nK3W0uc-xCpZ7A3>

**Location:** Main Library, Brad Walters Community Room, 125 14<sup>th</sup> St., Oakland, CA 94612

---

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-Chair Mary Forte called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 10**

- Bradley Boyd
- Alternier Cook
- Mary Forte, Vice-Chair
- Carolyn Moskovitz
- Ayushi Roy, Co-Chair
- Karen Roye
- Cathy Smith
- Cristina Tostado
- Angelica Valentine
- Karen Zukor

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 4**

- Chiye Azuma
- Brittany Buckmire
- Caleb Smith, Co-Chair

Alex Weinberg

**STAFF PRESENT: 1**

Jamie Turbak, OPL Director

**1. Roll Call**

**2. Update on Teen Services**

Supervising Librarian, Sharon McKellar, gave update on Youth Poet Laureate and Summer Reading programs for teens.

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

There were no public speakers present.

**4. Approval of Draft Minutes: April 24, 2023**

Commissioner Karen Roye made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Angelica Valentine seconded the motion. Commissioner Cathy Smith abstained. All others in favor. Motion approved.

**5. Update from Ad Hoc Censorship Committee**

Commissioner Moskovitz reported that she reached out to Congresswoman Barbara Lee's office and spoke to an aide. She discussed meeting at the end of June. The aide was going to include some other Washington D.C. representatives. Commissioner Moskovitz would like to focus on these three concerns:

1. Attacks on what people are reading in libraries
2. Attacks on libraries directly
3. Attacks on librarians/library employees

Commissioner Moskovitz also discussed including the Berkeley Public Library Commission in this effort.

**6. Mixer Debrief**

Commissioner feedback on the Sunday, May 21 Advocate Mixer at the Main Library included:

- Great turnout
- 70 sign-ups
- 50-55 people showed up, including the Vice Youth Poet Laureate and 2 Council Members (Kalb and Fortunato Bas)
- Too sunny (needed more canopies)
- Liked the poetry

- Served different purposes (in comparing the AAMLO venue with Main)
- Main Library venue was better for conversation
- Too much desert (not enough non-sweet food/snacks)
- Fresh fruit was popular

## 7. Budget Update

Director Jamie Turbak summarized the Mayor’s Budget Proposal and the amendments of the Council Member Budget Committee (Fortunato Bas, Kaplan, Fife and Jenkins). Complete details and updates can be found on the City of Oakland website at:

<https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/fiscal-year-2023-2025-budget>

The final budget is expected to pass on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Current proposals do not significantly impact library operations or staffing levels. The Library’s reduction targets were primarily achieved through use of fund balances (savings built up during Covid-19 years when personnel expenditures were lower than usual). It is important to note that the reductions to the Library’s portion of the General Fund (1010) require City Council to vote to approve a fiscal crisis to the City of Oakland. Such a declaration allows an exemption to the “Maintenance of Effort” (MOE) required by the parcel tax ordinances, Library Measure C and Library Measure D. In order to prevent service and staff reductions in future budget cycles, it will be important cease reliance on fund balance and to restore the full minimum MOE of \$14.5 million of General Fund contribution.

## 8. Director’s Update

Director Jamie Turbak covered the following:

- **Elmhurst Branch Open House-** celebrate the newly renovated library branch, the first ever all-electric city facility! The open house will be June 30 and July 1 from Noon-4 pm, 1427 88<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- **Hoover Durant Feasibility Study-** Community engagement meetings are underway. Sign up for information at: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/its-happening>
- **Main Library Feasibility Study-** Community engagement meetings are underway. Sign up for information at: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/topics/oakland-main-library-feasibility-study>
- **State Library “Building Forward” grant-** OPL submitted about \$10 million in grant applications for capital projects at Melrose, Main Library and Hoover Durant. Grant awards are expected to be announced in October 2023.
- **Summer Events-** There are over 200 summer events happening at Oakland Public Libraries. Please try to visit a program or two. The full calendar can be found at: [https://oaklandlibrary.bibliocommons.com/v2/events?\\_ga=2.165501567.1912854262.1687281119-95138002.1565903379&\\_gl=1\\*24d1b0\\*\\_ga\\*OTUxMzgwMDIuMTU2NTkwMzM3OQ.\\*\\_ga\\_L60VDC2VGD\\*MTY4NzM3NTU0NC45MS4xLjE2ODczNzU2MDUuMC4wLjA.\\*\\_ga\\_G99DMMNG39\\*MTY4NzM3NTU0NC4xNDAuMS4xNjg3Mzc1NjA1LjAuMC4w](https://oaklandlibrary.bibliocommons.com/v2/events?_ga=2.165501567.1912854262.1687281119-95138002.1565903379&_gl=1*24d1b0*_ga*OTUxMzgwMDIuMTU2NTkwMzM3OQ.*_ga_L60VDC2VGD*MTY4NzM3NTU0NC45MS4xLjE2ODczNzU2MDUuMC4wLjA.*_ga_G99DMMNG39*MTY4NzM3NTU0NC4xNDAuMS4xNjg3Mzc1NjA1LjAuMC4w)

**9. Co-Chairperson’s Update**

No Report.

**10. Standing Committees Updates**

The next standing committee meetings are in June. Committees are looking forward to meeting with new City Administration and conveying the importance of filling critical vacancies. There are 6 or 7 members of the Sustainability Committee. Alex is excited or work on survey.

**11. Commissioner’s Advocacy Updates**

Commissioner Roye encouraged others to attend the Tammy Knight exhibit at AAMLO. On June 24<sup>th</sup> from 10:30-1:30 the Friends Stewards of AAMLO will participate in a beautification day. Please join, you will keep the grounds pristine and get some exercise!

Commissioner Cook shared a flyer about the Hoover Durant Feasibility Study upcoming Storytelling workshop on Saturday, June 3.

There was a clarifying discussion that Commissioner Zukor will adopt Melrose Branch and Commissioner Roy will continue to adopt Tool Lending/Temescal.

Commissioner Roy reported that Friends of Tool Lending Library seek storage space for donated tools for their twice monthly tool sale. She also reported that WeLink Cities is a company that helps cities bridge the digital divide among local communities that lack high-speed, affordable internet connectivity to homes.

**12. Agenda Building**

- **June 2023**-Public Ethics On-Demand Training Follow-up (There were questions about what this agenda topic is. Can Kere Gonzales help clarify?). Suggestion to have another “get to know you” Commissioner introduction session. Discuss “reaching out to electeds” and outreach.
- **July 2023**- Update from Ad-Hoc Committee on Censorship, Create Ad-Hoc Committee to Draft By-Laws.
- **August 2023**- Recess
- **September 2023**- Special Co-chair Election
- **October 2023**
- **November 2023** – Feasibility Study Update
- **December 2023**- Recess

**13. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

/ s /

---

Jamie Turbak, Library Director