



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

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**Date:** July 31, 2023

**Recording:** [https://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\\_id=1d216372-36d6-11ee-9e9a-0050569183fa](https://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=1d216372-36d6-11ee-9e9a-0050569183fa)

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

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Co-Chair Caleb Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 9**

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

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 5**

Chiye Azuma  
Brittany Buckmire  
Alternier Cook  
Cathy Smith  
Alex Weinberg

**STAFF PRESENT: 2**

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

**1. Roll Call**

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

There was a member of the public present, but he made no public comments.

**3. Approval of Draft Minutes: June 26, 2023**

Commissioner Carolyn made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Mary Forte seconded the motion. Commissioner Angelica Valentine abstained. Commissioner Cristina Tostado was not present for this portion of the meeting and did not cast a vote. All others were in favor. Motion approved.

**4. Update from Ad-Hoc Committee on Censorship**

Commissioner Carolyn Moskowitz reported that there have been recent attempts at censorship on school libraries. There will be an update at the September meeting.

**5. Create Ad-Hoc Committee to Draft By-Laws**

Co-chair Caleb Smith called for volunteers to work on the ad-hoc committee to draft by-laws. Commissioner Mary Forte volunteered and notified that Commissioner Chiye Azuma, who was not present, wanted to work on it as well. The final volunteer was Karen Roye. The ad-hoc group will give an update in October.

**6. Elected Officials Outreach**

Staff Kere Gonzales distributed the folders for councilmembers. Commissioner Mary Forte reported that she and Commissioner Chiye Azuma met with District 6 Councilmember Jenkins and provided highlights of the meeting. She also asked Commissioner Cristina Tostado to schedule a meeting with District 7 Councilmember Reid.

There was also brief discussion about City Budget Office proposal and the language around the financial conditions which define a fiscal emergency that can trigger the withholding of 1010 contributions. Co-chair Caleb Smith encouraged commissioners to continue to discuss the maintenance of effort with their councilmembers.

**7. Director's Update**

Director Jamie Turbak covered the following:

**Library Feasibility Studies.** 200 people have completed the community survey for Hoover Durant feasibility study. The survey will close on August 13. Please fill it out and share it with others in the next two weeks. There will be a public presentation regarding the survey results and the information gathered so far about Hoover Durant on Wednesday August 16 at 5:30 (location TBD). Please join us!

There has been one community engagement event at the East Oakland Boxing Association for the Main Library feasibility study. The next event is this Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup> from 1-4 pm at the Main Library. Soon, a survey will be released for this feasibility study and it would be great if everyone would share it with your networks.

I want to thank all the volunteers and library patrons who have participated in the pop-up events (such as Town Nights), the storytelling workshops, the surveys and the advisory committees. We are receiving important feedback about what the community values and wants in future libraries. Also, there has been a generosity of creative ideas and building upon each participant's contributions and enthusiasm.

If you and your networks have not signed up on the email distribution list, please do that so you receive updates.

**Safety Incidents.** Although the overall number of reported incidents at libraries has leveled off since the worst of the pandemic, suspensions are at high levels and violence or threat of violence continues to impact library services and traumatize patrons and employees. In the past week, there were two incidents at the Elmhurst Branch Library that caused the library to close early. Library Administration will continue to advocate for improvements to security, training and support as noted in my report from last month.

**City Administrator to visit libraries.** The City Administrator, Jestin Johnson, has 3 days of scheduled visits to libraries. I hope to share with him our successes and challenges and I'm excited that he wants to see for himself all that Oakland Public Library offers.

**Library Advisory Commission Ordinance.** Changes recommended by this body to change the Ordinance governing the Library Advisory Commission passed the first reading by City Council. Assuming passage on the second reading in September, the name of the Library Advisory Commission will change to be the Library Commission and quorum will be a majority of seated Commissioners (as opposed to a majority of 15).

**Library Advisory Commission webpages.** The City of Oakland Library Advisory Commission webpage has been updated in order to simplify finding meetings and information about the LAC. The Oakland Public Library's website has also been updated to be more user friendly. Check them out and let us know what you think.

## 8. Co-Chairperson's Update

Co-chair Caleb Smith reported that he presented to the Life Enrichment Committee regarding the annual report. He reported that, as part of a robust question and answer session, councilmembers asked about the geographical balance of library services such as tool lending and the ability to expand specialty services and programs across the system. Co-chair Caleb Smith encourage the commission to think about this for agenda building in the future.

Director Turbak gave Co-chair Caleb Smith kudos for the amazing job he did at the presentation. As he was being peppered with questions, he was extremely professional and knowledgeable and made a great impression on the councilmembers.

## 9. Standing Committees Updates

Commissioner Karen Roye asked that interested commissioners email her if they want to work on the ad hoc group for the survey. The meetings will take place via Zoom and will begin in August.

Commissioner Mary Forte shared the Quarterly Maintenance Report summary which showed the progress made over the past year. The next full report will come out in October.

**10. Commissioner Advocacy Updates**

Commissioner Karen Roye reported on events and exhibits taking place at AAMLO.

Commissioner Mary Forte reported on events and updates at Elmhurst branch.

Commissioner Cristina Tostado reported that her birthday was on July 30<sup>th</sup> and the City of Oakland had proclaimed it as “Tina from the Town” Day.

**11. Agenda Building**

- **September 2023-** Special Co-chair Election, Ad-Hoc Committee on Censorship Update, Discussion on December Mixer, Committee Membership Update.
- **October 2023-** Feasibility Study Update, Ad-Hoc Committee on By Laws Update, CAO visit.
- **November 2023-**LAC Survey Report, Racial Equity Team, Audit Update.
- **December 2023-** Recess
- **Early 2024-** Geographical Balance of Specialized Services (i.e. tool lending in East Oakland)

**12. Farewell to Commissioner Cathy Smith**

Commissioner Cathy Smith was unable to make the meeting due to having her baby.

However, Kere read an email she had sent thanking commissioners for their service and support.

**13. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM**

Respectfully submitted,

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Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director