



LIBRARY COMMISSION DRAFT MINUTES

Date: April 29, 2024

Recording: https://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=506f65c8-0cb0-11ef-b231-0050569183fa

Location: Main Library, 125 14th Street, Oakland CA 94612

CALL TO ORDER: Co-Chair Mary Forte called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 10

Chiye Azuma, Vice-Chair
Bradley Boyd
Alternier Cook
Mary Forte, Co-Chair
Carolyn Moskovitz
Karen Roye
Gabrielle Sloane Law, Co-Chair
Caleb Smith
Cristina Tostado
Karen Zukor

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 2

Brittany Buckmire
Alex Weinberg

STAFF PRESENT: 2

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

1. Roll Call

2. What Are Commissioners Reading?

Co-Chair Mary Forte opened the floor for sharing during the icebreaker. Various commissioners shared what they are reading and details about the materials and the authors.

3. Open Forum/Public Comment

There was a member of the public present, however she opted not to speak or provide her name.

4. Approval of Draft Minutes: March 25, 2024

Commissioner Karen Roye made a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. Commissioner Chiye Azuma seconded the motion. All others in favor. Motion approved.

5. Facilities/Projects Update

OPL Facilities and Project Manager, Diane Tannenwald gave an update on each of the current facility and capital projects. The updates provided were:

- Main Library- will be closed for upgrades to energy, electrical, roof, and interior spaces.
- AAMLO- submitted for building permits for upgrades to windows, lighting, and interior spaces.
- Feasibility Studies- in progress for Hoover Durant, Main Library, Piedmont.
- Brookfield- will be submitted for bidding soon.
- Tool Lending- in line for upgrades.
- Rockridge- will have roof and HVAC system repair.
- Martin Luther King- submitted for building permit.
- 81st- working on a solution for solar.
- Melrose- awaiting assignment of a Public Works project manager.
- West- awaiting assignment of a Public Works project manager. Diane and her team are working on the list of outstanding service requests.

Following the update, a request was made to have a facilities/project update every six months.

6. Meetings with Electeds

Commissioners reported on their meetings with elected officials and/or their staff as follows:

- Commissioner Chiye Azuma reported that she and Commissioner Mary Forte met with staff from CM Jenkin’s office.
- Commissioner Gabrielle Sloane Law reported meeting with staff from CM Reid’s office.
- Commissioner Brad Boyd reported that he and Commissioner Mary Forte met with CM Gallo.
- Commissioner Alternier Cook reported schedule meetings with CM Fife and CM Kaplan.
- Commission Karen Roye reported that she and Commissioner Alternier Cook have a meeting scheduled with the mayor in early May.

- Commissioner Cristina Tostado reported that she will set up a meeting with CM Bas.

7. Spring Mixer Debrief

Commissioner Alternier Cook thanked everyone for the great food. She remarked that there was a good variety and that it was plentiful enough that people were able to take food with them.

Commissioner Cristina Tostado shared that she was pleased to see all the commissioners gather under the “Where the Wild Things Are” theme for a photo. That photo is now on the commission website.

The shared sentiment was that the event was fun-filled, and the weather was very nice.

8. Quarterly Maintenance Report

It was discovered that the quarterly maintenance report was not run for the full quarter and instead, only went through the end of January. A request was made to re-run the report through April 30th and bring it back on agenda to the May meeting with updated and current information.

9. Meetings During Closure

Director Jamie Turbak reminded commissioners that the next meeting will take place at Main on Monday, May 20th. The May meeting has been moved up by a week due to the Memorial Day holiday.

Director Jamie Turbak shared that meetings during the Main closure are scheduled to take place at the Dimond Branch. There was subsequent discussion about meetings possibly taking place at 81st or other library locations during the closure. As a result of the discussion, it was decided that the June meeting will take place at Dimond. A discussion regarding future meeting locations will take place at the June meeting and the public will be noticed of each meeting location.

10. Director’s Update

Director Jamie Turbak covered the following:

Elmhurst Backyard Celebration

On Saturday, April 27, I attended a lovely celebration of the Elmhurst Library’s backyard improvements. Funded by grants from the Sunlight Giving Foundation and the Friends of the OPL, the vision was created and managed by volunteer landscape architect, Chiye Azuma. The transformation of this space is profound, it is a peaceful oasis.

Free Comic Book Day

On the first Saturday in May, bookshops around the world give away comic books for free to anyone who comes into their shops. With Friends of the OPL funding for Children’s, Teen, and Adult programming, OPL is excited to participate in [Free Comic Book Day](#) again this year! Patrons can stop by any OPL location on Saturday, May 4,

during open hours and pick up a free comic book. We'll have comics for kids, teens, and adults available while supplies last.

Celebrate Mothers' Day with Mariachi Femenil!

César E. Chávez Library Branch Manager Xóchitl Gavidia was inspired to plan a community celebration for Mothers' Day. Thanks to funding from the Branch Equity Grant, Xóchitl was able to engage the first all-female Mariachi group in the Bay Area to make it a very special day. Join the celebration on May 11, 1:00-2:00.

Greenhouse at Melrose

Over the past year, Joshua Alperin, Melrose Branch Manager, has worked with volunteers to beautify and develop the backyard to accommodate gardening, playtime and class visits. Now there is a new greenhouse to support more gardening programs and our seed lending library. Already, they've given away around a hundred plant seedlings!



Adult Programs at 81st Ave Branch Library

81st Ave Branch Library launched monthly Adult Game Night and monthly Adult Crafting programs. These programs are intended to create a safe space for adults to come together and get to know each other. They provide an opportunity to explore new pastimes without the costs associated with games and crafting supplies.

Main Library Temporary Closure

The Main Library will be closed to the public from May 27 – November (date TBD) so that the work can be completed as quickly and safely as possible. The press release and FAQs are posted here: <https://oaklandlibrary.org/main-library-closure/>.

OPL in the News:

3/29/2024, An article about Ina Coolbrith, Oakland's first public librarian:

<https://www.ktvu.com/news/bay-area-womens-history-the-pioneering-poet-ina-coolbrith>

4/17/2024, Profile of Esther Mabry (founder of Esther's Orbit Room), includes excerpts from 2002 oral history interview with Esther courtesy of

AAMLO: <https://www.kalw.org/2024-04-17/esthers-orbit-room-builds-on-its-history-as-a-west-oakland-cultural-hub>

Following the discussion and questions, Director Jamie Turbak will ensure commissioners get a copy of the annual report.

11. Update on West Oakland Branch

Director Turbak gave the following updates on the progress at West Oakland Branch:

- West Oakland Replace Shutter Doors with Enclosed Glass Doors
Status: Received drawing/options from vendor to enclose study area with glass doors. We are now waiting on quote and timeline from the vendor to complete the work.
- West Oakland Parking Lot Weed Trimming
Status: Parking lot has been cleared of weeds and debris in preparation of PW to re-stripe the parking lot.
- West Oakland Paint Re-stripping
Status: Public Works is scheduling to re-stripe the parking in the next couple of weeks in May.
- West Oakland Roof Leak
Status: There has been no report of any leaking coming from the roof from library staff. Public Works is continuing to monitor the issue.
- Security Camera Installation
Status: Security cameras have been installed at West Oakland Branch.

12. Co-Chairperson's Update

Co-Chair Mary Forte reported the following that the Life Enrichment report is still being drafted. She is awaiting data from internal library staff and the audit results.

13. Standing Committee Updates

Sustainability Committee

Commissioner Brad Boyd reported that Sustainability committee was focused on the action plan during their meeting. He discussed clarifying the intent, focus of the plan along with determining how it is meant to be used and interpreted. This discussion shifted to the Action Plan ad hoc committee and the work involved (see item 14 below).

Community Engagement Committee

Staff Kere Gonzales pointed out that there are scheduling conflicts in September and November due to holidays. Committee will decide on dates at the May meeting.

14. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Bylaws- Commissioner Azuma reported that the bylaws will be presented to the commission at an upcoming meeting. It was decided that this will be on agenda in June.

Survey- The survey will come to the May agenda.

Action Plan (new)- Commissioners Chiye Azuma, Karen Roye, and Karen Zukor will serve on the ad hoc committee and begin working on the document.

15. Commissioner Advocacy Updates

- Commissioner Karen Roye reported that Lakeview is a small but mighty library with crotchet and knitting classes in May. She also reported that there is an afternoon of Jazz on May 11th as a pre-Mother's Day event at AAMLO.
- Commissioner Carolyn Moskovitz reported that the etching into the bricks around the Rockridge library are fading and it would be nice to get them cleaned up, so they are

- readable. She also reported an incident involving a right-wing group filming staff and patrons in the Dublin library.
- Commissioner Cristina Tostado reported that Asian library is having three graphic novelists on site on May 18th at 2p.
 - Commissioner Alternier Cook thanked Commissioner Mary Forte for her diligence in following up on the issues at the West Branch.
 - Commissioner Karen Zukor reported that Melrose has upgraded and beautified their outdoor space.

16. Agenda Building

- **May 2024-** Audit Findings/Report, Survey from Sustainability Committee, Budget 101/Budget Update, Quarterly Maintenance Report Update.
- **June 2024-** Safety Manager, Bylaws Update, LC Meetings at 81st Ave.
- **July 2024-** Feasibility Presentation by Consultant, LEC Report Draft

17. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM

Respectfully submitted,

/ s /

Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant