



LIBRARY COMMISSION DRAFT MINUTES

Date: February 24, 2025

Recording: https://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=7afc3737-f928-11ef-ab6a-005056a89546

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Gabrielle Sloane Law called the meeting to order at 5:49 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 12

Chiye Azuma, Vice-Chair
Bradley Boyd
Brittany Buckmire
Mary Cain-Simon
Gay Plair Cobb
Zacharias George
Carolyn Jones
Karen Roye
Justus Samuels
Gabrielle Sloane Law, Chair
Cristina Tostado
Alex Weinberg

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 2

Anand Patel
Karen Zukor

STAFF PRESENT: 2

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

1. Roll Call

2. What are Commissioners Reading?

Chair Sloane Law 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 were no members of the public present during open forum. A member of the public came later in the meeting but had no comments.

4. Approval of Draft Minutes: January 27, 2025

Commissioner Cobb made a motion to approve the minutes as published. Commissioner George seconded. Commissioners Boyd and Buckmire abstained. All others in favor. Motion approved.

5. General Plan Update

Joanna Winter of the Planning and Building Department shared an overview of Phase 2 of the General Plan.

After describing the General Plan team, Joanna described the General Plan at its effect on Oakland. She shared that Phase 2 was planned for Fall 2024- Winter 2026 and includes four elements:

- Infrastructure and Facilities: Includes water, sewage, waste, recycling, gas and electric along with public facilities such as libraries, educational, recreational and community centers.
- Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation (OSCAR): Includes habitat management, parks, park programming and maintenance.
- Noise: Minimizing the impact of noise from roadways, rail, airports, etc.
- Land Use and Transportation (LUTE): Includes housing, economic development/jobs, art history and culture. Movement of people and good via all types of transportation systems.

Following the introduction and discussion of the elements, Joanna asked the following questions of commissioners:

1. What are key issues that libraries need addressed?
2. Where in the city do you see existing and future needs for libraries?
3. What role can the libraries play in addressing climate resilience, e.g., serving as resilience centers?
4. Are there critical infrastructure issues facing our library system that the City needs to address?
5. What assistance, if any, does the library need in providing culturally competent and inclusive public spaces for Oaklanders?
6. In what ways can libraries role as neighborhood centers be strengthened?
7. How should improvements be prioritized and funded?

Commissioners gave various responses which were captured by Joanna. She encouraged commissioners to continue thinking about the questions and forward additional answers to the Chair who would then compile them and forward to Joanna.

6. Commission Assignments

Chair Sloane Law opened the discussion for commissioners’ branch, committee, and councilmember assignments.

Chair Sloane Law reminded commissioners that joining a committee is not mandatory and there is other work to do.

Commissioner Roye reminded Chair Sloane Law of her prior request to change from the Sustainability to the Community Engagement committee. Chair Sloane Law asked to take the request and discussion offline. She also asked Kere to send the calendar invitations so that everyone can look at their calendars to ensure they can make the committee meeting dates and the assignments would be finalized in the coming weeks.

After much discussion and movement, the following assignments were made tentatively pending discussion at the March meeting.

Commissioner	Term	Branch	Committee	District of Residence	Assigned CM	CM District
Karen Roye	11/14/22-11/13/25 (2 nd)	AAMLO	Community Engagement	4	Mayor Ramachandran	N/A 4
Cristina Tostado	10/05/23-10/04/26 (2 nd)	Asian	Community Engagement	3	Kaplan Brown	2 At-large
Karen Zukor	03/01/23-02/28/26 (1 st)	Temescal Tool Lending Melrose	Sustainability	1	Ramachandran	4
Alex Weinberg	03/01/23-02/28/26 (1 st)	Dimond Rockridge	Sustainability	1	Unger	1
Chiye Azuma**	03/01/23-02/28/26 (1 st)	MLK	Sustainability	6	Jenkins	6
Brittany Buckmire	06/24/22-06/23/25 (1 st)	Golden Gate	N/A	3	Fife Brown	3 At-Large
Brad Boyd	03/01/23-02/28/26 (1 st)	Cesar Chavez	Sustainability*	4	Gallo	5
Gabrielle Sloane Law*	09/14/23-09/13/26 (1 st)	Brookfield 81 st	Community* Engagement	7	Houston	7
Anand Patel	11/14/23-11/13/26 (1 st)	Montclair	Community Engagement	6	Unger	1
Carolyn Jones	06/19/24-06/18/27 (1 st)	Eastmont Piedmont	Community Engagement	6	Jenkins	6
Justus Samuels	11/14/24-11/13/27 (1 st)	West Oakland Main	Community Engagement	3	Fife	3
Mary Cain-Simon	11/13/24-11/12/27 (1 st)	Elmhurst	Sustainability	4	Houston	7
Zacharias George	08/19/24-08/18/27 (1 st)	Lakeview	Sustainability	2	Kaplan	2
Gay Plair Cobb	10/16/23-10/15/26 (1 st)	West Oakland Main	Community Engagement	3	Mayor	N/A

7. Review of Draft Talking Points

Chair Sloane Law explained the Libraries’ ballot measures as an introduction to the talking points. During the review of the talking points, it was suggested that the talking points should be broken apart and placed into a simple outline that can be covered in the very short conversations with councilmembers. Commissioner Roye suggested condensing them to the top three concerns and top three asks. She also suggested a flow chart to clarify how the funding flows for the Measures so that commissioners are educated on the subject and can articulate it to councilmembers.

Commissioners Roye and Patel will assist with re-drafting the talking points to condense and simplify them.

It was discovered that Measure C was not listed on the website; staff Gonzales will update the website to include Measure C.

It was requested that the open letter to electeds from September 2024 be sent to commissioners; staff Gonzales will send it out to everyone.

It was requested that the most recent Auditor's report be placed on the website and sent; staff Gonzales will complete both requests.

8. Director's Update

Director Turbak covered the following:

- On Friday, February 21st, Library staff attended a mini-park ribbon cutting. There are several mini-parks in East Oakland where staff have placed little libraries as part of the Eat, Learn, Play program.
- On Saturday, February 22nd, there was the Open House at Main which had various activities such as Zumba, a deejaying class, each of the Feasibility study contractors, and a lion dance. The day was a success and introduced the community to the updated space.
- On Sunday, February 23rd, Library staff also participated in the Black Joy Parade.
- There are two City-sponsored budget workshops coming up: on 3/5 at 81st Avenue Branch and on 3/11 at Main.
- The Feasibility reports have wrapped up and are now available. They can be accessed via the QR code on the postcards on the table.
- There are upcoming spring gardening workshops happening throughout OPL. Additional information can be found on the flyers on the table or on the website.
- Director Turbak completed the library's budget proposal for the upcoming two-year budget cycle. The mayor's final budget is tentatively scheduled for release on May 1st.
- OPL has a new Instagram account called "Oakland Has Jobs". OPL has collected and compiled all of the local job openings to this new page which has been very successful. In January, it had 760 new followers, 4100 page visits, and reached over 52,000 people.
- There is brand new programming at OPL. There is adult arts & crafts on Wednesday evening and Zumba on Monday evenings. More details and specifics can be found on the website.
- OPL received a \$100,000 grant to update the Teen space at the West Oakland Branch.

9. Chairperson's Update

Chair Sloane Law shared that the Racial Equity Team recommended at City training that is a two-hour, instructor-led Zoom training. The hope is that commissioners can register and take the training in the next few months.

Chair Sloane Law also reported that she spoke at the Life Enrichment committee meeting regarding the supplemental report that is on the pending list.

10. Standing Committee Updates

Community Engagement Committee

Commissioner Sloane Law reported that she’s been meeting with the OPL Advocates and still need an emcee for the mixer. Commissioner Buckmire volunteered to be emcee. Commissioners Buckmire and Tostado will attend the next OPL Advocates meeting to prepare for their mixer roles.

Commissioner Sloane Law will send the meeting invitation for the OPL Advocates meeting to all commissioners.

Sustainability Committee

Commissioners Azuma and Roye reported that the committee will be looking at the Planning Commission meetings and give a report to the commission regarding upcoming meetings that it would be beneficial for library commissioners to attend. If Commissioner Roye moves to the other committee, she will follow up with Commissioner Azuma and the rest of the committee to hand off the project.

11. Commissioner Advocacy Updates

Commissioner Azuma reported that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Friend’s group had their launch meeting on February 22nd. She thanked Commissioner Tostado for her assistance with getting things set up.

Commissioner Buckmire reported that Golden Gate had some heating challenges and gas smells.

12. Agenda Building

January 2025- Elections, Commission Assignments, Racial Equity Training, Quarterly Maintenance Report

February 2025- General Plan Update, Racial Equity Training, Commission Assignments, Review of Draft Talking Points

March 2025- Racial Equity Training Discussion, Finalize Talking Points and Funding Workflow, Discuss Tips and Tricks, Informal Mentorship, Mixer

April 2025- Mixer Debrief

13. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

/ s /

Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant