



LIBRARY COMMISSION DRAFT MINUTES

Date: January 27, 2025

Recording: https://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=84c6eeac-de8f-11ef-a9e2-005056a89546

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Gabrielle Sloane Law called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 12

Chiye Azuma, Vice-Chair
Mary Cain-Simon
Gay Plair Cobb
Zacharias George
Carolyn Jones
Anand Patel
Karen Roye
Justus Samuels
Gabrielle Sloane Law, Chair
Cristina Tostado
Alex Weinberg
Karen Zukor

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 2

Bradley Boyd
Brittany Rae Buckmire

STAFF PRESENT: 1

Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant to the Director

1. Roll Call

2. 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.

3. Approval of Draft Minutes: November 25, 2024

Commissioner Roye made a motion to approve the minutes as published. Commissioner Zukor seconded. Commissioners Azuma, Cain-Simon, Cobb, George, Patel, Samuels, and Weinberg abstained. All others in favor. Motion approved.

4. Commissioner Introductions

This was the first meeting for the four newest commissioners. Each commissioner shared a bit about themselves in a roundtable of introductions. This was an opportunity for the commissioners to learn about other each other.

5. Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

After a brief description and overview of the duties associated with the commission chair and vice-chair roles, nominations were opened and proceeded as follows:

- Commissioner Zukor nominated Commissioner Sloane Law as Chair; she accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for Chair. Commissioner Cobb made a motion to close the nominations which was seconded by Commissioner Cain-Simon.
- Commissioner Sloane Law nominated Commissioner Azuma as Vice-Chair; she accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations for Vice-Chair. Commissioner Cain-Simon made a motion to close the nominations which was seconded by Commissioner Zukor.
- Staff Gonzales combined the nominations into a single vote. The votes were cast and the decision was unanimous. All in favor. Commissioner Sloane Law elected as Chair and Commissioner Azuma elected as Vice-Chair for the 2025 year.

6. Racial Equity Training Discussion

As part of the continued discussion and search for racial equity training for commissioners, Commissioner Roye introduced, “Breaking Barriers: A Comprehensive Guide to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training for the Oakland Public Library Commissioners.” Commissioner Roye and the document outlined the three types of training: On-demand, In-person partial day, and In-person full day. She also covered the nut and bolts and various costs of training.

Commissioner Roye presented three training opportunities and several racial equity resources that may be utilized by commissioners. Staff Kere Gonzales will present each of the three training opportunities to the Racial Equity Team for review and recommendation. The commission will vote after they have received the recommendation.

7. Commission Assignments

Chair Sloane Law provided an overview of commissioner assignments, and the roles/responsibility associated with branch and councilmember advocacy. She also introduced the commissioner assignment sheet. Branch, committee, and councilmember assignments will be finalized at the February meeting.

8. Quarterly Maintenance Report

Commissioner Weinberg presented the Quarterly Maintenance Report and summary by branch. The unassigned branches will be assigned as part of the discussion from item #7 at the February meeting. It was also requested that the published document return to the Google sheets/Excel format rather than PDF; staff Kere Gonzales will forward the request internally.

9. Chairperson’s Update

Chair Sloane Law encouraged commissioners to review the Action Plan for 2025 and reported that it will be discussed as part of the Chairperson’s update at future meetings.

She also encouraged commissioners review the two standing committees’ descriptions and decide if and which they’d want to join and/or change committees.

Finally, Chair Sloane Law reminded commissioners to complete the City’s survey about service priorities which had a deadline of January 31st.

10. Standing Committee Updates

Community Engagement Committee

Commissioner Sloane Law reported that Community Engagement is working on the advocacy plan for the budget cycle. There will be draft talking points brought to the full meeting in February for input by commissioners.

Commissioner Sloane Law also reminded the commissioners that the mixer is on April 6th and will need a volunteer to emcee. Commissioners are asked to bring food and assist with set up and take down. Commissioner Tostado will be the lead on setting up the commission’s area with a backdrop and is looking for volunteers to assist.

Sustainability Committee

Commissioner Roye reported that Sustainability is looking at the Planning Commission and its subcommittees to ensure relevant information that could affect the Library is monitored. She will return to the full meeting with more information and a request for interest to assist with meeting tracking.

11. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Survey- The survey is with Director Turbak and team for next steps.

12. Commissioner Advocacy Updates

Commissioner Azuma shared a poster that she made and reported that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch is launching their friend’s group. Their first meeting is scheduled on February 22nd.

Commissioner Roye reported that AAMLO had a MLK Day celebration and great time with speakers. She also reported that there in an authors’ series coming up in February.

Commissioner Roye reported that Lakeview branch is the sweetest library that has knitting, crocheting, and many other activities. She encouraged commissioners to swing by.

13. 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- Finalize Talking Points, Mixer (Sign-ups for potluck/set up)

April 2025- Mixer Debrief

14. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 7:37 PM

Respectfully submitted,

/ s /

Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant