



**LIBRARY COMMISSION DRAFT MINUTES**

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**Date:** April 27, 2026

**Recording:** [https://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish\\_id=2447be0a-4334-11f1-bb28-005056a89546](https://oakland.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=2447be0a-4334-11f1-bb28-005056a89546)

**Location:** Main Library, 125 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Oakland, CA 94612

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**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice-Chair Mary Cain-Simon called the meeting to order at 5:51 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: 11**

Chiye Azuma  
April Bell  
Mary Cain-Simon  
Kevin Covarrubias  
Gay Plair Cobb  
Andrea Henderson  
Carolyn Jones  
Justus Samuels  
Gabrielle Sloane Law  
Alex Weinberg  
Karen Zukor

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: 2**

Anand Patel  
Cristina Tostado

**STAFF PRESENT: 2**

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

**1. Roll Call**

**2. What are Commissioners Reading?**

Vice-Chair Cain-Simon opened the floor for sharing during the icebreaker. Various commissioners shared what they are reading and details about the materials and the authors.

**3. Approval of Draft Minutes: March 30, 2026**

It was discovered that parts of the draft minutes had not been updated from February. Staff Gonzales apologized for the mix-up and stated that she would send the updated and correct version of the minutes out. Commissioner Cobb made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Commissioner Covarrubias seconded. Commissioners Azuma, Sloane Law, and Zukor. Commissioner Henderson was not present for this portion of the meeting and did not cast a vote. All others in favor. Motion approved.

**4. Open Forum/Public Comment**

There were no members of the public present during this segment.

**5. Auditor’s Presentation and Update**

Auditor Michael Houston gave a presentation regarding OPL’s audit findings, the recommendations, and the implementation.

**The recommendation:**

The City Administrator should validate the General Fund appropriation shortfall with the Finance Department and consult with the City Attorney’s Office to determine the appropriate course of remediation.

**The recommendation was implemented:**

Finance made an adjustment in the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget to true up the General Fund appropriations shortfall.

**The recommendation:**

To ensure timely and accurate processing of new parcel taxes, the City Administrator should create an Administrative Instruction to notify affected departments of approved ballot measures so staff can review and update procedures to reflect additional parcel tax exemptions, changes to the general fund appropriation, and other requirements before processing the new measure.

**The recommendation has not yet been implemented:**

In November 2024, the City Council passed Resolution 90501 directing the City Administrator to develop a formal process in line with the recommendation, as well as schedule an informational report confirming the noticing process to City Council no later than two months following the declaration of election results. The City Administration will implement this recommendation in the update to the Consolidated Fiscal Policy.

Auditor Houston continues to work with the CAO and Finance staff to ensure implementation of its recommendations.

**6. Job Resources w/Christina Jenq**

Christina Jenq introduced herself as a Oakland community member who is also and Labor Economist with interest in workforce development. Nichole Brown introduced herself as the Branch Manager at the Elmhurst branch.

They talked about the skilled trades mini career fair that took place at the Elmhurst branch on January 31, 2026.

Christina Jenq emphasized that there is a shortage of skilled trades workers. Both Christina and Nichole thought a local library is the perfect place to host a career fair because of its trusted role in the community and its accessibility to all people.

Christina and Nichole talked about their outreach to local unions and community based organizations to spread the word. They hoped to have 50 people show and ended up with almost 200 participants at the career fair.

They are going to write up a toolkit to submit to [programminglibrarian.org](http://programminglibrarian.org) in the hopes of scaling this to libraries nationwide.

They also urge OPL to find and invest more resources in these kinds of targeted career fairs. The vision is to duplicate this career fair in other locations throughout OPL.

#### **7. Renaming of Chavez Branch**

At the March meeting, Director Turbak requested that the commission consider renaming the Cesar Chavez branch to the Fruitvale branch. Before the vote, Director Turbak reminded the commission of the reasons for the name Fruitvale Branch:

- It is consistent with other branches which are named for the geographic neighborhood in which they are located.
- It aligns with the name of the BART station to which it is attached.
- It was proposed by community members who were polled via survey
- It is approved by the councilmember of the district.

Following Director Turbak's recap, a motion was made by Commissioner Sloane Law and seconded by Commissioner Covarrubias to rename the Cesar Chavez branch to the Fruitvale branch. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion and it was approved.

#### **8. Talking Points for Elected Officials**

Commissioner Sloane Law introduced the Talking Points for Elected Officials and the Advocacy Tips. She also stated that the talking points had been condensed due to feedback received from last year. Commissioner Sloane Law reminded commissioners to personalize their discussions to the councilmember and the branches in their district, but that the four asks are where commissioners should be unified.

Commissioner Sloane Law reiterated that the focus for the asks was aligned with the asks that were contained in the Annual Report to the Life Enrichment Committee.

#### **9. Annual OPL Advocates Mixer**

OPL Advocates Coordinator Sara DuBois shared an update about the Annual OPL Advocates Mixer which will take place on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 1p-3p at Main Library. A sign up sheet was circulated for commissioners to contribute a dish to the potluck. Commissioner Sloane Law encouraged commissioners to show up early to assist with set up.

## 10. Director's Update

Director Turbak shared the following:

- The purchase of the former Community Foods Market at 3105 San Pablo for the purpose of establishing the Hoover Durant Branch Library will have its final reading at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- In April, OPL celebrated National Library Week by delivering gift baskets to staff at each of the branches.
- Director Turbak helped table at the Oakland Airport as part of the ongoing partnership with them. They will give up two large display cases for promotion for a couple of months.
- Director Turbak presented the OPL budget proposal to the Mayor and CAO. The final draft budget will be release mid-May and then go to City Council for deliberations.
- Director Turbak presented at Life Enrichment Committee on Piedmont and Emeryville contracts with OPL. They will both be on the consent calendar at the City Council meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- On Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, OPL held a great outreach training for staff.
- On Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, OPL had outreach at the Giants game as part of “Library Day” with other library systems. OPL issued many library card and promoted the summer programming.
- OPL is gearing up for summer programming, summer lunch, and summer reading. Director Turbak shared summer programming materials.

## 11. Committee Announcements

- **Community Engagement-** Did not meet.
- **Sustainability-** Did not meet.
- **General Plan Ad Hoc-** The period for online comments has been extended.
- **Action Plan Ad Hoc-** Did not meet. Commissioner Azuma will work on it.
- **Room Naming Ad Hoc-** Director will report out after Chavez renaming which must wait to go to City Council along with the renaming of a park.
- **Talking Points Ad Hoc-** See item #8 above.

Staff Gonzales will add OPL Advocates Ad Hoc to this list for announcements.

## 12. Chairperson's Update

Vice-Chair Cain-Simon reported that commission interviews had taken place. There are four applicants to choose from and Chair Azuma will review the interviews soon.

**13. Agenda Building**

**May 2026-** OPL Facilities Manager, OPL Community Relations Manager, Quarterly Maintenance Report, Mixer Debrief.

**Early Summer-**

**14. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kere Gonzales, Executive Assistant