

**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)
DRAFT MINUTES – June 20, 2011
Main Library West Auditorium**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Tidrick called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Steven Tidrick, Jill Broadhurst, Billie Wooldridge, Sylvester Grisby, Tom Manley, Peggy Simmons, Linda White-Taylor, Muhammad Alabi, Jessica Leavitt, and Gen Katz.

Commissioners Excused: Carolyn Mixon.

Staff: Library Director Carmen Martínez, Chief Financial Officer Gene Tom, Grant Development Manager Winifred Walters, Deputy Director Gerry Garzón, Executive Assistant/Recorder Rosalía A. Romo.

Members of the Public: Peter Biach; Karina Walsh and Ruby Bernstein came in to observe the meeting (interested to serve on the LAC).

1. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Manley made a motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2011, as recorded. Commissioner Leavitt seconded the motion.

Minutes were approved unanimously: Yes - 10; Noes – 0; abstentions - 0

2. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Tidrick thanked commissioners for their efforts in attending the meetings, and stressed the importance of having quorums to conduct meetings on a regular basis.

3. OPL Staff Activities Reports

Director's report

- Ms. Martínez indicated that the Library received 3 names for possible LAC candidates.
- The Mayor's proposed budget of 3 scenarios has not changed and Council has not taken any action. Chairperson Tidrick spoke at the last Council meeting, with a lot of positive feedback. This was the first of a series of budget hearings. Not much to report on the budget progress. Labor negotiations are still going and until those are over, Council does not have a budget.
- The Save Oakland Libraries community group organized overnight and is planning several events, one of them a Reading Marathon in front of City Hall.
- The Main Library's West Auditorium was finally renamed "Brad C. Walters Community Room", in honor of a former library employee and community advocate.

- The Elmhurst Branch celebrated a grand reopening after the completion of a much needed makeover. Big thanks to Gerry Garzón for making this possible. The community turned out to celebrate and Councilmember Larry Reid was in attendance as well.
- Lakeview Branch celebrated its volunteer appreciation event with a great crowd.
- Piedmont and Emeryville city managers are waiting for Oakland to adopt its budget before resuming contract negotiations to renew library services with OPL.
- Thanked commissioners for attending all the Mayor town hall meetings in mid-July.
- Finished the grant for the Oakland Word project.
- The program featuring author Isabel Wilkerson (The Warmth of Other Suns) was an exceptionally wonderful event held at AAMLO attended by over 300 people.

4. Continuation of LAC Retreat Debriefing/Next Steps:

- Goal 1 and 2 were reviewed at the last meeting: clarification of the ordinance; and identify the role of the commission in terms of advocacy.
- Goal 3 Discuss & Recommend Meeting Frequency Change.
Director Martínez informed that in the past the LAC used to meet once a month but due to lack of quorums, meetings were often cancelled. A former chairperson thought that by holding meetings every other month attendance would improve. Commissioner Katz added that sometimes there were not enough agenda items for the monthly meetings and adopting this new schedule would allow for fuller agendas. Discussion followed and it was the consensus of the LAC to continue meetings every other month until more commissioners are appointed and then bring to discussion again. It was also agreed to hold special meetings when a regular meeting is cancelled in order to keep the momentum; also put off rotating meeting locations for later discussion.
- LAC vacancies were announced on the library's Facebook.

5. Advocacy Reports:

- Commissioner Alabi visited Melrose branch, which was busy with kids.
- Commissioner Katz suffered an injury and spent these two months sitting by the sidelines busy writing lots of library support letters to Council, Mayor and newspapers.
- Commissioner Broadhurst has been talking to everyone about the library. The community is unified and supportive.
- Commissioner Tidrick spoke with Council member Shaff and shared his views on the budget. Director Martínez informed that Council member Shaff prepared a proposal stating that any municipality planning to obtain library services through the OPL, would be required to pay the same fees as Oakland residents. This report was to be presented to Council but was pulled due to discussions with library administration about contract negotiations with the cities of Piedmont and Emeryville, and the timing was not right. The item will be rescheduled.
- Commissioner Wooldridge visited Eastmont branch, and talked to Alameda County Council of Women, who sent support letters to council.
- Commissioner Grisby had surgery last month and has not been very active.

- Commissioner Manley has been to more council meetings in the last two months than ever. Became involved in Save Oakland Libraries campaign and getting volunteers. Oakland Rising and EBays along with the unions are doing a group rally to show community support tomorrow (Tuesday) in front of City Hall at 5pm.
- Commissioner Simmons - 2nd Start Literacy staff did big outreach around 81st Avenue branch, tutor training, volunteering has gone up 35%, and intake sessions are booked. Also, meeting at other branch libraries for more outreach. Second Start is preparing to move to Main Library; speakers were at council regarding the budget. Tool Lending is at its busiest season and patrons have been very vocal about the budget. Personally, she has attended many council meetings, helping the Save Oakland Libraries campaign with outreach and support from the tool lending friends.
- Commissioner White-Taylor is taking a class now which will be over soon and she'll be able to attend more meetings. Talking to staff about the library operations.

6. Announcements

- Director Martínez informed that the City is terminating its Central Stores (a division of Public Works) and we are anticipating some changes and staffing will be affected. Other changes: the Oakland Museum is now going to be under the management of the Museum Foundation, no longer under the City structure. The Library uses their Museum guards and will be inheriting new guards. She also clarified that there are no plans to move AAMLO to the Museum.
- AAMLO has a new Friends group and are working on ideas for fundraising and support for AAMLO. Commissioner Katz reinforce that FOPL is very active and can bring ideas to LAC and AAMLO and not duplicate efforts, and she extended an invitation to LAC members to attend a FOPL meetings.

7. Agenda Building

- Retreat Review (include coordination of advocacy issues)
- Budget Update

8. Open Forum/Comments

- The community is out there rooting and supporting the library. We depend on the libraries for books and services. Doing a lot with the save Oakland libraries, and leading a book discussion tomorrow.

9. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Submitted by:

Carmen Martínez,
Library Director