

**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)
DRAFT MINUTES – July 25, 2011
Main Library Brad Walters Community Room**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Tidrick called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Steven Tidrick, Carolyn Mixon, Jessica Leavitt, Sylvester Grisby, Tom Manley, Linda White-Taylor, Peggy Simmons, and Gen Katz.

Commissioners Absent: Jill Broadhurst, Billie Wooldridge, and Muhammad Alabi,

Staff: Library Director Carmen Martínez, Associate Director Gerry Garzón, Administrative Librarian Jamie Turbak, and Executive Assistant/Recorder Rosalía A. Romo.

Members of the Public present: 4

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of April 25, 2011 – Commissioner Broadhurst called before the meeting to amend these minutes, previously approved at the June meeting. Item will be tabled for amendment/approval at the next meeting after proper notice.

Minutes of June 20, 2011 – tabled for approval at the next meeting due to lack of a quorum.

2. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Tidrick stated he is happy with the outcome of the City budget, and that all the libraries will remain open.

3. OPL Staff Activities Reports

Director's report

- Staff is happy as well, and thankful for all the hard work and email campaign throughout the budget process. The Council approved the budget and we have Measure Q and General Purpose Fund in place (over \$9 million GPF for the Library.)
- Budget update: no major staffing changes, but we've regained two new computer technicians (the Library lost these positions several years back when redirected to the Department of Information Technology); due to the decentralization of the City's Central Stores operation, we have acquired a driver plus two cargo vans. Also, now that the Oakland Museum is governed by its foundation, the Library assumed three permanent security guards from the Museum. These positions are funded through Measure Q

surplus. The city budget was finally balanced because of concessions that unions made. Staff agreed to work 12 additional days without pay; police and fire staff are giving back 4% in retirement money. Library staff is working with Employee Relations to accommodate staff that work Tuesday – Saturday for the mandatory leave without pay schedules. We are looking at libraries closing one Saturday a month. Still in negotiations.

- Yesterday at the Lakeview Branch, the Library hosted a picnic in appreciation for all the community members and Save Our Library volunteers who worked so hard during the budget process in support of the libraries. FOPL very graciously sponsored the event that included face-painting, brass band, and great food. We had a great time and it was a beautiful day for a picnic.
- Two new commissioners will be appointed tomorrow. Ruby Bernstein and Kathryn Sterbenc. Also, Commissioner Wooldridge is being replaced by Ms. Bernstein.
- The Library received a generous grant from The Friends of the OPL of \$105,200.
- The new City Administrator, Deanna Santana, will take office on August 1st.
- As part of the Mayor's goals to provide alternative activities for kids during the summer, the 81st Ave Community Library has been opened these past two weekends until 10pm. There was a talent show this past Friday night, and the branch was very busy. Chairperson Tidrick wanted to know the cost to the Library to operate this summer hours, and is it likely to continue next year? Director Martínez replied that the Library is using salary savings, and will prepare an evaluation and summary to report at the next LAC meeting.

4. Continuation of LAC Retreat Debriefing/Next Steps:

In an effort to continue an effective debriefing, Commissioner Leavitt offered suggestions to create a document that puts in better context the goals, objectives, and overall mission of the retreat. This can provide the Commission with an organized tool, easier to work with to articulate the items discussed at the retreat. Director Martínez suggested that the September meeting be a worksession to focus on the review of this document, including discussion of the frequency of meetings.

Commissioner White-Taylor would like to include coordination of advocacy issues at this worksession. She mentioned that the schools get ready to send school newsletters to parents in September, and wanted to know if OPL sends anything out or is there any outreach to schools? Director Martínez responded that our librarians do a great job in outreach to the local schools, with special efforts before school vacation for the summer reading clubs, and also keep the community informed throughout the year. In keeping with some of the goals of the LAC, we can have the Children Services Coordinator give an overview of school partners at the November meeting.

5. Advocacy Reports:

- Commissioner White-Taylor noticed an article in which the City of Piedmont decided to pay Oakland \$350,000 for library services. Director Martínez clarified that the City of Piedmont does not have a library and contracts with OPL for library services. Piedmont represents a huge donor pool, and is a supportive community. Oakland was asking for an increase in payment. As a result of negotiations, the cities decided to continue services for another year for \$350,000, and resume negotiations for a new contract.
- Commissioner White-Taylor recommended writing thank you letters to library supporters acknowledging their hard work during the budget process. Director Martínez suggested that each commissioner choose a council member to thank them; then, when we are not in crisis, each one should schedule a follow-up visit to each council member to keep them informed. It was agreed that Commissioners Tidrick, Katz, Simmons, and White-Taylor will form a committee to prepare and distribute thank you letters to all library supporters.
- Commissioner Simmons has not touched base with Second Start; the Tool Library is busy. Attended the staff's appreciation SOL picnic - - it was fantastic! Has also talked to people who felt residual anger and resentment that libraries were threatened in such a way and reminded that we are not out of the woods. We don't want libraries to be threatened; what can be done for upcoming year; and what can we do to make the city a better place? Stay aware and vocal to make sure it does not happen again.
- Commissioner Katz announced that FOPL made a generous donation to the Library. FOPL is doing a lot of fundraising through donations from members, hosting August Baseball Ticket Day, and Fenton's ice cream fundraising. Please include in thank you letters.
- Commissioner Mixon said that AAMLO does not get a lot of patrons, and people want to do weddings at AAMLO. Director Martínez stated that at the beginning of AAMLO's opening, we used to do receptions for corporations and private affairs. This was too much for staff to handle on top of preparing exhibits; but sometimes they do receptions for selective events. AAMLO also gets substantial grant donations.
- Commissioner Leavitt – none
- Commissioner Grisby enjoyed the 81st Ave Library night program and got an opportunity to talk to the Mayor. He will be making a presentation at a community meeting; attending a program at the Police Department for a police event. He offered to donate tickets to the library.
- Commissioner Manley participated in a presentation organized by the Tool Lending Library at the City Council meeting of May 21. He also spoke in support of the Library at this Council meeting. Enjoyed the Save Our Library celebration yesterday, it was great!

6. Agenda Building

- Retreat Review Work session (include coordination of advocacy issues, and meeting frequency)
- Discussion of Measure Q reports format
- Children's Services Coordinator presentation: November meeting

7. Announcements

- Director Martínez presented a status report on the Library's volunteer efforts; we now have 300 volunteers working in a variety of areas. There will be a couple of volunteer orientation sessions: September 14, 6:30 at the Main Library; September 17 at Dimond Branch. Winifred Walters is coordinating this effort and is exploring a partnership with Public Works to do a landscape and gardens volunteer session.
- Commissioner White-Taylor announced that the Mayor is hosting a volunteer fair; and will include the Library's volunteer sessions in the Mayor's announcement.
- Director Martínez introduced one of our Youth Leadership Council members who came to observe the LAC meeting.

8. Open Forum/Comments – No comments

9. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Submitted by:

Carmen Martínez,
Library Director