

**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)**

Minutes – May 18, 2009

Main Library West Auditorium

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Citron called the Library Advisory Commission meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. Note that this is an informational meeting without a quorum.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Citron, Susanna Gilden, Muhammad Alabi, Genevieve Katz, Steven Tidrick, Tom Manly, Arthur Noble, and Marian Sylvestre.

Commissioners Excused: Carolyn Mixon, Billie Wooldridge

Staff: Carmen Martínez, Gerry Garzón, and Diane Satchwell.

Discussion regarding Commission Members and recruitment. Commissioner Tidrick recommended process for additional membership.

1. Approval of Minutes

Due to lack of a quorum, the Commission cannot approve the Draft minutes of February 23, 2009.

2. Old Business

Due to lack of a quorum, the commission cannot approve the Measure Q reports and Auditor's report. 3 second sound bite on Measure Q.

3. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Citron reported:

- Attended the Rockridge Teen Center meeting last month; and will go again this week. More than \$500K is needed for the construction of the Teen Center.
- Next LAC meeting: July 27 at the West Auditorium
- For details on the City's proposed 2010-12 budget, people could visit the City of Oakland's website.

4. Staff Activities Reports

A. Library Director

Director Martínez reported:

- The City Attorney indicated we should cancel Commission meetings when we don't have quorum. Disconcerting to cancel. Will do our best to recruit more commissioners.

- Reminder to Commissioners that the Library is doing positive things, such as the Tax Programs, which started on a Saturday morning, with 100 people waiting at 7:30 a.m.; at the end of the day 100 people were turned away. The Tax Volunteer coordinator is retiring and OPL will do something this summer; will let you know.
- Teen Zone: policy decisions regarding limiting space to Teens. Have some signage not allowing adults during certain hours. There is also a beautiful art wall (paper maché totems) created by high school students that has been mounted on the hallway leading to the TeenZone. The work was curated by Rick Moss.
- Lakeview Friends: 60th Anniversary of the Lakeview Library on Saturday, May 16; Council member Pat Kernighan attended the event, as well as many members of the community.
- There was a book signing program featuring Congress woman Barbara Lee at AAMLO. Ms. Lee presented her personal autobiography and dedicated copy to OPL. AAMLO has papers.
- Deep in budget: Our libraries are busier than ever; computer usage is high; circulation at all branches is up. E-books are popular. During times of recession, libraries are busier. Cutbacks by patrons in their book buying and cable TV translate in higher usage. City Departments were asked to present 10, 15 and 20 percent cut plans. Did not include permanent closure of any libraries; Reduction from 6 to 5 days for larger branches. Request for more funding. Came up with a plan to pair 6 small branches. One open 3 days; the other 2 days. Pairing: \$380K; 6th day: \$372K; elimination of Bookmobile; General Fund city deficit: \$84M. Balanced by cuts to Departments; 3 measures passed: Measure OO; Hotel Bed tax; LLAD. Also supplanting Internal Services Fund. Nothing in stone. Sent Budget FAQs to all of you right before; some minor changes to what was sent to you. Total cuts don't come to 20%.
- Have 30 vacancies; 28 Measure Q. We are hoping that staff can be shifted into vacancies so that we may not have any layoffs. Golden Handshake may bring on some retirements. City sent survey; high response from select group. 65% of responses indicated they were willing to participate. How to manage? Discussion followed regarding mandatory business shutdown (MBS) and retirement (8%). Won't be offered to everyone and difficult to select who gets it.

Questions followed:

- Finance: Emeryville: in hands of City Administrator? New proposal is higher. 94608 zip code also includes Oakland. If we need Commissioner Alabi, we will request assistance.
- Bookmobile: where does it serve? CM: designed for more rural communities. We have bus service in West Oakland. We will look at alternative uses (technology center). These are tough losses.
- Main Library: destination stop. Sat/Sun busiest circulating days. As a resource to the whole city. Oakland History Room; the funding is OK. Into strategic planning mode after budget. We will hire consultant to work with us. All technology goals completed. Street banners for Wi-Fi. Will have children's librarians and programming. Can't be expected to provide 100 percent. Strategic plan will help.
- 2nd Start: when will 2nd Start move? Explanation of move and timing. Competition for other literacy programs.

5. Commissioner's Advocacy Report:

Commissioner Katz: FOPL newsletter: everyone has in their house a valuable book. Donate to the bookstore and may bring in some money.

Commissioner Alabi: Charter school CPA judge to work with students. South Asian: teen pregnancies issues; tension between blacks and latinos.

Commissioner Tidrick: Gates Foundation: ID'd public libraries to interview 50-60 people in Oakland. Met with interviewee; learned new things regarding access; Teen Zone. What would be needed to increase use? - - money. Director Martínez indicated that this project required quite a coordination effort by Diane Satchwell. On 3rd year of Gates grant. If they are to spend more money, what's the most effective way to do that?

Commissioner Noble: 2nd Start: working with Santa Rita jail to bring some people into the program.

6. Agenda Building – Determination of Schedule of New/Outstanding Items

Agenda Building:

7. Open Forum (Public Comment) - none

8. Announcements

- Next Meeting is July 27
- Email sent out by City Council to recruit additional commissioners.
- Will keep them updated after next Budget Hearing on May 28; 1-7 p.m. 3rd Council Discussion on Monday 6/1. We will let you know of time. 6/16: 1st reading of budget.
- PLF? Anything happening? Has not been reduced (OPL gets ~\$150K).

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Gerry Garzón

