

**OAKLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)
MINUTES – MAY 19, 2008
Rockridge Branch Library**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Citron called the regular Library Advisory Commission meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Carolyn Mixon, Sue Yascolt, Susanna Gilden, Arthur Noble, Marian Sylvestre, Muhammad Alabi, Billie Wooldridge, Steve Tidrick, Genevieve Katz, Marilyn Citron

Commissioners Excused: Tom Manley

Commissioners Absent: none

Staff: Director Martínez, Gerry Garzón, Gene Tom, and Rosalía Arteaga-Romo (recorder).

Others present:

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Katz made a motion to approve the minutes of March 31, 2008, as amended.

Commissioner Yascolt seconded the motion.

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

3. Chairperson's Report

- Commissioners Yascolt and Citron, along with Director Martínez, attended the Legislative Day in Sacramento and met with staff of various legislative representatives; it was somewhat disappointing not to have met with the legislators, but their aides were very helpful, especially Assemblyman Sandré Swanson's staff.
- Attended the AAMLO permanent exhibit opening which is wonderful
- Encouraged Commissioners to attend the May 30th Groundbreaking Celebration for the 81st Avenue East Oakland Community Library
- Announced that Commissioner Jacky Wu, Teen representative, resigned from the LAC due to school and work commitments.

4. Staff Activities Reports

A. Library Director

- Invitations have gone out for the East Oakland Community Library @ 81st Ave. Groundbreaking ceremony and we encourage commissioners to attend. Assemblyman Sandré Swanson, who has been very supportive of libraries, will be the keynote speaker.
- The multi-media permanent AAMLO exhibit opened to the public and it is very beautiful, took 2 years to build; the stories are wonderful from the community. Also, AAMLO has been selected to participate in a panel at the Museum Conference in Chicago.

- There was a budget hearing on May 13 discussing the City's master fee schedule. There were lots of changes and fees increased; the Library had only technical changes. The public budget meeting is schedule for May 29.

B. Public Service - - Main/Branches Report

Associate Director Garzón gave an update on the branch libraries projects:

- As you recall, we received funding for the Eastmont Library from Redevelopment (ORA) for a feasibility study to determine expansion in its present location or in another location. There have been some new developments and the new owners of the Mall where the Eastmont Library is housed are planning to sell the land and have approached Redevelopment to purchase land close at the north east corner of 73rd & Foothill. The current thinking behind this is that ORA would purchase the land, sell it to a developer for a retail, mixed use project. The library was not involved in the discussions. We recently learned about this development and we don't yet know what the next steps are. Staff will meet with CEDA for a follow-up discussion. Councilmember Brooks is involved in this project as she is spearheading the move of this library in her District. The Eastmont library is not in the best location and this project would bring the library outside the mall. Director Martínez added that library staff did not know about this plans.
- The construction contract award for 81st Ave. Library was pulled from the Council calendar because this particular contract is being awarded to a non-union company and there was concern from Council regarding this issue. Staff substituted the OUSD funding (Measure B – requires union participation) with private funding, and the contract went forward to Public Works Committee last Tuesday, and is scheduled to go to Council tomorrow evening for approval. We expect Council approval.
- Main Library Teen Zone construction contract was awarded to Rockridge Builders; we will begin the project this month and it should be completed by September.

C. Chief Financial Officer

Gene Tom, Chief Financial Officer, is pleased to report that the Library is on track with expenditures. Teen Services is under spent; materials under spending with carry forward from previous year; overall expenditures in system wide services is under spent by 10%; AAMLO is over expenditures and staff are looking into this; branch services overspending by 3% and Main services is also overspending. He referred to Attachment A and anticipates expenditures to be on target.

Associate Director Garzón added that one of the primary reasons for overspending in Main services is that Sunday hours for part time staff were cut last year; in order to absorb this cut, we anticipated a reorganization of the service desks on the first floor. The reorganization is taking longer than anticipated and will include on the first floor one welcome desk, one centrally located reference desk, and self checkout. Staff hopes that by adding more self-checkout systems it will allow reallocation of staffing into other areas, including branches where the need is great. Because of the delay in implementing the reorganization, we continue to have to pay part time staffing on Sundays and this has contributed to the overspending in this area.

Mr. Tom added that staff is aware that we have a structural deficit in Measure Q, and we're implementing new software to help us with the budget. We will find out more as we prepare the budget. Commissioner Katz would like to commend library staff in their efforts for trying to work within the budget limitations.

Commissioner Mixon stated that AAMLO is over budget and they don't have a librarian and archivist. When would these positions be filled? Director Martínez replied that staff is working with the Office of Personnel to fill these vacancies.

5. Commissioner's Advocacy Report:

- Commissioner Gilden - no report
- Commissioner Yascolt – went to Sacramento for the Legislative Day. She also attended Assemblyman Sandré Swanson's District Legislative Day in Alameda.
- Commissioner Mixon – continues visiting the libraries and having fun; she's impressed with the branch librarians, they are great and very knowledgeable of their neighborhoods; went to Temescal program (story hour).
- Commissioner Katz is working with the Branch Librarian at the Chavez Library on the games programs. Would like to propose/request that staff provides ear-phones for the set-up of some games as they get too noisy.
- Commissioner Tidrick – visited over 5 branches, impressed with the quality of collection at Rockridge;
- Commissioner Wooldridge – has been visiting branches and is impressed with the staff; Piedmont is so small and busy all the time; she has also spent a lot of time at Eastmont lately.
- Commissioner Alabi – visited Golden Gate Library not much activity, visited the CPA Charter High School, the students are very smart.
- Commissioner Sylvestre – visited Piedmont Library; she was asked by the Grants Development staff to serve on a fundraising board.
- Commissioner Noble - no report.

6. Determination of Schedule of New/Outstanding Items -

7. Open Forum (Public Comment)

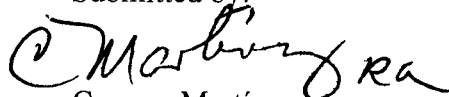
Member of the audience stated that the meeting was very interesting.

8. Announcements

- Chairperson Citron stated that on June 10 she will present the LAC's Annual report and the Frequency Meeting report at the Life Enrichment Committee. Carmen added that this report presented a challenge for staff as we are requesting to amend the LAC ordinance.

9. Adjournment - - Meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Submitted by:



Carmen Martínez
Library Director