



ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Albany Library, 1247 Marin Avenue
September 23, 2009
7 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER – A. Riffer 7P.M.

Board Members present:

Rosalie Gonzales

Robert Lieber

Alan Riffer

Linda Yamamoto

Members excused:

Leah Flanagan

Karen Leeburg

Sarah Whitmer

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Albany Library Manager

Vivian Jaquette, Teen Librarian

City of Albany Staff Present:

Charles Adams, City of Albany Finance Director

Robin Mariona

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion:

Motion to approve minutes of July 22, 2009 as corrected made by Member Lieber and seconded by Member Yamamoto. Motion carried all in favor.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT- None

4. ALBANY LIBRARY REPORT- INFORMATION ITEM-Library Programs- R Davis, V Jaquette

Manager Davis stated that there had been a 6% increase in program attendance since the previous year, totaling approximately 11,000 people attending 30 programs each month.

Manager Davis and Vivian Jaquette, Teen, Senior and Reference Librarian, were now responsible for all library programming: instructors, funding, book room, calendar, flyers, media releases, e-trees, room setups and hosting of events.

Manager Davis had been involved in; Albany Reads, Adult Evening Book Group, Brown Bag Speaker's Forum (with the YMCA) origami workshops, lawyer in the library, writing, sing-along, knitting and the Great Books Reading Group.

Ms. Jaquette was responsible for: the summer reading programs for kids, teen and adults, summer programs for families, teen programs, board games, Wii games, Senior programs, memoir writing, coordinating poetry events, the homework program, tutor coordination with teen volunteers and the one-on-one computer program

5. LIBRARY BOARD LETTER TO THE CITY COUNCIL- Update, Discussion-A Riffer

A. Board Letter to the City Council-July 29: Council and staff had received and reviewed the July 29th letter from the Board.

B. Staff Report-City Council Meeting-September 8: City Administrator Beth Pollard had prepared a staff report outlining the Board's concerns as expressed in the letter. Member Lieber stated that Council had voted to approve communication with the County regarding the Board's concerns about the performance of the Agreement between the City of Albany and the County of Alameda for Additional Library Services fiscal year 2010.

C. Communication from Jean Hofacket, County Librarian-September 1: Finance Director Charles Adams stated that Jean Hofacket had sent a partial response to the City's inquiries, and passed out copies of the communication for the Board members to review. He stated that his primary purpose for attending the meeting was to assess what the Board hoped to achieve. If the Board agreed that the youth librarian position should be maintained, the City would pursue that end.

D. Amended Agreement between the City of Albany and the County of Alameda: The Board reviewed the Amended Agreement included in the meeting packet. Member Lieber stated that some of the Library deficits were in place before the economic crisis, and it did not seem equitable. Member Riffer stated that there was a lack of transparency in the County process. He stated concern with the year long unfilled children's librarian position and the loss of senior staff member Richard Russo as well. As a result, Albany may have been disproportionately affected by the hiring freeze.

E. Communication from Beth Pollard and Jean Hofacket- September 10, 11: Director Adams stated that the County Librarian had not addressed the question of inequitable cutbacks or been forthcoming with information about the financial situation. The Board agreed that they needed information and evidence from the County that cuts were comparable across all the libraries in the system, and all were equally affected. Member Riffer stated that the Board should give direction on prioritization of cuts if possible and necessary. Member Lieber stated that if necessary at some point, the Board should present Council with a request for authorization to obtain funding information using legal means.

Director Adams agreed to ask for information on comparable cuts system wide and monitor the situation.

6. Floating collections- Manager Davis reported on the floating collection. The library reorganized shelves to triple the space accommodating DVDs and books on CD allowing space for holding a greater volume of material, have eliminated most videos, and reduced audiocassettes. Customers were happy so far. She stated that audio-visual materials now comprised 50% of total circulation and the plan was to float the entire collection by December 1st. She stated some concern about making room for all the materials the library might need to hold when the whole collection was floating, as Albany seemed to bring in more material than was sent out.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

A. Legislative Report – R Davis: Manager Davis stated that it was not known if the state intended to try and take away local money, but it would be limited to 8% of the Library's budget if it did happen.

B. Library Board Calendar 2009- R Davis: Manager Davis stated that the Solano Stroll had been successful and the Board had participated at the Library booth. She stated that the Friends had a book sale on the following Saturday and there was an upcoming Friends program on the Beatles.

C. Library Board Work Plan 2009- A Riffer: There was nothing new to report.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Possibilities and processes involved in Albany Library becoming an independent library.

8. ADJOURNMENT: 8:10pm