



## ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Albany Library, 1247 Marin Avenue  
March 3, 2010 7 P.M.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER – L. Flanagan

#### **Board Members present:**

Leah Flanagan  
Rosalie Gonzales  
Karen Leeburg  
Robert Lieber  
Linda Yamamoto

Members Excused: Alan Riffer, Sarah Whitmer

#### Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Albany Library Manager  
Ann Hammond, Deputy County Librarian

#### City of Albany Staff Present:

Charles Adams, City of Albany Finance Director  
Robin Mariona

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### **Motion:**

Motion to approve minutes as corrected made by Member Lieber and seconded by Member Yamamoto. Motion carried all in favor.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

### 4. REPORT FROM ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY - Strategic Plan, Sunday closures, 2010/2011

#### **Budget Process – A. Hammond**

Ms. Hammond passed out copies of the draft Strategic Plan report to the Board and stated that Library administrators had asked staff for input. She asked the Board for their input on actions that supported the stated goals before finalizing the report. Manager Davis stated that Albany staff had already implemented many of the strategies and new items may need to wait for the economy to improve. Ms Hammond stated that those goals could be put on a 3 to 5 year plan.

Ms. Hammond stated that Sunday closures would be attached to holidays and the final invoice from the County would reflect the extra Sunday closures. The savings from the closures would be in operating costs not salaries.

Ms. Hammond stated that the budget was behind schedule because of the State and it was likely that Counties would receive little or nothing in payments. Chair Flanagan asked if there was any timeframe for budget information. Ms Hammond stated that she hoped it would be soon. Chair Flanagan suggested moving the next meeting from the end of March to April 28 to allow for more time.

**Motion:**

Motion to reschedule the Library Board meeting from March 24, 2010 to April 28, 2010 made by Member Lieber and seconded by Member Leeburg. Motion carried all in favor.

Albany Finance Director Charles Adams stated that he would prepare the City budget figures by that date.

Manager Davis stated that she had attended a County budget presentation that had offered sobering financial news for the next couple of years. Ms Hammond stated that a directive from the Board of Supervisors mandated no hiring, but she and Peggy Watson would continue to work on making the situation tolerable. Chair Flanagan stated that she hoped a health care plan would help to stabilize the economy.

Director Adams asked if all State funds to the Counties would be stopped. Member Lieber stated that there were some funds that it may not be Constitutional to stop payment on. Manager Davis stated that the State was likely limited to taking only 7% of some funds.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS FOR THE DELIVERY OF LIBRARY SERVICE IN ALBANY – C. ADAMS**

Director Adams stated that he had begun inquiries into independent status for the Library and had looked at studies from the 1960's and 90's. He stated that the State Library could also help with information on studies already done. He was gathering numbers, costs, guidelines and issues about which services could continue and which might be lost. This information would eventually be presented to Council. He stated that withdrawal procedures required a fair amount of negotiation. He and City Administrator Beth Pollard had discussed working with other libraries, the most likely being Berkeley. They would be taking a larger look at the situation to determine if there were any precedents.

Manager Davis stated that one step would be to determine the cost of a consultant. Director Adams stated that the cost would come out of the City general fund and would likely be \$10,000-\$20,000. If preliminary numbers showed it to be too expensive, the idea may have to be abandoned.

**6. REPORT FROM CALTAC WORKSHOP – L. Flanagan and others.** Member Gonzales passed out the agenda from the workshop. She stated that the State Librarian made a general presentation about library services and there was information about training for librarians and linking organizations that were looking for volunteers. The president of the San Francisco Library Commission made a presentation about funding. The person responsible for raising funds for the Lafayette library discussed raising private funds and partnering with other organizations. Member Gonzales stated that Berkeley speakers stated that they had hired consultants to run a bond campaign.

Member Leeburg stated that Lafayette had emphasized long term planning with partners and attended a workshop on how to gain access to Council members and state representatives.

**7. REPORT FROM ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION – R. Lieber.** Member Lieber stated that there had been a tour of the new Castro Valley Library. One of the interesting features was an automated return system. The discussion had focused on advocacy and making concerted efforts to put pressure on targeted people and organizations. In his opinion the best advocacy focused on an issue that the advocate cared about, and a plan with preparation and support that the advocate could work with.

Chair Flanagan suggested advocacy as a future agenda item. Ms Hammond stated that CALTAC had a board effectiveness training workshop. Manager Davis stated that the best advocacy was targeted and specific.

Ms. Hammond stated that there would be no Legislative Day this year.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS**

**A. Albany Library Report; Floating Collection Update – R. Davis** Manager Davis reported that business was up 17%, holds on materials were up 20% and a new staff member had helped relieve the workload. She stated that the City was moving forward with repair of the tower and it was possible that the Marin entrance would be closed for up to two months as a result, for safety purposes. She stated that she was working with the project manager to minimize disruption.

Two new and expanded programs had been added; a photo workshop and an expansion of the great books program. The other thirty programs were on going. Albany had benefitted in all areas from the implementation of the shared collection.

**B. Library Board Work Plan – L. Flanagan** Chair Flanagan stated that the work plan was moving along.

**C. Library Board 2010 Calendar:** The March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting had been cancelled and rescheduled for April 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**10. ADJOURNMENT: 8:45pm**