



ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Albany Library, 1247 Marin Avenue
May 26, 2010 7 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER – L. Flanagan

Board Members present:

Leah Flanagan
Rosalie Gonzales
Karen Leeburg
Robert Lieber
Alan Riffer
Linda Yamamoto

Members excused:

Sarah Whitmer

City of Albany Staff Present:

Charles Adams, City of Albany Finance Director
Robin Mariona

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion:

Motion to approve minutes from April 28, 2010 as amended made by Member Riffer and seconded by Member Leeburg.
Motion carried all in favor.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

4. CITY-COUNTY AGREEMENT

Memo from Jean Hofacket and Agreement between City of Albany and the County of Alameda for additional Library Services-Fiscal Year 2011. Director Adams stated that he had created a chart based on information from Linda Carroll. He passed out a written response from Ms. Carroll and commented that the County analysis was not all that meaningful in his opinion. He stated that he had worked with the numbers and there was not enough explanation or clarity on the \$150,000 loss of funds or the \$15,540 amount the Board questioned at the previous meeting.

Member Lieber asked if Director Adams thought Albany was getting their money's worth and if not, what the options were. He further stated that it was possible to obtain needed information from the County, if it was done carefully. Member Riffer asked if it would be possible to obtain information from the separate jurisdictions rather than the County.

Director Adams stated that contracts should be obtainable from the County. Member Leeburg asked if there was a formula applied for working out the amounts for each jurisdiction. Director Adams stated that he was not confident that there was a formula and the County wanted flexibility to give or take funds from branches as needed. Member Riffer stated that he had no confidence that the numbers on the schedule were derived by formula. Chair Flanagan stated that the Board needed effective transparency on financial issues.

Motion:

Motion to request from the County a copy of the public library contract for the City of Dublin by Albany Finance Director Charles Adams made by Member Lieber and seconded by Member Leeburg.

Motion Amendment:

To request two or three contracts that including cities with libraries paying for extra hours.

Motion carried all in favor.

Director Adams stated that he would ask to see contracts from 9/10 and 10/11 if available. Member Lieber stated that the Board needed to review the other City contracts before sending the Albany contract to Council for approval. Member Riffer stated that the contract could be extended until the issues were resolved, and the Board could not move forward without answers to the questions raised. Chair Flanagan stated that it was possible to approve the contract conditionally.

Member Lieber stated that there were two possibilities for making a decision on the contract; to wait for further information or pass a motion to approve the contract this evening. Chair Flanagan stated that the Council should be aware of the Board's concerns, in writing. Member Gonzales stated that the possibility of getting the information from the County by the next meeting were probably not good. Member Lieber stated that the contract could be put on the Council agenda, including the Board's concerns. Holding up the process could possibly result in Library staff not being paid. Member Leeburg agreed that the Board could signal their distress without delaying the whole process.

Member Riffer stated his disappointment that the Council hadn't asked for better performance of the contract agreement, and the Board should not be a willing party to it. He further stated concern about the contract wording and the risk being taken. Chair Flanagan stated that the financial situation was not likely to improve any time soon, but it was important for the Board to know how system wide support was distributed to try and protect subsidy funds.

Member Riffer recommended asking Council to attempt mutual agreement with the County to extend the current contract pending further review and information, to try and get a better contract. Member Lieber and Chair Flanagan stated doubt that the County would agree and it would be better for staff and the public to approve the contract with reservations, as frustrating as it seemed.

Chair Flanagan stated that it seemed better to try and work with the County, at the same time gather information and educate themselves as they went along. She suggested writing a letter stating these goals to Jean Hofacket. Member Riffer asked, if in any previous negotiations a greater degree of openness had been established with the County. It was agreed that had not happened before.

Motion:

Motion to present Council with the 2010 Library contract for adoption, the Council meeting to be attended by two or three members with a written statement of questions to express the concerns and reservations of the Board particularly with regard to the upcoming \$150,000 cut in funds and the mechanics of subsidizing, asking that Council discuss the matter when signing the contract with the knowledge that the Board would not willing accept that cut without further information from the County about other County funds made by Member Lieber and seconded by Member Yamamoto. Motion carried 5 in favor and 1 opposed.

Member Lieber asked if any Board member would volunteer to prepare the written statement of questions. The Board agreed to form a subcommittee to prepare a draft of questions to present to Council. The members were; Members Leeburg, Gonzales and Chair Flanagan. Member Riffer would review.

5. CITY REPORT

Report of consultant study of withdrawal from County system, and analysis of proposed County Library contract- C. Adams. Director Adams stated that Assistant City Administrator Judy Lieberman had been assigned the task of gathering information about withdrawing from the County system. He passed out a draft of the RFP scheduled to be sent out at the end of the week to preliminary contacts to ascertain costs. Enough information would be available

by the end of July to know if it was feasible to move forward. He stated that any additions or corrections could be directed to or him or Judy Lieberman. The Board thanked Director Adams for his efforts.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

A. Alameda County Library 2008-2009 Annual Statistics. Member Yamamoto pointed out some discrepancies and suggested the Board look them over. Member Lieber identified the unincorporated areas.

B. Library Board Work Plan – L. Flanagan. Some corrections were made to the work plan. Member Riffer stated that close to 10,000 books were sold and \$6,800 was generated by the book sale.

C. Library Board 2010 Calendar. July 28th was identified as an important meeting date.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8. ADJOURNMENT: 8:49