



ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Albany Library, 1249 Marin Avenue
October 27, 2010 7 P.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – L. Flanagan

Board Members Present:

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

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Albany Library Manager

City of Albany Staff Present:

Charles Adams, City of Albany Finance Director
Judy Lieberman, City of Albany Assistant Administrator
Eva Phalen, Recreation and Community Services

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Minutes from July 28, 2010 meeting were approved unanimously.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jerry Holan presented her reasons to vote Yes on Measure N on November 2, 2010

4. **REPORTS FROM THE CITY OF ALBANY:**

Update on financial concerns – Verbal report - C. Adams

C. Adams handed out “Library Contract Comparison” to Board members. These numbers were gleaned from contracts that the County Library has with other cities (Union City, Newark, and Dublin). He concluded that there is no readily apparent rational between the different contracts and no real patterns that he could find.

-R. Lieber stated that Albany pays a lot more for their hours even though they are much smaller than the other cities.

-A. Riffer asked what the fixed costs are and stated that Albany is owed another holiday because we didn't get credit for the Sunday before Labor Day.

-L. Flanagan asked for an explanation of the discrepancy in costs for open versus closed days

Status of Library Services Consulting Study for Albany Library – Verbal report - J. Lieberman

Administrator Lieberman handed out a Library Report memorandum to the Board and reviewed her conclusions thus far. The report is still in progress.

Ouye Mingram Consulting analyzed the financial impact of separating from the county. Their comparison of library costs was based on circulation and population.

Options on the table:

- 1) Private contractor, LSSI – they feel they could provide library services at our current operating costs
- 2) Join a consortium – would require ~\$425,000 annually

Meeting Agenda

In general, transitioning to an independent library is much like a divorce; it will take time (a few years?) and there are many financial issues to be resolved.

The issue of 'fairness' was discussed:

-There are many non-Albany residents that use the Albany library.

-Albany owns the building so is not paying rent.

-Is basing it on geographic taxes the right thing to do?

Administrator Lieberman stated that the report would address these issues.

Administrator Lieberman handed out articles about LLSI and the recent issues that have come up.

Final reports will be ready for distribution at December 1 meeting. Included will be complete findings by Ouye/Mingram along with recommendations and potential next steps.

5. CITY OF ALBANY ADVISORY BODIES REPORT AND BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS – L. Flanagan

L. Flanagan handed out report. Edits and recommendations were discussed and approved. A. Riffer will record changes and give to L. Flanagan to submit final draft to Administrator Lieberman by November 15th for the November 17th meeting. Administrator Lieberman will send a copy of the final draft to the Board for their records.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

A. Albany Library Report – R. Davis

R. Davis reported that there are many exciting things happening at the library.

-They are making some rearrangements in order to make room for new media (books on CD, DVDs, CDs, etc)

-*Albany Reads* was incredibly successful

-*Transition Albany* is showing a chicken movie on October 31

-Poetry reading is back

-Preschool story time and sing-a-longs

-They are looking to purchase a microfilm reader for the local history section as the current machine is broken

-Book sale this weekend – please sign up for a 2 hr shift as they need help

A. Riffer asked if there has been a difference in event attendance because of Patch. R. Davis stated that it was nearly impossible to tell but they are a great resource.

B. Library Board Work Plan – L. Flanagan

Nothing coming up

C. Library Board 2010 Calendar

New council will be sworn in late December. R. Lieber expects the transition to go smoothly regardless of whether there are new members or not.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No public comments were taken on announcement of future agenda items.

8. ADJOURNMENT-meeting adjourned at 9:01pm