



DRAFT MINUTES
ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD
MEETING

Albany Library, 1249 Marin Avenue
December 1, 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

Board Members Absent:

Karen Leeburg

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Albany Library Manager
Peggy Watson, Head of Branches

City of Albany Staff Present:

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes from July 28, 2010 meeting were approved pending two corrections.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments regarding non-agenda related items

4. REPORTS FROM THE CITY OF ALBANY:

Update on financial concerns – Verbal report - C. Adams

Adams commented on credits for closed days. The library has received \$2,600 for the days of 1/6/10, 2/20/10 and 5/29/10. Per advisement from the county library office, it is anticipated that in the year 2011 the library will receive \$2,678 for two days of closure in February and one day in May. A. Riffer had a question about the credits and drafting a statement to the county regarding concerns over receiving proper credits and other contract issues was considered. The board agreed that C. Adams and A. Riffer should meet and draft this document together.

Adams also reported that he had again requested 2010-11 contracts from nearby branch libraries. He was advised that there is no contract for additional hours for Newark branch library for 2010-11. The Dublin contract is now available and this year they have contracted for 17 additional hours at \$22,703, compared to their 2009-10 contract of 31 hours at \$21,686. No rationale for these differences was given. Per Adams at this time the county is not able to provide rationale for why Albany's contract hours are more expensive than neighboring libraries. C. Adams distributed copies of a "Library Contract Comparison" document to board members and participants.

City Council action on the Advisory Bodies recommendations – Verbal report – J. Lieberman

Per R. Lieber, the city council took recommendations of the library board and there are essentially no changes at this time. Per J. Lieberman, R. Davis and herself will be serving as liaisons between the city and library board. Their exact roles and job descriptions have yet to be decided. Regarding the possible change to action minutes, R. Lieber reported that this issue had not been currently taken up and that for now the library board meeting will not be changed to action minutes.

5. PRELIMINARY STUDY OF ALTERNATIVES, FEASIBILITY AND OPTIONS FOR LIBRARY SERVICE

- a. K. Ouye and P. Mingram presented a brief overview of their report including methodology, the pros and cons of each option, the impending budget gap, financial feasibility, "Preliminary Study of Alternatives, Feasibility and Options for Library Service, City of Albany, December 2010

The study included four options:

- o Staying with the county of Alameda
- o Going completely independent (stand alone)
- o Going independent and joining a consortium
- o Contracting with Library Systems and Services (LSSI) for services
Most inexpensive option, non-union, proposal does not disclose organization charts

In order to give the city council a recommendation on this matter from the library board K. Ouye suggested creating a project committee to discuss this matter. She also recommend that this committee be charged with creating a prospective budget for an independent city library. L. Flanagan recommended putting this matter on the next meeting agenda. K. Ouye estimated that the process of withdrawing from the county regardless of the option selected would take about 2 years. It would also involve significant one-time costs and a shift of some administrative duties to the city.

It was also mentioned that with the phasing down of county funding, if the library wants to maintain similar services it will require additional funds no matter what option is selected.

Sarah Louster, an experienced librarian in the audience who is familiar with the report, mentioned that in her opinion the Albany Library within the county system is "not getting as much bang for its buck as you could". She believes that going independent is the preferable choice and sited the following reason: greater control over staffing, a more responsive staff, a positive impact on fundraising capabilities and greater responsiveness and control on many levels of operation.

Dan Hess, an Albany librarian, shared some of the information he had gleaned from his research of LSSI. He spoke of library employees in Jackson, Oregon that had sued successfully the company in order to have the right to unionize. He also mentioned that in his opinion LSSI is not pro-labor and is not well liked within the library community.

At the close of the meeting all four options remained on the table and per L. Flanagan will be discussed further at the next meeting on January 26, 2011.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

A. Albany Library Report – R. Davis

R. Davis did not comment due to lateness of the hour.

B. Library Board Work Plan – L. Flanagan

L. Flanagan did not comment

C. Library Board 2010 Calendar

The next library board meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2011.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

8. ADJOURNMENT-meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm