



**ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
DRAFT**

Albany Library, 1247 Marin Avenue
September 21, 2011 7 P.M.

Board Members present:

Alan Riffer
Rosalie Gonzales
Karen Leeburg
Robert Lieber
Linda Yamamoto

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Albany Library Manager
Cindy Chadwick, Deputy County Librarian
Susan Fisher, Web Services Manager

City of Albany Staff Present:

Charles Adams, City of Albany Finance Director
Heather Robinson, City of Albany Adult Sports Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER – Alan Riffer

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 27, 2011 meeting minutes approved unanimously.

3. INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION OF AGENDA – A. Riffer

4. PUBLIC COMMENT -None at this time.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Albany Library Report:– R. Davis

SPECIAL AND ONGOING EVENTS

- 1. Banned Books Week** - The Banned Books Week **2011** Celebration included lots of off-site programming. The event was announced at City Council meeting by Mayor Farid Javandal.
- 2. Solano Stroll**- Entire library staff participated and the Friends of the Albany Library sold the most books ever. Video of the event is available online.
- 3. Outreach events**- University Village Fair and the Senior Resource Fair
- 4. Homework Center**- Restarted in September with Alba Witkin grant. Open on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and already drawing a good attendance.
- 5. Poetry Nights** – Restarted on Tuesday nights
- 6. Albany Reads: The Beekeeper's Apprentice**- The 6th Annual includes collaboration with outside organizations
- 7. Brown Bag Series**- Is restarting with Fred Setterberg (Lunch Bucket Paradise, Hay Day Press)
- 8. Leak in downstairs library storage**- Pump and alarm system failed. Was fixed within hours and there was no major loss of property. Questions from A. Riffer and R. Lieber about regular maintenance of pumps and alarm system. R. Davis noted that in her opinion the maintenance crew was on top of the situation.

b. Alameda County Library Web Services – eBooks, EAudiobooks – S. Fisher

Introduced those in attendance to the platforms/portals used by the Alameda County Library system for E-books including the newest, “Overdrive.” All of the EBooks available to library users are compatible with all major readers. There are

about 900 titles currently available. Books are available one at a time to users and disappear from their readers after an allotted time period (do not need to be actively returned). She emphasized that for users getting started can be a bit challenging, but once the initial download of an eBook is accomplished the process is very simple and the interface is easy to use.

he cost per book to the library varies and the pricing system is in flux, depending on the publisher. Books from the Gutenberg collection (written before 1923) are always available. She described the software needed to download eBooks and said they expect a bump in users because of the availability of the eBook collection.

S. Fisher also mentioned “Discover and Go” which is a website based program that offers discounted passes to over 20 different museums and attractions for library users. Coming soon: A mobile library app with locations, blogs and social media.

c. Update on County Library Resource Allocation Project - C. Chadwick

No update at this point because the project is somewhat on hold and there has been no significant progress.

6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

a. Update on City/County Library Contract for 2011/2012 – C. Chadwick

This process is out of C. Chadwick’s hands and is being managed by Keith Carson and other Alameda County Administrators.

R. Libber is concerned that these delays will continue to keep Albany from getting the library staff it is paying for. A. Riffer is also concerned that the project is not moving forward.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS – A. Riffer

The next meeting will take place November 30, 2011. It was moved to the fifth Wednesday in November in order to avoid occurring on the day before Thanksgiving.

Keith Carson met with his staff or a full day retreat in the Edith Stone Room. He was overheard saying, “I can’t believe how many people were coming into this library.”

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – R. Riffer

Invitation to Board members to add things to the future agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Board packet is available for public inspection at the Albany Library. The agenda can be found on our web page at www.albanyca.org. Please note that if you provide your name and address when speaking before the Board it will become part of the official public record, which will be posted on the Internet.