

ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – January 21, 2016

Albany Library, 1247 Marin Avenue, 7 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Gonzales.

Board Members Present:

Rosalie Gonzales
Marge Atkinson
Sarah Levin
Cynthia Hegedus
Karen Leeburg

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Brian Edwards, Albany Library Manager
Susan Fisher, Digital Library Manager, Information Technology Division

City of Albany Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Staff Liaison

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 17, 2015 – The minutes were approved unanimously with no corrections (Atkinson/Levin).

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comments.

4. ALBANY LIBRARY REPORT

Edwards noted that over 750 people visit the library each day. The collection has been rearranged to give more space to the popular collection of Books on CD and to give better space to the oversize collection which includes beautiful art books. New programs include career training sessions with One Stop Career Center. Other plans for new programs include art programs for March in conjunction with the Alameda County Art Commission and a teen podcast. New equipment includes a new combination fax, print and scan station. The laptop kiosk that was approved using the Young bequest is on order.

5. REPORT FROM ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (ACLAC)

Hegedus reported that she went on a retreat with other Commission members on November 20 and then attended a regular ACLAC meeting on January 6. The purpose of the retreat was to look at the purpose and function of the Commission. Areas of concern include library public relations, service to underserved communities as well as relationships with other community organizations. Gonzales noted that ACLAC was a good place to look at the financing of the County Library and Hegedus said that other Commissioners were interested in a more specific breakdown of branch expenses. Hegedus reported the County Library gives each community a base level of support and cities or jurisdictions can add to services and hours through contracts. The Commission is working to fill vacancies so all communities are represented on the Commission. Hegedus noted that she stayed overnight in the cities where the meetings were held. Board members thanked her for representing Albany at these meetings.

6. ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY UPDATED WEBSITE

Fisher said that she has worked at almost every library in Alameda County except for Albany. She has been the library manager for the Library's website for almost 10 years. The current website is 15 years old and is undergoing a much needed update. Fisher described the advantages of the new website which include more options for different languages as well as more graphics. Some of the challenges include keeping the features that are important to the users while modernizing and incorporating new interfaces. A Board member asked if the logo was scheduled to be updated and Fisher said that was being planned. Board members thanked Fisher for her work on the website.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The 2016/2017 City contract with Alameda County Library for additional hours will be on a forthcoming agenda. Davis will contact the City for a report on the available tax funds. Atkinson suggested that someone from Supervisor Carson's office be contacted for an agenda presentation. Davis said she follow up.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

