

ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD
Meeting Minutes September 20, 2016

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Gonzales.

Board Members Present:

Rosalie Gonzales
Sarah Levin

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Brian Edwards, Albany Library Manager
Darshan Chattha, Financial Services Officer
Ben Gomberg, Principal Librarian for Branches

City of Albany Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Staff Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 17, 2016 – The minutes were reviewed as correct with one typographical error. (Levin/Gonzales).

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comments.

ALBANY LIBRARY REPORT

Edwards announced that Rebecca Maher has joined the Albany staff as Children’s Librarian. She previously worked at the Fremont and Dublin libraries. She will meet the Board at an upcoming meeting. Edwards has one half-time Librarian position to fill and is in the process of hiring an additional page. Upcoming programs include a community showing of the presidential and vice-presidential debates, and a film premiere in cooperation with the Albany FilmFest. Brown Bag and poetry events have been filmed for viewing on KALB. There is an upcoming program featuring a representative from Albany’s USDA facility. Edwards said the laptops purchased through the Young Bequest are being well used, including offered to the City’s Girls Who Code class. The staff room has been redesigned to accommodate more staff work stations and the library technical department upgraded all staff computers to touch screen. The community center lobby floor has been reconditioned to make it less slippery when it rains.

ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (ACLAC)

Gonzales reported that Hegedus had not been able to attend the July ACLAC meeting but Hegedus went over the minutes with Gonzales. ACLAC has made some organizational changes so it better represents the communities the Library serves. It was announced that the recruitment for County Librarian had closed. Hegedus will be on vacation for the October 5 meeting and Gonzales will attend. The other two topics that were discussed at the ACLAC meeting will be presented at this meeting.

ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY BRANCH BUDGET INFORMATION

Chattha distributed information sheets showing the assessed values for library districts in Alameda County as well as the County’s property tax allocation factors. The final sheet showed the breakdown of Alameda County Library branch budgets for fiscal years 2015/2016 and 2016/2017. Chattha noted that all property owners in the County pay a portion of the budget for Alameda County Library. Gonzales noted the Utility Users Tax that funds the libraries in Castro Valley and San Lorenzo. Chattha noted that all branches receive Other County

Funds which are available fund balances from previous years but this is not a guaranteed income source. Board members thanked Chattha for researching this and providing this information.

ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Gomberg gave a summary of the Alameda County Library Master Space Plan that was presented to ACLAC by the Group 4 consultants at the July 6 ACLAC meeting. Gomberg described the process that included collecting data from stakeholders through community meetings, an online survey and a community workshop. Gomberg focused on some of the data specific to Albany users such as a concern for a wide range of materials and a variety of spaces for library activities. The Plan shows that the Albany Library has a desirable ratio of floor space per Albany resident but that ratio will decrease a little as the population grows. Specific recommendations for better use of the facility include a redesign of the children's area as well as a more efficient use of the downstairs space. Gomberg noted that the configuration of the circulation desk/reference desk to a single desk model could also be looked at. Other system priorities were for increased open hours, more services in the south part of the County and a desire for a universal library card for all regional libraries. Gomberg emphasized that the Plan is a guide for priorities for the next ten years.

COUNTY LIBRARIAN RECRUITMENT

Gomberg reported that a list of finalists for the County Librarian position has been forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Davis asked about the Library's participation in the Solano Stroll. Edwards said that the Library booth was constantly busy and many prizes were distributed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Gonzales noted that Hegedus has requested an agenda item on Alameda County Library's materials selection process. Gomberg asked if the agenda item could be more specific. Gonzales suggested that the "acquisition philosophy" would be interesting. There was also a concern from the Friends about a decrease in Albany's share of the County Library's materials budget. Gonzales said it might be appropriate to have an agenda item on the activities of the Friends of the Albany Library. Edwards offered to give a summary of the statistics from the 2015/2016 fiscal year.

Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.