

ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD
Meeting Minutes November 15, 2016

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

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Gonzales.

Board Members Present:

Rosalie Gonzales
Sarah Levin
Karen Leeburg
Marge Atkinson
Cynthia Hegedus

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Natalie McCall, Interim Albany Library Manager
Ben Gomberg, Principal Librarian for Branches

City of Albany Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Staff Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 20, 2016 – The minutes were approved (Levin/Gonzales).

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no public comments.

ALBANY LIBRARY REPORT

McCall introduced herself as the interim manager. She read the poem, *Laughter* by Langston Hughes. She said that she believed that it was important for libraries to share stories and be a part of the community. McCall shared some statistics about the library collection and library use. Board members asked for additional clarification about Link+ use. McCall noted that the laptops are very popular after school. The new Children's Librarian, Rebecca Maher, has begun a "Smart Baby" program for very young children. Other programs in the past months included several debate watch nights, and a National Novel Writing program in cooperation with Albany High School. There will be an Albany Reads program featuring the authors of *All American Boy* which is currently a very popular teen novel. McCall noted that "services as needed" staff will be filling in to cover Brian's absence for the next several months. In answer to a Board member, McCall said the Library was starting to track eBook use by library branch.

FRIENDS OF THE ALBANY LIBRARY REPORT

Marsha Skinner, the President of the Friends of the Albany Library, gave a report on Friends activities and finances. Skinner noted that the November sale raised \$4704.65 and required 80-90 time slots for volunteers. The Friends have budgeted \$44,800 for 2017 for library programs and materials. Skinner noted that library manager Edwards had asked for \$1000 a month to supplement the funds that Alameda County Library allocates for library materials for the Albany Library. Gomberg noted that the expenditures for library materials have not increased in the past year and these funds are needed in Albany. Skinner said her members were concerned that the materials paid for from Friends funds were not specifically tracked. McCall and Gomberg offered to consider ways to give the Friends more information on the materials bought with Friends funds. Board members thanked Skinner for the significant contribution the Friends make to the Albany Library.

ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (ACLAC)

Gonzales went to the November ACLAC meeting because Hegedus was on vacation. It was announced that Alameda County Library has hired a new Children's and a new Teen Coordinator. The County Librarian position has not yet been announced. The Library will be changing the eBook interface to Library Simplified, a new program that should make eBook downloading easier for the public. Gonzales also reported that ACLAC is reorganizing membership and is working on their work plan.

REVIEW OF CITY OF ALBANY BOARD PROCEDURES

Davis noted that Board members who would like to be reappointed to the Library Board need to submit an application through the City's website. Davis said that she has enjoyed working with the current Board and encourages members to reapply if interested.

2015/2016 ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD WORK PLAN

Davis asked for a review of the 2015/2016 Albany Library Board Work Plan. Board members agreed that they had fulfilled the 2015/2016 goals: advise the Council on the contracts with the County Library; continued a discussion of collection management issues, worked with the library manager on the recommendations of expenditures for the Young Bequest and participated in the Alameda County Library Advisory Commission through the appointment of a representative and an alternate who attended meetings. The Board felt they could do more to participate in statewide library advocacy. It was agreed that this could be a goal for the 2017/2018 Work Plan and the new Board could discuss ways to make this happen.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Hegedus asked for some follow-up on the need for feedback or confirmation when a patron submits an item for suggested purchase. Gomberg said he would look into this.

Other future agenda items could follow-up on ways to make the library more visible to the community and to local legislators as part of the 2017/2018 Work Plan.

Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.