

ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD
Meeting Minutes March 21, 2017

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

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Gonzales.

Board Members Present:

Rosalie Gonzales
Sarah Levin
Karen Leeburg
Sue Douglass
Cynthia Hegedus

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Natalie McCall, Acting Albany Library Manager
Ben Gomberg, Principal Librarian for Branches
Cindy Chadwick, Alameda County Librarian

City of Albany Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Staff Liaison

Assistant City Manager Nicole Almaguer conducted the official swearing in of the Albany Library Board members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 15, 2016 – The minutes were approved (Levin/Hegedus).

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Albany Mayor Peggy McQuaid thanked the members of the Albany Library Board for serving the Albany community. She mentioned the Board’s unique role in working with the County Library.

REORGANIZATION OF THE ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD – Sarah Levin was unanimously elected as the Chair of the Albany Library Board (Leeburg/Gonzales). Karen Leeburg was unanimously elected (Gonzales/Hegedus) as Vice Chair. The Board recommended to the City Council they reappoint Cynthia Hegedus to serve as the City’s representative on the Alameda County Library Advisory Commission and that Rosalie Gonzales continue to be an alternate to the Commission.

GREETINGS FROM ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARIAN CINDY CHADWICK – Chadwick noted that she had been working with the Albany Library Board since coming to the County Library in 2011. She said that the County Library’s goals for the next year would be the implementation of new staff schedules so that the libraries were better staffed on weekends. The County Library will also be working with the cities on the recommendations from the Facilities Master Plan. Specifically they will be working with the city of Newark that just passed a bond for a new library/city hall complex. Chadwick announced that Brian Edwards has been appointed as the Principal Librarian for the Fremont libraries and that they plan to permanently appoint a library manager for the Albany Library in the next months. Chadwick noted that the financial situation for the County Library is currently stable because the funding comes primarily from the property tax. Chadwick also informed the Board that there is legislation before the State to lower the percentage of voters to lower the passage of bond issues from 2/3rds to 55% which would help cities like Union City pass a bond for a new library. Board members were interested in being informed about actions needed to help this legislation as well as other political advocacy needs.

ALBANY LIBRARY REPORT – McCall also talked about some changes in the children’s area. Board members asked how this affected the availability of children’s staff to children using the library. McCall explained that staff “roves” in the area during busy times. She also noted that Rebecca Maher the current children’s librarian is offering several programs a week and is becoming well known to people who use the library.

ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION REPORT (ACLAC) – Hegedus reported that she was not able to attend the January meeting. Chadwick said that the main topic of the meeting was a presentation from the new Alameda County Library children’s coordinator that focused on Kindergarten Readiness and the Campaign for Grade Level Reading (gradelevelreading.net).

2017/2019 ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD WORK PLAN – Davis explained that all City Boards and Commissions are required to present a Work Plan to the City Council every 2 years. The Work Plan considers tasks that the City Council has identified as relevant to the City’s goals stated which are stated in the Strategic Plan. Even though no specific tasks are assigned to the Library Board, Davis and Board members suggested that when the Board supports the Library that several Strategic Plan goals are accomplished. Board members also suggested that the Board take on an advocacy role in legislative issues. Hegedus suggested some guidance from the County Library. Davis said she would share information about the California Public Library Advocates (CPLA) organization and the workshop they are sponsoring in Mill Valley on April 22. Several Board members were interested. The Board made suggestions to the draft Board Work Plan. Davis will finalize the Plan and Board Chair Levin will present to the City Council at the April 3 meeting.

PROCLAMATION FOR NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK – McCall read the proclamation that she wrote for the Library Board and City Council review. The Board approved the proclamation so it will be submitted to the City Council. National Library Week is April 10-16.

ALAMEDA COUNTY AND ALBANY LIBRARY MATERIALS SELECTION PROCESS – Hegedus said she wanted the Board to formulate some questions that she would submit to the Alameda County Library Commission (ACLAC) about the materials selection process. Questions include the following: How are materials selected? How is it decided which materials end up in specific branches? Are there specific monetary budget allocations? Who are the selectors (per age group) and what tools do they use? What data including interaction with branch staff and local patrons is used to refine the process? Are Link+ requests considered in purchase decisions? What has changed since the end of the floating collection process? What percentage of new books is selected by the vendor? How are language collections determined? Hegedus had begun a survey of bestsellers both national and Bay Area that she was not able to complete but the question was how is bestseller purchases determined. A member of the audience asked how the Friends can continue to supplement the Albany Library collection. Gomberg and Chadwick took some notes on the discussion and said that they would consider for a presentation at a future ACLAC meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – The May meeting will include a presentation on the County’s proposed contract for library services for FY2017/2018. Board members who attend the CPLA workshop will report. Hegedus will report on the April ACLAC meeting. It was requested to have a presentation from Albany’s children’s librarian at some future meeting.

Gonzales adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.