

ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD
Meeting Minutes September 19, 2017

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

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Levin.

Board Members Present:

Rosalie Gonzales
Sarah Levin
Cynthia Hegedus
Sue Douglass

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Natalie McCall, Albany Library Manager
Rebecca Maher, Children’s Librarian

City of Albany Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Staff Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 16, 2017 – The minutes were approved with the correction of McCall as Library Manager (Gonzales/Hegedus).

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no comments from the public.

ALBANY LIBRARY CHILDREN’S SERVICES – Children’s Librarian Rebecca Maher introduced herself to the Board. She said she always wanted to be a children’s librarian and worked for 10 years at the Fremont Library before coming to Albany. She has been expanding programs for children of all ages. The Library is now offering 2 programs for walkers and pre-walkers as well as toddlers and preschoolers. Maher will be hosting visits from local school classes. A new sing-along program has also started.

ALBANY LIBRARY REPORT – McCall said that one of the highlights of the past months was the “Eclipse Watch” program. The Library showed the eclipse happening nationwide by broadcasting the C-Span coverage. Albanians caught a quick glimpse with specially provided glasses. McCall continues to promote programs emphasizing books and authors with 2 middle school and one high school reading clubs in addition to the 2 adult book groups. A new addition is McCall’s “Jane Austen Club”. The summer had a successful line-up of family programs and good participation in the reading game. The County Library gave their support at the library booth at the Solano Stroll, focusing on library card sign-ups. Board members Gonzales and Levin helped out at the booth. Other new programs for the fall include a series called “Albany Talks”. McCall passed out the September schedule which shows the full range of library programs for families and adults. Board member Douglas suggested publicizing these programs through Next Door.

ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION REPORT (ACLAC) – Hegedus said that the July ACLAC agenda had several interesting items. There was a presentation from Tiona Smith, the director of the Alameda County Library Foundation as well as from Randy McDevitt, Alameda County Library Collection Manager. McDevitt will give his presentation to the Albany Library Board at the November meeting. County Librarian Cindy Chadwick gave a report on the Library budget. There was also a report from representatives from SEIU on Library staffing issues. There was an update on California State bill SCA 3 which would have changed the threshold of bond measure passage from 2/3rds to 55%. Davis noted that the Albany City Council is looking at ways to expedite the City showing timely support for legislation that is consistent with the goals of the City. Davis will report back on this at a future meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – McDevitt will report on the collection development process. Board members also requested suggestions from the County Library on ways that Board members can do effective outreach to the community. Gonzales suggested a report about the Alameda County Library Foundation.

Levin adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.