

ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD
Meeting Minutes January 16, 2018

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

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Levin.

Board Members Present:

Rosalie Gonzales
Sarah Levin
Cynthia Hegedus
Sue Douglass
Karen Leeburg

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

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

City of Albany Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Staff Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 21, 2017 – The minutes were approved (Gonzales/Leeburg).

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no comments from the public.

ALBANY LIBRARY REPORT – McCall reported on the period from October- December 2017. Program highlights included a successful Superhero Academy geared to ages 5-8. Board member Douglass's grandson attended and she said he enjoyed. The Library is cosponsoring programs with the Albany Schools. The first one on technology was well attended. Many programs are drawing sizable adult audiences such as Reference Librarian Charles's workshops on computers and a Sunday series on death and dying. It was noted that programs are being posted on the Next Door website. There are physical changes to the children's area. McCall is working with staff to create an early childhood literacy space. Douglass suggested that some of the furnishing accommodate the adults who come to the library with the children. Overall circulation of materials is down from the previous year. Some of the changes are the result of a better economy but also a change in DVD circulation policies and the greater availability of video options online. McCall previewed some of the events coming up such as Albany Reads in partnership with the schools and some additional programs with the Schools and Albany Filmfest.

ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (ACLAC) REPORT – Gomberg reviewed the minutes from the January ACLAC meeting. The Commission will be rewriting their charter and are adding new members so there is representation from all the jurisdictions in the County Library service area. The Library will be embarking on a year long strategic planning process. A planning team of staff has already met with a consultant. The process will take a year and the intention is to involve various groups of stakeholders. Gomberg will update the Board at future meetings.

ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD WORK PLAN – Davis reviewed the Work Plan for 2017-2019. She noted that the Board has fulfilled many of the goals. The Board will review the Young Bequest in September with more information from Library staff about possibilities for funds for local history. Gomberg noted that Board members could work with Library staff in an advocacy role as part of the strategic planning process, Gomberg offered to keep the Board informed of possibilities for participation.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – The Board will consider the contract with the County Library at either the March or May meeting. Davis reminded Board members that they can request agenda items directly to her at rdavis@albanyca.org

Levin adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

