

ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD
Meeting Minutes September 24, 2018

Albany Library, 1247 Marin Avenue, 6 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 6:17 p.m. by Levin.

Board Members Present:

Sarah Levin
Cynthia Hegedus
Karen Leeburg

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Ben Gomberg, Principal Librarian for Branches
Ouida Charles, Acting Albany Library Manager
Vivian Jaquette, Albany Teen Librarian
Caitlin Ayer, Albany Children's Librarian

City of Albany Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Staff Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 15, 2018 – The minutes were approved (Hegedus/Leeburg).

PUBLIC COMMENTS – There were no comments from the public.

ALBANY LIBRARY STAFF CHANGES – Gomberg introduced Acting Manager Ouida Charles as well as new Children's Librarian Caitlin Ayer and returning Teen Librarian Vivian Jaquette. A new library page started this week and another page will be hired. A promotional exam has been posted to fill the position of Lead Clerk MaryAnn Fredson who retired. Gomberg said the recruitment process for a permanent Library Manager is underway and will hopefully be filled by the end of the year.

UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS – Gomberg reviewed the Strategic Planning Process. Staff input was gathered in the spring and now the plan is focusing on the "community listening" stage. Two County wide workshops were held during the summer and now "community conversation" events are being held at individual branches. The Albany event is scheduled for September 30. Information is also being gathered through an online survey. Gomberg reported that there are 600 survey responses so far with about 10% coming from Albany. After the data is collected, the Library will develop specific strategies for library service for 2019.

ALBANY LIBRARY REPORT – Charles reported that the Library had a busy summer culminating in a very active day at the Solano Stroll. Strollers answered questions about the Library and received prizes. The program featuring Brian Copeland had over 250 participants. The Library is doing "outside of library" outreach to the residents of Belmont Village. Almost 500 people of all ages joined in the summer reading game. Ayer said that she was expanding the offerings of programs to young children with the addition of a weekly preschool story time and a monthly evening "pajama" story time. Sing-a longs continue on Mondays and there is a new afterschool program on Tuesdays for school age children. Homework help is being handled on an individual basis rather than in a formal program. Staff is promoting BrainFuse which is the online homework help program. Jaquette said the library has several workshops scheduled to help with the college preparation process. She is also working with students who need community service hours and is organizing a Teen Advisory Board.

ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (ACLAC) REPORT – Hegedus reported on the July ACLAC meeting which was held in Albany. The Library demonstrated Simply E which now has over 200,000 e-titles available to library users. The Hold system has been redesigned to afford greater privacy. There was an update on the strategic planning process. County Librarian Cindy Chadwick reported on a new project, the Fremont Learning Network, which is a collaboration between the City, School and Library.

ALBANY LIBRARY CHILDRENS AREA – Gomberg noted that the children’s desk has been removed and that Ayer and Charles are planning for some simple furnishings for that area as well as a possible redesign of the entire children’s area. The Friends gave some seed money for this project and there has also been a recent bequest given to the Albany Library Trust Fund that might be used for this purpose. Gomberg said he would bring back more details of the bequest and the project to the November meeting. Board members suggested that the donors might be interested in the allocation of funds and they should be acknowledged when the funds are spent.

ALBANY LIBRARY PUBLICITY – Charles reported that the Library is looking at ways to expand the publicity of library events. Staff is now using the “post” feature of Next Door as well as Face Book. Staff is also making contact with the City so library events can be listed in the weekly City eNews. Charles suggested that Board members could publicize events through their personal contacts. Levin said that she receives information about local children’s events through “510 Families” which is compiled by an Albany parent. Gomberg demonstrated the new Event interface “LipCal” that is available through the Alameda County Library website. The interface also allows for users to book meeting and study rooms online.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Davis reminded Board members that they are invited to an Advisory Body Members Appreciation Event which will be held on October 18. Davis will send a reminder to Board members so they can RSVP.

FUTURE MEETINGS and AGENDA ITEMS – The next meeting is November 20. Randy McDevitt-Parks from the Alameda County Library will talk about a possible use for Young bequest funds for a local history project. Because of City Council elections, all Board members will need to reapply if they want to remain on the Board. Davis will give details at that meeting.

Levin adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.