

ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES – March 17, 2015

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

1. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Alan Riffer
Rosalie Gonzales
Marge Atkinson
Sarah Levin
Cynthia Hegedus

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Carolyn Moskowitz, Albany Library Manager
Brian Edwards, Albany Library Circulation Supervisor
Cindy Chadwick, Deputy County Librarian

City of Albany Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Staff Liaison

2. SWEARING IN OF BOARD MEMBERS – Nicole Almaguer, City Clerk
Board members briefly introduced themselves.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Alan Riffer was nominated by Gonzales as Chair, seconded by Atkinson and approved unanimously. Gonzales was nominated as Vice Chair by Atkinson, seconded by Hegedus and approved unanimously.

4. ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (ACLAC) APPOINTMENT

Davis described the role of ACLAC. Chadwick added that the next meeting of ACLAC will include some discussion of Commission development. Gonzales nominated Riffer because he has served during the past year and this will ensure continuity. Public discussion included the suggestion that one of the Board members who is a librarian would be a good addition. Another asked about the “at large” appointments. Chadwick suggested that these appointments are made through the County Supervisor. Riffer was appointed to serve for a two-year term.

5. INTRODUCTION OF NEW LIBRARY MANAGER

Chadwick began by thanking Carolyn Moskowitz for being the interim library manager. Chadwick noted Moskowitz’s expertise and experience. The Board and the public thanked Moskowitz for her service. Chadwick then introduced new library manager Brian Edwards. Edwards said that he had started working at Alameda County Library as a page over fifteen years ago. He noted that even before that, he accompanied his family as a child to the library where his mother was a volunteer. Everyone welcomed Edwards to his new position.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 18, 2014

It was moved by Gonzales and seconded by Atkinson to approve the minutes. The three new members abstained. The minutes were approved.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Several members of the public thanked Moskowitz for her work at Albany, especially her listening to community needs and her attention to the weeding issue.

8. UPDATE ON ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY COLLECTION MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES – Chadwick noted that the Living Library document is posted on the Alameda County Library website at www.aclibrary.org. The County Library is now clarifying policies around de-selection which is what happens to books after they are removed from the shelves. Interim County Librarian Carmen Martinez has submitted a proposal to the Board of Supervisors that expands the distribution of discarded County property to non-profits. The County Library is also considering a storage space so discarded books can be collected and redistributed. The Library hopes to get direction from the Board of Supervisors in the coming year. Moskovitz added that there is a “refresh spreadsheet” that lists items requested by staff and purchased with the Albany Trust Fund. These items do not “float” and stay in Albany for the first year. The public may request items to be purchased.

Public Comments: People asked for clarification of materials selections policies – the Living Library versus other policies from 2008 and 1972. People were concerned that the Floating Collection policy resulted in too many items ending up in Albany which resulted in a disproportionate number of discards. Other people were concerned that the discarded items represented important books for our culture. The issue of why the County Library could not produce a list of discarded items was raised. Someone suggested that Board members judge the Albany Library collection by seeing if their favorite books were currently on the shelf. One member of the public thanked the library for restoring the atlas case.

Board discussion: Riffer asked for clarification that the Board of Supervisors requested an end to weeding. Chadwick said that wasn't true but the weeding was being slowed down while the de-selection policy is determined. Board members suggested that ACLAC would be a good forum to discuss County Library policy. One member noted that ACLAC had not had a quorum for the past several meetings. Board members asked that this item, including clarification of the “floating collection” policy be brought back to a future meeting.

9. ALBANY LIBRARY REPORT

Moskovitz noted several good things are happening at the Albany Library. The “Albany Reads” program was successful, as were several Brown Bag and poetry events. Teens are enjoying the 3-D printer at an informal program on Monday afternoons. The Library was full of art from the schools. Plans are underway to ease some of the spaces in the backroom that contain electrical equipment. Moskovitz also showed the latest Alameda County Library Statistical Report for 2013/2014. Edwards will bring print copies for Board members to the next meeting.

10. ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD 2015/2016 WORK PLAN

Public comments: Several members of the public suggested that the work plan contain specific items related to the selection and discard policy.

Board comments: Board members asked for clarification concerning the Margaret and Gardener Young Bequest. Davis said she would furnish a background report when the item is discussed. Board members requested that the following goal be added: “Continue Discussion of Collection Management Issues.”

The work plan was approved unanimously. Davis will forward to the City Council. Riffer will present at the April 6 meeting of the City Council.

11. NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK PROCLAMATION

The National Library Book Proclamation was approved with minor changes. Davis will forward to the City Council. The proclamation will also be presented at the April 6 City Council meeting.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Davis noted that there are Board/Commission training videos available through the City's website. Board members appreciated the videos but asked if there was a way to get direct answers to questions. Davis will pass on the comment to City staff. She also offered to answer or forward any questions sent to her.

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board members requested updates from the County Library on the de-selection plan. Other topics suggested were updates from consultant reports on materials handling and the fiscal study for determining branch library allocations. The Board would like an update on the Library's Strategic Plan. The City of Albany contract for additional library services for 2015/2016 will be the main item on the May 19 meeting. Board members would like a copy and some discussion of the 2013/2014 Statistical Report. Future meetings will include a report from the library manager on suggestions for the Young Bequest.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.