



ALBANY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Albany Library, 1247 Marin Avenue
July 22, 2009 7 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER – L. Flanagan: 7:04pm

Board Members present:

Leah Flanagan
Rosalie Gonzales
Robert Lieber
Alan Riffer
Sarah Whitmer
Linda Yamamoto

Members excused:

Karen Leeburg

Alameda County Library Staff Present:

Ronnie Davis, Albany Library Manager

City of Albany Staff Present:

Robin Mariona

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion:

Motion to approve minutes of June 2, 2009 as corrected made by Member Lieber and seconded by Member Yamamoto.
Motion carried all in favor.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

4. ALBANY LIBRARY STAFFING- L. Flanagan

A. Communication from the County Librarian Jean Hofacket. Manager Davis stated that a letter had been written by the County Librarian to inform the Library Board that the projected loss of revenue stated in the yearly budget report, could increase from 11% to 19% if Proposition 1A or a similar measure was acted upon.

Member Lieber stated that it was possible that the League of Cities could file a lawsuit to stop the Proposition or measure and Manager Davis agreed that there were possible challenges. Member Riffer questioned if the County Library Property Tax and Other Library Funds stated in the budget were subject to possible reallocation by the state. Manager Davis stated those funds were vulnerable, though some would be eventually paid back.

B. City of Albany Contract with Alameda County Library. Member Gonzales asked if the agreement between the City and County would be renegotiated. Manager Davis stated that there was an option to terminate or renegotiate the agreement with a 30-day notice, though that option had not been acted upon so far.

Public Comment: Joan Larson stated that a contract had been approved and signed between the City and County, and the Board and Council needed to be proactive in making sure that the agreements in the contract were honored, including vacant staff positions.

Member Riffer stated that the contract had not been honored and the Board and Friends needed to act to make this information available to the Council. Chair Flanagan agreed that there was a need and a problem and asked if the Board should compose a letter to the Council.

C. Proposed letter from the Library Board to Albany City Council. Manager Davis stated that the Library was in a dire situation in terms of staffing with the unfilled children's librarian position and the retirement of Richard Russo, and it was important that the Board notify the Council of their concern. The Board discussed changes and additions a to draft letter for the City Council created by Member Riffer.

Motion:

Motion to send a letter drafted by Member Riffer with revisions, to the City Council, City Attorney and City Manager and cc'd to Jean Hofacket and Charles Adams stating the Board's concern with the vacancy of Library staff positions and the performance of the Agreement between the City of Albany and the County of Alameda for the Fiscal year 2010 made by Member Lieber and seconded by Member Whitmer. Motion carried all in favor.

Staff would create the final draft of the letter for signature by the Chair and sent to the appropriate parties.

5.FLOATING COLLECTIONS-Update- R. Davis: Manager Davis stated that the Floating Collection program had begun on July 1, 2009, and it would be important to give the system an evaluative period before judging how well it was working, but so far no libraries had decided against it. The concept was for materials ordered by patrons to remain at the pick- up site library location, rather than being returned to the original library. The challenge for Albany would be more materials than shelf space. She stated that the trend was to standardize collections as a cost saving measure.

Public Comment: Joan Larson stated that the Friends had been visiting other Alameda Library Friends groups, to talk about Floating Collections. She stated that the Albany Friends had concerns about the efforts they had put into the collection in the past, if the materials were going to end up at locations other than Albany. Ms. Larson stated that the City of Albany had two taxes to support the library unlike other libraries in the Alameda system, and that created an obligation to the public.

Member Riffer stated that he was interested in knowing more about the County evaluation process at the next meeting. Manager Davis stated that she would ask. She further stated that the library had not asked the Friends for an allocation for materials, only programs, until it was clear what would happen.

6. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

A. Legislative Report- R. Davis: None

B. 2009 Calendar: Manager Davis invited the Board to attend Richard Russo's retirement party.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Report on the Floating Collection evaluation process and how it's progressing.

8. ADJOURNMENT: The Board closing was dedicated to Richard Cross at 8:25pm