



**Minutes of the
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
January 9, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Leslie Krongold, President
Karen Butter, Vice President
Ruth Belikove, Board Member
Alan Mitchell, Board Member
Mike Hartigan, Board Member

Staff: Jane Chisaki, Library Director
Marsha Merrick, Recording Secretary

CONSENT CALENDAR

An asterisk indicates items so enacted and adopted on the Consent Calendar.

- A. *Report from Library Director highlighting Library Department activities for the months of December 2007 and January 2008. Accepted.
- B. *Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board meeting of November 14, 2007, and revised minutes from the Library Board meeting of September 12, 2007. Approved.
- C. *Library Services Report for the months of October and November 2007. Accepted.
- D. *Report from Finance Department reflecting FY 2007-08 Library expenditures (by fund) through December 2007. Accepted.
- E. *Bills for ratification for the months of November and December 2007. Approved.

Member Mitchell inquired about the new bi-lingual storytimes. Director Chisaki said that there will be Russian and Japanese storytimes starting soon that will be led by volunteers.

President Krongold asked what the meaning is of “one-on-one” meetings with SunCal, the Alameda Point developer. Director Chisaki explained these meetings would be held between the developer and each group with an interest. The next large public meeting is scheduled for January 30th. Member Butter described for the board how the previous public meeting on December 13th had gone.

Director Chisaki described how the “Paws to Read” program works, which will be coming to the Library once a week for a three-month period, starting at the end of January.

Vice President Butter pointed out that the November Library Services Report reflected the new Main being open a full year now, and mentioned the declining door count at the West End branch. Director Chisaki said they were still holding their own at this point.

President Krongold asked for a motion to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. Member Mitchell so moved; Vice President Butter seconded the motion which carried by a 5-0 vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

Audience member Marc Lambert wondered what the status of the Schrader estate was. Director Chisaki speculated the total payout would be around \$200,000, but was far from being settled, so there was no news to share.

Audience member Li Volin was concerned that the public comment section of the meeting had been moved up on the agenda. She indicated it might not give the public a chance to comment on something that could transpire later on in the meeting. Vice President Butter indicated that she had asked for the agenda change, but would be in favor of hearing what the public had to say even after their designated opportunity had passed.

At this point, Director Chisaki asked President Krongold if the Board would consider going out of order on the agenda, skipping down to NEW BUSINESS, Item B. Community Reads Presentation by Supervising Librarian, Annemarie Meyer. President Krongold agreed to the change, and Ms. Meyer proceeded to speak about the program and events surrounding it.

There will be book discussions and movie programs for families. 150 copies of each book, *Bee Season* for adults, and *The View from Saturday* for children, have arrived and are being processed right now. Informational bookmarks are being produced that will list all the events planned surrounding the program that runs from March 7 through April 18.

Marc Lambert indicated his confusion on what the actual name of the program was as he had heard it referred to in several different forms. The name is “Across the Pages, an Alameda Community Reads”, and the Library will endeavor to be more consistent when making program references.

Per a previous request by President Krongold, Ms. Meyer shared stats on the library’s e-mail newsletter. Between bounce-backs and new sign-ups, they seem to about even themselves out with an audience of around 200 each month. Member Belikove requested that two members of the Art Exhibit Committee, Peggie Williams and Gwen Pirack, be added to the list to receive the newsletter. Recording Secretary Merrick will pass their e-mail addresses to Ms. Meyer for inclusion in upcoming issues.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Status of Consultant Contract for Strategic Planning & Branch Improvements (J. Chisaki)

Director Chisaki advised the Board that the consultant contract had been approved by the City Council at their December 18, 2007 regular meeting. There were three proposed dates for an initial meeting with the consultants, Ruth Metz and Kathy Page: Friday, January 25, Wednesday, January 30 or Tuesday, January 29 - these in order of the consultant's preference. This initial meeting would be a combination of staff and support group members, and a member of the Library Board. Member Hartigan volunteered to be the Board liaison, and Director Chisaki will inform Member Hartigan once a date for the initial meeting has been finalized.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of Future Library Service at Alameda Point (J. Chisaki)

This item had been carried forward from the December agenda when a quorum had failed to be reached for that meeting. Honora Murphy will coordinate with Doug Linney and Development Services on getting the "one-on-one" meeting with SunCal. Director Chisaki will touch base with Ms. Murphy later on to see how this is progressing.

- B. Community Reads Presentation (A. Meyer)

This item was moved up and is described above under Oral Communications.

- C. Regina K. Stafford Room Dedication (J. Chisaki)

Director Chisaki inquired if the Board knew of any family members of Regina K. Stafford that could be present at the room dedication. Member Mitchell did not think there was any remaining. Alternatives for the room dedication were discussed, including having it in conjunction with one of the "Across the Pages, an Alameda Community Reads" event that would be taking place in the Regina K. Stafford Community Meeting Rooms. The Board was thoroughly in favor of this option.

- D. Art Exhibit Committee (R. Belikove)

Member Belikove shared a proposal that had been prepared for presentation to the Foundation in order to secure funding for art mounting hardware and installation. Besides the wall hangings, there were proposed rolling panels that could be brought out for displays as well. The Board discussed the proposal at length, and advised the purchase of the wall hanging materials first, with the rolling panels coming in later.

Member Belikove indicated that one committee member had withdrawn because they were unable to make the regular meeting day, so they were looking for someone to replace them. Director Chisaki pointed out that the committee was already bigger than the Board had originally planned, so did not think a replacement was necessary.

The first display is planned for the middle of March, and will be put together by Alameda Art Association President, Carol Burnett.

E. Alameda Free Library Foundation (A. Mitchell)

There was no December meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for January 14.

F. Friends of the Alameda Free Library (M. Lambert)

There was no December meeting; the next meeting is scheduled for January 14. Marc Lambert reported that Dewey's Friends Café netted \$9,300 in 2007, and they were very pleased with this result. The Friends' Book Sale Task Force had been visiting other libraries to get ideas, and had put together a preliminary report on their findings. At the next meeting they will put together an action plan on how to proceed and implement the new ideas.

G. Patron suggestions/comments (Speak-Outs) and Library Director's response.

There were no new speak-outs this month.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Vice President Butter spoke on the sorry state of the collections in the branch libraries, with nothing new hitting the shelves. Director Chisaki responded that quite a lot of weeding had been going on, and new selections are being added on a continuous basis; they are just harder to find in the branches cluttered environment. Butter went on to ask about the reserve policy, which Director Chisaki advised had always been in effect (52 free holds per year), and that only a couple of people ever exceeded this limit. It's possible that a charge will be incurred for people who do not pick up their holds; this is still under discussion. The Board came up with an idea to expand the hold notification e-mail sent to a patron to say that if the book is no longer needed, to please call the Library and advise them, therefore freeing up the book for someone else.

Member Hartigan asked for the status of the LEED accreditation. Certification paperwork had finally been submitted at the beginning of the week. It took a year because the building commissioning had just been completed in November. There were several items that had to be fixed by the contractors, such as the chiller malfunctioning, and the front doors swinging open; all this causing delays. The application had been submitted for silver status.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Because of the revised hours and the Library closing at 8:00, Director Chisaki queried the Board for thoughts on either changing the start time of the meeting, or moving it downstairs in order to accommodate public access to the meeting, which is a requirement under the Brown Act. Because some members would be unable to make an earlier starting time, a decision was made to try the meeting downstairs in February and see how it goes.

Pacific Fine Foods, located on Alameda Point, is the caterer for Dewey's Friends Café expanded menu of salads and sandwiches, and they are already very popular selections.

Day in the District is coming up on Friday, January 25. Don Perata's office will be open for drop-in appointments between 1:00-4:00 p.m.; no word has been received yet on when Sandre Swanson's office will be open for visitors.

ADJOURNMENT

President Krongold called for a motion to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Vice President Butter so moved; Member Mitchell seconded the motion which carried by a 5-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Chisaki
Library Director and
Secretary to the Library Board

This meeting's agenda was posted 72 hours in advance in accordance with the Brown Act.