



**Minutes of the
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2007**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Karen Butter, Vice President
Ruth Belikove, Board Member
Mike Hartigan, Board Member

Absent: Leslie Krongold, President
Alan Mitchell, 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 month of October 2007. Accepted.
- B. *Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board meeting of September 12, 2007. Approved.
- C. *Library Services Report for the month of August 2007. Accepted.
- D. *Report from Finance Department reflecting FY 2006-07 Library expenditures (by fund) through September 2007. Accepted.
- E. *Bills for ratification. Approved.

Vice President Butter inquired whether the annual service statistics had been distributed at the last meeting, and Director Chisaki confirmed this. Butter asked if there had been an increase in the budget and Chisaki responded that it had been about 9%, mostly going to maintenance contracts for the new building, building maintenance expenses and part-time salaries.

Member Belikove asked if it would help if members of the public asked for longer Library hours. Director Chisaki explained that patrons have written speak outs to this effect, and City Council is fully behind the idea as well.

Vice President Butter asked for a motion to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. Member Belikove so moved; Member Hartigan seconded the motion which carried by a 3-0 vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

Audience member Marc Lambert asked the status of the elevator. Director Chisaki responded that it had been out for about a day and a half and that it is working fine now. The elevator repair company originally ordered the wrong part to fix it, so there was a delay as they waited for the correct part. Lambert then asked if there was any news on the money raised for the Library through Angela's Restaurant and their Friday Night Flights. Chisaki said she is still waiting for the final count.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Art Exhibit Committee (R. Belikove)

Member Belikove said things are moving along nicely. Belikove and David Hall are very pleased with the committee members who are enthusiastic and full of ideas. Belikove and Hall went for a visit to Rhythmix, a new center for the performing and visual arts over on Blanding Avenue, and looked at the accoutrements they are using for hanging and displaying their art. The committee met the previous Friday, and walked through the Library to determine spaces that could be available for placing or hanging art exhibits. A wooden track will probably be put up on all the walls so pictures can be hung if needed.

Belikove had also visited Auctions by the Bay at Alameda Point, and observed that they had display cubes and platforms up for bid. Director Chisaki indicated that the Library can't buy these types of things as there is no room to store them in the building. Belikove said that once the committee figures out what is needed, they will make a proposal to the Foundation for funding. It was decided to move the "Art Exhibit Committee" report down to regular business on future meeting agendas.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Reorganized Library Hours (J. Chisaki)

Director Chisaki stated that circulation reports were run for all three library locations to determine peak hours and slow or no check-out periods during the past year. Supervisory staff worked together to see where hours could be cut or added, and came up with a proposed schedule which was included in the Board packet.

Vice President Butter asked how the revised schedule would impact the booking of the Stafford meeting rooms, and Chisaki said that for rooms already reserved, the attendant fee would be waived if the meetings ran past the proposed 8:00 closing time, but ended prior to the current 9:00 closing hour. For all new reservations made going forward, the attendant fee would apply for any meetings running past 8:00. Member Hartigan cautioned that there would probably be some impact having the longer open hours that might not have been thought about, such as increased electricity use, and even restroom supplies.

Butter said that there are a lot of people who like working late at night in her library, and wondered how it would impact Alameda if the library closed at 8:00. Chisaki said this is also

going to impact the patrons who get to the library right when it opens, mostly seniors. Chisaki expects that some people will be happy with the change and some will not be. After more discussion, Vice President Butter asked for a motion to accept the proposed schedule as presented; Member Belikove so moved, Member Hartigan seconded the motion which carried by a 3-0 vote. Director Chisaki will inform the City Council and start getting out flyers and notifying news sources, etc.

At this point, Director Chisaki informed an audience member who had arrived late that the public comment section of the agenda had already passed. Vice President Butter graciously offered a chance for the member to speak at this point, if they wished. The audience member, Bill Smith, thanked Butter and proceeded to talk about opening a branch library on the West End in Coast Guard housing. Mr. Smith was also interested in helping out disabled veterans.

B. Re-evaluation of "Alcohol Use in Library Meeting Rooms" Policy Addendum (J. Chisaki)

Director Chisaki asked the Board if this item could be continued for discussion at the following meeting, due to the absence of President Krongold. Since the item was of concern to Krongold, it seemed appropriate to have her present for this discussion. The Board agreed, so the item will be moved forward to the November agenda.

C. RFP Results (J. Chisaki)

There had only been one RFP response received. This came from Ruth Metz, working as a joint venture with Kathy Page. Director Chisaki plans to interview the team on the following Monday, and will have Lisa Goldman, Deputy City Manager, sit in for this. Chisaki indicated an interest in having a Library Board member on the panel as well, so Member Hartigan said he would check his calendar, and if a time for the interview is set, he would be able to work something out to be there.

D. Alameda Free Library Foundation (A. Mitchell)

Director Chisaki and Marc Lambert reported the Foundation had approved funds for setting up a more comprehensive website, and voted to spend the proceeds from the Ann Miller Muir fundraiser on art pieces previously unfunded. There was talk of having a table in conjunction with the Friends at the Alameda Literati Book Fair on November 2nd at Alameda Point.

E. Friends of the Alameda Free Library (D. Fullerton)

Director Chisaki had spoken to Friends President Fullerton to see if she would be attending any Library Board meetings. Fullerton asked if it was necessary, and after some discussion, the Board's opinion was that it was not a requirement. Fullerton's schedule is very full; however, she will try to find someone to be there. Director Chisaki suggested Marc Lambert might be the Friends liaison at the Board meetings, as he is a regular attendee. Lambert will speak with Fullerton about this.

Lambert mentioned that the Friends agreed to transfer the Waterbury account over to the Foundation for future handling; also, the book sale is coming up the following weekend, and the Friends are anxious to find extra volunteers to help move boxes to the event.

F. Alameda Free Library Newsletter (M. Merrick)

Recording Secretary Merrick said that Supervising Librarian Annemarie Meyer is producing the newsletters now, and they should be coming out on a very regular basis, around the third Monday of the month.

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

Why are mysteries and westerns separated from other fiction? It is confusing because many authors cross genres and it would be good to have all of one author's works in the same place. Most public libraries separate their books by genre to make it easier for patrons to browse. It is an imperfect system which works well for some people but not so well for others. Browsing the catalog for your favorite author was suggested.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Belikove passed on some information about another group that was going to discuss "Bee Season", the book Alameda plans to have for its program next year. Belikove then asked if anyone had taped Ken Burns' "The War" when it was on, and could we add that to the collection. Director Chisaki explained that would be copyright infringement, but the Library is purchasing the set through Baker & Taylor. Belikove wondered where World War II falls into school curriculum, and Director Chisaki speculated that it is probably a middle school subject now. Belikove wondered if there is a possibility of starting an Oral History Program with those who are left from the war. Director Chisaki said the Library is looking at grants to fund a program like this. One of the problems will be having enough employees to staff the program, and it may be more than the Library can handle at this time. Director Chisaki passed out flyers on a program coming up on the 18th, sponsored by the College of Alameda and the SSHRB, which will be a cultural history of Alameda, meeting your neighbors and sharing stories.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

The Dewey's Friends Café sign has been hung and electrical installed; the sign is now lit during open hours and is just beautiful! There has been a slight graffiti problem recently, with outside window sills tagged along Times Way. Luckily, due to the glazing on the lower bricks, staff was able to easily get this off the building. Less fortunately, some of the same tagging was done inside the teen room with black magic marker on tackable surface walls, and it is very difficult to remove. Director Chisaki has contacted the regular cleaning service who will send out a team to work on this problem.

Vice President Butter asked for a report at the next meeting on the slow computer response time. Chisaki advised that a solution is being worked on with the cable company who will come in and install a faster modem. Staff computers will also be taken off the system, which will increase public computer response time.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Butter called for a motion to adjourn at 8:28 p.m. Member Hartigan so moved; Member Belikove seconded the motion which carried by a 3-0 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.