



**Minutes of the
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
October 8, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: 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 Activities for the Month of October 2008. Accepted.
- B. Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of September 10, 2008. Vice President Hartigan asked that additional comments be reflected under Item 6. **LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**. Recording Secretary Merrick will revise the minutes accordingly and include them for review in the next Board packet.
- C. *Library Services Report for the Month of August 2008. Accepted.
- D. *Financial Report Reflecting FY 2008-09 Expenditures by Fund through September 2008. Accepted.
- E. *Bills for Ratification for the Month of September 2008. Approved.

President Belikove asked for a motion to accept the Consent Calendar, with the exception of the Draft Minutes of the September meeting which will be revised. Member Butter so moved; Vice President Hartigan seconded the motion which carried by a 3-0 vote.

At this point, Member Butter made a motion that Item A. Alameda Point SunCal Development Concept Plan, under number 5. **NEW BUSINESS**, be moved up on the agenda as SunCal representatives were present. Vice President Hartigan seconded the motion and all were in favor with a 3-0 vote.

A. Alameda Point SunCal Development Concept Plan (J. Chisaki and A. Thomas)

Pat Kelleher of SunCal gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the Development Concept Plan for Alameda Point, and entertained questions from the Board and public members in attendance. The plan SunCal had put together focused on being green, sustainable, transit-oriented, and meant to leave a zero or very low carbon footprint. Mr. Kelleher said that more detailed information was available for viewing on the website: AlamedaPointCommunity.com.

Director Chisaki will ensure that Andrew Thomas of the Planning Department gets the Library Master Plan to pass on to SunCal so they can look at where a new Alameda Point facility will fit in. Mr. Kelleher suggested he return in a couple of months to present the findings, and talk more in detail about where to go from there. Board Member Butter thanked SunCal for involving the community in the whole process and thought they had done a great job.

Member Wetzork arrived during the SunCal presentation, so was not in attendance for the Consent Calendar review and voting, nor the vote to move item 5. A. up on the agenda.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

There were no comments from the public members in attendance at the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Neighborhood Library Improvement Projects (J. Chisaki)

Director Chisaki said things were moving forward; however, being so intertwined with the City budget and the state of the economy she needed some direction from the Board. There is now a written MOU with Public Works; \$67,600 will cover the time and benefits for the employees who work on each phase of the project. The RFP can be released in October; there will be one architectural team and one contractor who handle the entire job. It is projected that everything will be completed and closed out by August 2010.

It is very likely that the Library will have to take additional budget reductions and one of the branches may have to close until funding improves. The question is do you spend money on improvements when one branch could be closed down. Chisaki had just gotten a price quote of \$6,000 to install central air at the Bay Farm branch, which seemed quite reasonable. The City Manager had expressed concern that with the holidays fast approaching, there might not be any interest in the project, and suggested waiting until January 2009 to release the RFP. Each Board Member gave their thoughts on the dilemma of moving forward now, but they ultimately were in favor of going ahead with the process and not waiting for the holidays to pass.

NEW BUSINESS

As Item A. had been addressed earlier, the Board now moved on to Item B.

B. Art Exhibit Committee (R. Belikove)

President Belikove commented on the current exhibit of work by Aliea Wallace, and said there will be a photography show coming in next month. Belikove has found some Native American artists and hopes to put something together with that group as well. Neil Tam will be joining the Art Committee, and is their contact with the multi-cultural community. Tam currently serves as the Chairperson for the Multi Cultural Center Board of Directors.

President Belikove had another engagement to attend, so turned the meeting over to Vice President Hartigan to continue on.

C. Alameda Free Library Foundation (A. Mitchell)

Director Chisaki spoke due to Member Mitchell's absence. Foundation talk centers around the upcoming Michael Pollan program scheduled for October 19. Ticket sales are slow, but are expected to pick up the last two weeks before the event. The Foundation continues to work on putting together their budget and discussed how much to keep liquid and how much to invest. Luzanne Engh, Foundation President, asked to be put on the Board's November meeting agenda to ask what direction they would like to see the Foundation take in terms of their endowment and what the Board would like to see it spent on. Marc Lambert mentioned that they are alternating the monthly meetings now; the next one will be just the Executive Committee, and the following meeting will be the full Board.

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

Marc Lambert spoke about the upcoming book sale scheduled for October 17, 18 and 19. The Friends need all the volunteers they can get to help out, so he said that if anyone can do so, please don't hesitate. The October meeting will be held on the 27th; Director Chisaki indicated that there isn't a room available on that night. Both the by-law and budget committees have met and put together their proposals. The budget will be voted on at the next meeting.

Member Butter is on the mailing list for the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, and had a list of book sale house rules which she shared with the group. It mentioned the use of scanners by book purchasers, and asked to know a little bit more about what that meant. Lambert said that some people scan a couple of pages of a book to see if it is the same thing they already have in stock, or if it might be on their "want" list.

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

The sidewalk in front of the building is dirty, and a patron asked the Library to consider power washing it once or twice a month. We try our best to keep the sidewalk clean of debris, and used to wash it down with a hose every week until the drought forced us to stop. Chisaki has talked with Public Works about getting on a regular schedule for power-washing; the company that came in to do the sidewalks last time has since gone out of business, so they are looking for someone else at this point.

A college student from San Francisco State requested that the Library be open more late nights so they could come in to study. The response cited the reduction of open hours due to budget constraints, and the hope that hours might be restored when the current crisis abates.

A note was sent to thank the Library for the latest James Lee Burke novel, *Swan Peak*. The reader hopes Mr. Burke continues to publish more such works that can be enjoyed as audio books. More thanks were given for all the services the Library provides to the community.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Member Wetzork mentioned that there would be a forum on Measure P hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and Alameda Business Associations at the Elks Club the following Friday at noon if anyone was interested in attending.

Member Butter said she had subscribed to a newsletter through the Library that provides information on new audio books. The problem is that when she looks for them, the Library doesn't have them in the collection. Director Chisaki will check this out with the Supervising Librarian in charge.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Books had been sent through Alameda Reads to the Early Learning with Families sites in Alameda so that they could all participate in the "Read for the Record" campaign designed to bring attention to the importance of early education. There was a picture in the paper of the kids at Ruby Bridges reading the book *Corduroy* by Don Freeman.

Unfortunately, the Flat Stanley program that President Belikove had requested the Library look into is a no go. Supervising Children's Librarian Eva Volin met several times with Recreation & Parks, thinking they might act as co-hosts. The logistics ended up being more than either department could handle, and because there was no interest from the schools, a decision was made to scrub the attempt.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Hartigan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Member Wetzork so moved; Member Butter seconded the motion which carried by a 3-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Chisaki, Library Director and
Secretary to the Library Board