



**Minutes of the
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
February 13, 2008**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Alan Mitchell, Board Member

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

President Krongold opened the meeting with a moment of silence for Lois R. Hanna, life-long Library supporter, who had recently passed away. Board and public members present shared some short stories and memories of Ms. Hanna. The family has requested that memorial donations in Ms. Hanna's name be directed to the Friends of the Library.

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 February 2008. Accepted.
- B. *Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board meeting of January 9, 2008. Approved.
- C. *Library Services Report for the month of December 2007. Accepted.
- D. *Report from Finance Department reflecting FY 2007-08 Library expenditures (by fund) through January 2008. Accepted.
- E. *Bills for ratification for the month of January 2008. Approved.

Vice President Butter thought Internet log-ins would be much higher than numbers reflect. Director Chisaki had double checked those numbers herself, and speculated that because these are December statistics, holidays, etc. had brought the total down. Butter went on to ask about getting newer books at the branches. Director Chisaki explained there is an automatic best seller purchasing program and the branch libraries are taking advantage of that.

President Krongold asked about statistics for the new Russian and Japanese storytimes that are run by volunteers. Director Chisaki said these had just recently started and no statistics were available yet. These numbers will be reflected as “International Storytimes” on future Library Services Reports.

Audience member Marc Lambert questioned Reference statistics at the Main Library that took a huge jump from the previous year. Director Chisaki explained that the new Main had just opened and that’s why they were down in December 2006. Overall, nation-wide reference questions have been dropping and there is some discussion on discontinuing this count, however, most feel it is still valuable information to track.

Member Belikove asked about the recently held Environmental Change program; she had not been aware that there was one going on and wondered if publicity had been done for the event. Director Chisaki confirmed that the press had been informed and it was seen in the papers, and went on to describe a little bit about the program content.

President Krongold asked for a motion to accept the Consent Calendar as presented. Vice President Butter so moved; Member Belikove seconded the motion which carried by a 4-0 vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

Marc Lambert, as a Foundation representative, attended a City sponsored non-profit fund raising workshop presented by Zimmerman Lehman. Mr. Lambert thought it very beneficial and a good networking opportunity as well. There will be additional sessions held which he also hopes to attend. Luzanne Engh had attended the workshop as the Friends representative.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Strategic Planning Committee (J. Chisaki)

Director Chisaki described the make-up of the group and talked about recruiting more members to better cover all areas of Alameda and also get a good ethnic representation. After a bit of discussion, the Board came up with several good “leads” to pursue, so Chisaki will follow-up. The planning committee’s timeline will be included with the next month’s board packet. On future Board agendas, this item will be moved down to New Business with Member Hartigan designated to report on the committee’s progress.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Library Board Meeting Room & Time (J. Chisaki)

Director Chisaki outlined options for future Board meetings due to the Library’s open hours changing. The meetings can continue to start at 7:00 p.m. if they are held in one of the downstairs public meeting rooms, allowing after-hours access. The meetings can be held in the upstairs administrative conference room if they started at 6:00 p.m. and ended by 8:00 p.m. which is closing time on a Wednesday night.

The Board decided to give the 6:00 p.m. start time a try for the March 12 meeting to see how it goes. Vice President Butter and Member Belikove both stated at this time they would not be in attendance at the March meeting due to other commitments.

B. PLF Resolution (J. Chisaki)

A resolution had been written by the current president of the BALIS Systems Advisory Board for libraries to sign and submit to Governor Schwarzenegger, urging him to fully fund the PLF. Vice President Butter moved to support the resolution; Member Hartigan seconded and all were in favor with a 4-0 vote. Director Chisaki indicated that she will move it along and also pass the PLF information on to the Friends and Foundation.

C. Art Exhibit Committee (R. Belikove)

Member Belikove reported that the Foundation voted to supply up to \$9,000 for purchasing and installing art hanging hardware. The request of funding for rolling panels was denied, but could be re-visited at a future date. The committee had met the previous day to discuss the upcoming Alameda Art Association show, slated to start in early March. Four more shows have been requested by various artists/art groups, including the "Wood Museum of History" scheduled for April. The contractor the Foundation uses has already been by to walk the building and will install the art hanging hardware for a nominal cost. Committee member Peggy Williams brought in a local artist who is very experienced with hanging items, and he will help staff member David Hall with that process.

D. Alameda Free Library Foundation (A. Mitchell)

Member Mitchell was absent and Marc Lambert reported that most of the Foundation news had been covered in the Director's letter to the board.

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

Marc Lambert reported that the Friends membership is increasing. A year ago, there were 212 members, and now they are up to about 400. Lambert reminded the Board that Café gift certificates are available for purchase, and the Café's food selection has been expanded with salads and sandwiches. The next newsletter will be coming out soon.

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

A request was made for the option of paying library fees and fines on-line; an e-commerce module could be added, however, that would be dependent on Library budget constraints. Sunday sing-a-longs for 0-3 year olds was requested; the Library only hosts the program, and can't expand the number of times it is offered, however, in March, Sunday family storytimes will start. Why do DVD's have a sticker that says "do not put in book drop" when that is where they are supposed to go; these stickers were from a time when these items could not be put in the book drop, and staff is searching for an appropriately sized label that will cover these stickers, but not too much of the DVD cover art.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications from the Board.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

The "Paws to Read" program has been a great success. Director Chisaki passed around pictures of the children reading to the dogs. There are discussions currently going on to bring the program in for an additional 6-week period. Tutor.com statistics show very high usage of the on-line homework help program. Chisaki read some of the user comments for the Board. Chipman Middle School had "Bring a Parent to School Day" and Teen Librarian, Karin Lundstrom, had a table at the event. She talked to a lot of parents and pushed Tutor.com, handed out booklists and met face to face with some of the Library's problem kids and their parents. All in all it was a very positive experience. Chisaki talked a little about Day in the District that she had attended along with Marc Lambert, Honora Murphy and Rebecca Kozak on January 25th. The meeting rooms have been very busy lately, and there have been several incidents of meeting room users taking the café chairs and tables to use. Chisaki requested an okay from the Board to post meeting room use rules in the rooms which will include direction to not take the café furniture. The Board was in favor of this request and urged Chisaki to go ahead with the posting.

ADJOURNMENT

President Krongold asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Member Belikove so moved; Vice President Butter seconded the motion which carried by a 4-0 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.