



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

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: Karen Butter, Vice President

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

President Krongold opened the meeting with a moment of silence for Mark Hanna, long-time Library supporter and husband of Lois R. Hanna who had also passed away recently. Board and public members present shared their memories of Mr. Hanna. A combined memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 2008.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

- A. \*Report from Library Director highlighting Library Department activities for the month of April 2008. Accepted.
- B. \*Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board meeting of March 12, 2008. Approved.
- C. \*Library Services Report for the month of February 2008. Accepted.
- D. \*Report from Finance Department reflecting FY 2007-08 Library expenditures (by fund) through March 2008. Accepted.
- E. \*Bills for ratification for the month of March 2008. Approved.

President Krongold asked about the Library's weeding method, and Director Chisaki gave a detailed explanation of the steps involved in the process.

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

Marc Lambert inquired about the status of the branch laptop program. Director Chisaki explained that the laptops have already been purchased and are being configured, but there are some bugs to work out before the branches can “go live” with the program.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Strategic Planning Committee Update (M. Hartigan)

Member Hartigan reported on the previous night’s meeting. A presentation was made by the president of the group that did the telephone survey. 10,000 calls were made and 660 responses were collected; all questions and answers are laid out in a binder for review. The next committee meeting is scheduled for the following Tuesday to discuss survey responses, and the summary report will be provided in next month’s board packet. A special Board meeting to discuss survey results and provide input will need to be held sometime before the Strategic Planning Committee meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Next steps with the consultants will be targeted community focus groups.

B. Art Exhibit Committee (R. Belikove)

The committee had met the previous afternoon and discussed the results of the first art display at the Library. The committee felt they had learned a few things, and would like to try to help the artists help themselves by putting together a list of potential press contacts to advertise their showings. The Alameda Art Association had a reception for their show and meeting room space had been provided free of charge for the event. After a bit of discussion by the Board, it was decided that going forward, organizations having art receptions will have to pay for the meeting room space as others do. More wires and hooks will be purchased for hanging artwork.

C. Alameda Free Library Foundation (A. Mitchell)

There was a lack of quorum so no meeting was held.

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

Marc Lambert talked about the upcoming Friends Book Sale May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at the O’Club on Alameda Point. The Alameda Police Officers Association will be lending their hands again this year to help move the boxes of books. Lambert mentioned that the Café had purchased a new ice machine, and the shelving area in the Café where used books are sold is now named Dewey’s Bookshelf.

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

Library stickers on books on tape should not cover vital information such as number of discs, hours, etc. A second comment was much the same, pointing out that helpful information is frequently obscured from view. Staff endeavors to place stickers carefully on materials, but there is not always room to do this successfully. A small table next to the photocopier at the West End was requested. Staff is looking at getting a small folding table (such as a TV table) that can be used and then folded up and stored away until needed again.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Board President Krongold asked about the Wii and Playstation game consoles purchased for "Active Afternoons @ the Alameda Free Library" for our teenage patrons. Krongold is interested in learning how to play the games, and then perhaps teaching other adults. Director Chisaki will advise the Supervising Reference Librarian so she can get Krongold started. Member Mitchell said that the Library Hotline issue of March 24<sup>th</sup> had an article about a Visalia Library staff member being released from her job for reporting that someone was looking at porn in the Library. The issue went to court and Director Chisaki believes she won the case as a wrongful termination.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Wood Middle School is asking for someone to speak at their opening reception for the Wood Museum of History on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Director Chisaki was going to ask Member Belikove, but she had left the meeting at 7:12 due to another commitment. Chisaki will contact Belikove and find out if she is available. Chisaki announced the Stafford Meeting Room dedication would be put off until the next significant event was held, perhaps one of the summer programs for children, since they always draw a big crowd. The shades have been repaired, but the elevator is now out of service. LEED Certification is on hold due to a backlog of requests to the US Green Building Council; the City will be advised when the review is underway. Legislative Day is coming up April 16<sup>th</sup>; Marc Lambert will attend and bring Alameda Library materials along. The BALIS marketing campaign "Free2" will advertise libraries on a broader scale; kick-off is April 13<sup>th</sup>. People can go to a website ([www.wearefree2.org](http://www.wearefree2.org)) and tell their stories on what a Library allows them to be free to do, e.g. free to explore, succeed, imagine, connect, or make history. This will be a 12-18 month campaign.

ADJOURNMENT

President Krongold asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Member Mitchell so moved; Member Hartigan seconded the motion which carried by a 3-0 vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Chisaki  
Library Director and  
Secretary to the Library Board