

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

MINUTES from Thursday, January 24, 2008

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Former Commission Chair, Vice-Chair, Wayne Johnson, called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.

2. COMMISSION BOOKSHELF

Commissioners provided suggestions for current reading:

<u>Who Needs a Road</u> <u>Monks and Motorcycles</u> <u>Burma Road</u> <u>Memoirs</u> <u>In Confidence</u> <u>Anatomy on an Empire</u> <u>This Republic of Suffering: Death and the American Civil War</u> <u>Mirage: Napoleon's Scientists and the Unveiling of Egypt</u> <u>Swashbuckler</u> <u>War And Peace – the new translation</u> <u>Twilight Of The Books, What Will Life Be Like If People Stop Reading?</u>	Harold Stephens and Albert Podell Franklin E. Huffman Nicol Smith Andre Gromyko Anatoly Dobryn Jack Matlock Drew Gilpin Faust Nina Burleigh Kelly Gardiner Anthony Briggs Caleb Crain
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from the December 24-31, 2008 New Yorker

3. ROLL CALL

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	TITLE	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		VACANT	CCC District 2			
		VACANT	City of Richmond			
		VACANT	Contra Costa Central Labor Council			
Atkinson	Joyce	Library Commissioner	City of Clayton	X		
Austin	N. Earl	Library Commissioner	City of Orinda (Alternate)	X		
Boyd	Jeanne	Library Commissioner	City of Clayton (Alternate)			X
Brown	E. Joy	Library Commissioner	City of El Cerrito (Alternate)			X
Brown	Carol	Library Commissioner	City of Orinda	X		
Burstyn	Deborah Prager	Library Commissioner	City of Walnut Creek	X		
DeLaVega	Rosalind	Library Commissioner	City of Hercules	X		
Enholm	Greg	Library Commissioner	CCC District 5	X		
Fugazzi	Ron	Library Commissioner	City of Brentwood			X
Fuller	Kathy	Library Commissioner	City of Martinez		X	
Heidari	Shahrzad	Library Commissioner	CC Youth Commission			X
Hoisington	Mary Ann	Library Commissioner	City of Lafayette	X		
Hurtado	Jacqueline	Library Commissioner	City of Pittsburg	X		
Johnson	Wayne	Library Commissioner	City of Pleasant Hill	X		
Leffmann	Robert	Library Commissioner	City of Lafayette (Alternate)			X
Loeza	Porfirio	Library Commissioner	City of Pinole			X
Madfes	Sherry	Library Commissioner	Friends Council	X		
Marshburn	Peggy	Library Commissioner	Office of Education			X
McClellan	John	Library Commissioner	Town of Moraga		X	
McGrady	Lloyd	Library Commissioner	City of El Cerrito	X		
Mengel	Christina	Library Commissioner	Friends Council (Alternate)			X
Munson	Dr. Carol Anne	Library Commissioner	CCC District 1			X
Nolte	Pauline	Library Commissioner	City of San Ramon	X		
Parker	Eleanor	Library Commissioner	Town of Danville	X		
Pearlstein	Helen	Library Commissioner	CCC District 3	X		
Ruehlig	Walter	Library Commissioner	City of Antioch	X		

Library Commission MINUTES

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LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	TITLE	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Schmalenberger	Carol	Library Commissioner	City of Pittsburg (Alternate)			X
Shaffer	Ed	Library Commissioner	CC Council (Alternate)			X
Smith	Alan B.	Library Commissioner	CCC District 4	X		
Tang	Chris	Library Commissioner	City of Concord			X
Thong	Phing	Library Commissioner	City of Concord (Alternate)			X
Trezek	Joan	Library Commissioner	CCC District 3 (Alternate)	X		
Valdez	Cecilia	Library Commissioner	City of San Pablo	X		
Vasa	Utkarsh	Library Commissioner	CC Youth Commission (Alternate)			X
Villegas	James	Library Commissioner	City of Oakley			X
Weinberg	Robert	Library Commissioner	CCC District 2 (Alternate)			X
Whitley	Robert	Library Commissioner	CC Council		X	
Wienstein	A.R.	Library Commissioner	City of Hercules	X		
Wittenbrock	Sandra	Library Commissioner	San Pablo (Alternate)	X		

Total Commission positions: 29

Commission positions filled: 26

Commission positions vacant: 3

Commission quorum: 14

With 18 Library Commissioners present, a quorum was established.

VOTING:

According to the By-Laws of the Library Commission, in order for a vote to pass, a majority of the city representatives and a majority of the County representatives must approve it. Upon reauthorization of the Library Commission, the five special appointees to the Library Commission draw lots to determine whether their votes count with the cities or the County. Through June 2011 the special appointees will be counted as follows:

Three representatives votes count
with the cities

- Youth Council
- Friends Council
- Contra Costa Council

Two representatives votes count
with the County

- Superintendent of Schools
- Central Labor Council

4. INTRODUCTIONS

Visitors will have an opportunity to introduce themselves; self-introductions are voluntary.

Gail McPartland, Deputy County Librarian: Public Services and Heidi Dalamore, San Pablo Community Library Manager were introduced as new Library management staff. Also present were Chauncey Lindquist, Concord resident; Cathy Sanford, Deputy County Librarian: Support Services; Susan Lynn, Library Reading and Literacy Manager; Corinne Kelly, Executive Secretary; Anne Cain, County Librarian.

5. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Commissioners requested that one change be made to the November 15, 2007 minutes.

Page 3, second paragraph – change Central “Library” Council to Central “Labor” Council and the same change should be made on the accompanying photo.

The remaining minutes have been approved.

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Alan Smith requested to add an update on the PLF (Public Library Foundation). This request was added as a part of item 13. A, CLA Legislative Day in the District.

8. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners Burstyn announced that the Walnut Creek Library is closed and that the Library is operating out of small temporary Park Place Library, with limited services that will operate until the spring of 2010 when the new Downtown Library is scheduled to open. She shared an article from the Contra Costa Times about the new temporary location. The Walnut Creek Friends have been given a one-room space on the first floor of an office building for a bookstore. 1910 Olympic Blvd. Suite 101. She shared bookmarks with the group (attachment to the minutes).

Commissioner Parker said that the Danville Library has been busier since the closure of the Walnut Creek Library.

Burstyn said that on January 30, 2008, the Ygnacio Valley Library will have speaker Lily Noon talk about applying principles of Feng Shui to declutter houses.

Commissioner Parker said that the Danville Library will temporarily close January 28 – February 10, 2008 for recarpeting.

Commissioner Smith shared information about the upcoming 2008 CALTAC Workshops in Library Leadership that is being held at the San Mateo Public Library on March 1, 2008 and Commissioner Parker offered to drive if a Commissioner needs a ride. The conference is limited to 140. Smith said that the next CALTATICTS Newsletter has an article written by Hercules Library Commissioner A.R. Wienstein.

Commissioners thanked the Library for their membership in CALTAC (California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners).

A Commissioner asked that the County Administrator's Office be told of their objection at receiving a form during the last few weeks in December, during the holiday time, to request that Commissioners complete a detailed and complicated form and submit it back by January 1, 2008.

Smith added that the San Jose City Council is addressing Internet filtering in public libraries. Currently there are no filters on the library computers and there is an agreement at the Martin Luther King Library that they will not allow Internet filters due to academic issues. All Contra Costa County Library has filters on the children Internet computers, but not on the other computers.

Commissioner Hoisington said that the progress is eight weeks behind on the new Lafayette Library, and much of the delay is due to recent storms. The foundation is in place.

Commissioner Valdez has been speaking with San Pablo community members and is arranging family counseling groups to bring their families through the library as a part of their regular programming. She recently gave Spanish booklists to Helms Middle School, which is mostly Latino, and they are planning library tours.

County Librarian, Anne Cain, shared an article that featured Commissioner Walter Ruehlig's son, Josh, who was recognized for dedication to education and community service by the Antioch Chamber of Commerce.

West Contra Costa Reads calendars, featuring reading, were made available.

9. CORRESPONDENCE - Agenda Attachment 3

County Librarian, Anne Cain, thanked Chauncy Lindquist, Concord resident, for e-mailing the Library to alert

the missing posting of the Commission Packet on the Library's Web site. Cain added that the agenda was posted, but the rest of the packet did not. The complete agenda packet for this meeting is now posted online at http://ccclib.org/libinfo/Commission/Meetings/2008/commission_meetings_2008.html

10. REPORT FROM COUNTY LIBRARIAN - Agenda Attachment 4

County Librarian, Anne Cain, mentioned the Board of Supervisors January 22, 2008 presentation honoring and acknowledging the significant contributions and ongoing support provided by the Dean and Margaret Leshner Foundation for library services. The Foundation has donated monies to the County's new Juvenile Hall Library and the Oren Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility, also known as the Byron Boys Ranch.. Cain shared an article that appeared in the paper, written by Cathy Sanford, Deputy County Librarian: Support Services. She also shared an editorial on the Leshner Foundation and a photograph from the Board meeting. (*attachment to the minutes*) Attending the Board meeting was Orinda Friends JoAlice Canterbury and Amy Worth, Walnut Creek Library Foundation members, Diane Longshore and Christian Anderson, Lafayette Foundation's Ann Grodin and two members from the Leshner Foundation, Board member Steve Leshner (grandson of Dean Leshner) and Jill Ryan (Margaret Leshner's daughter). Cain said that wonderful things were said about library service and encouraged people to view the Board meeting online to watch the presentation.

Cain said that the Library received another grant for Juvenile Hall and for the Oren Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility, each at \$120,000, which will be spent over the next three years. This grant comes from the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Librarian Services). These grants do not pay for staff, so the Library is working with the probation department to determine how to support the staffing needs.

11. BAY AREA LIBRARY & INFORMATION SYSTEM (BALIS) LAY ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

Commissioner Smith is the current BALIS Advisory Council member. His term expires in June 2008 and he encourages Commissioners to consider participating in the quarterly meetings to learn what is going on in Bay Area libraries. He added that the City of Alameda libraries are starting children reading programs in Russian and Japanese.

Smith mentioned that Contra Costa County Library's new Deputy County Librarian: Support Services, Gail McPartland, came from BALIS. Her replacement, Jane Weisman, is writing an article for the CALTAC newsletter, *Calitics*, about her volunteer job in the Redwood City jail teaching literate inmates how to teach illiterate inmates how to read.

Bay Area library consortiums, MOBAC, PLS and BALIS are considering consolidating. The BALIS Administrative Council agreed to move forward with the consolidation. BALIS is developing a Marketing program that will be release in March or April 2008. Public Relations firms are being interviewed. There is a lot of interest of other library systems around the State joining in the campaign, and what it would take to have a buy-in.

BALIS will have a breakfast workshop on April 5, 2008 with guest speaker, Emit Carson, who heads up the Silicon Valley Foundation. Additional information will be available soon.

12. OLD BUSINESS

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY'S READING FESTIVAL

Susan Lynn, Susan Lynn, Library Reading and Literacy Manager, was introduced. She has been the literacy director with Project Second Chance (PSC) for over ten years and was recently promoted to this new position that pulls together the Countywide reading and literacy programs.

The reading festival grew out of planning of the Library's Strategic Plan, where analysis of that data collected

showed community needs and preferences emphasize that the Library is seen as a leader and advocate for reading. This encumbers reading for pleasure including reading events in addition to reading and infomatoin. The Strategic Plan Reading Task Team considered many ideas for celebrating reading and came up with the reading festival concept. Library staff is working with a consultant that is familiar with planning large book events. Contra Costa County will have it's first reading festival May 16 – 18, 2008. Authors are signing on to be a part of this Countywide event and the plan is to have two author programs in each community library along with programs built around the festival, including a carnival in San Ramon. One author confirmed is Greg Mortenson, *Three Cups of Tea*, is scheduled in a public venue that holds 2,000 people.

Another first is the One County, One Read, program that will feature *When the Emperor Was Divine*, by Julie Osaka. This program will be similar to the one-city-one-read events, but the program will be Countywide. This book was selected because it has to do with California history, it is available in multiple formats (paperback, audio, etc.) and the author is living. Events will be planned around this program, which will conclude on June 19, 2008, just as the summer reading program begins.

Many volunteers will be needed and a letter recently went to Library Friends groups and is in the Commission Packet about the events. Publicity plans are being developed and grants are being written. The Library hopes to generate a lot of interest in the communities with these big events and influence more people to enjoy all that the library has to offer.

Commissioners suggested promotional ideas that included:

- Souvenir bookmark contests,
- Involve community high schools and private schools,
- Give a city council presentation and ask for their support in the form of a resolution. Involve local teens and friends of the libraries,
- Consider using National Library Week, which begins on April 13, 2008, as a council and publicity push date.

LIBRARY a-Go-Go

Cathy Sanford, Deputy County Librarian: Support Services, updated the Commission on the library book dispensing machine, which has been tagged as the “Library a Go-Go”.

implementation, training, and promotion of the new service.

The idea of the library book dispensing machine was presented to the Library Commission during their March 22, 2007 meeting, and Sanford said that all activities presented then are underway. Two of the four machines have been ordered from the Sweden manufacture and the books here and are being processed with RFID.

The Library is working with BART and the County’s public relations and County’s Print and Mail service, to announce the first machine that will be at the Pittsburg/Bay Point BART Station in a grand event. Sanford added that BART has been a tremendous partner. A huge launch party is being planned for a 10am time with skateboarders, actors of literary figures, and staff issuing library cards. Board depicting publicity logo ideas were shared. Sanford said this library book-dispensing machine will be the first ion the nation available for public use.

The second Library a Go-Go is planned for discovery bay (date to be determined – working with property management in a Safeway shopping center) and the third, will be in the Pleasant Hill Transit Village (2010). The fourth Library a Go-Go will be determined by a needs assessment in West County. W

The Library a Go-Go at Pittsburg/Bay Point BART station will contain roughly 400 adult fiction and non-fiction focusing on commuters. The one in Discovery Bay will contain roughly 270 books including adult fiction and non-fiction, young adult fiction, children’s fiction, and easy readers. Additionally, ten percent of the collection will be Spanish language materials. An initial allowable three books at a time can be checked out. Sanford

added, that this is a pilot program.

The machines work similar to an ATM machine, with a robotic arm that distributes the books. Sanford added that Europeans use these machines with ease. A presentation of a similar machine can be seen on You tube or at the Web site, www.distec.se.

13. NEW BUSINESS

CLA LEGISLATIVE DAY IN THE DISTRICT

The California Library Association's 2008 Legislative Day in the District will be held on two Fridays, January 25th and February 1st. This event provides an opportunity to meet with our legislators in their district office, and to thank them for their support of libraries. It is also an opportunity for anyone who has been unable to spend the whole day in Sacramento during Legislative Day in the District, April 16th, to meet with their legislator to discuss libraries.

Commissioner Smith said that one topic to discuss with legislators is the PLF (Public Library Foundation). At this time of fiscal emergency, it is even more important to continue to demonstrate the importance of libraries. The February 7, 2008 Mayors' Conference agenda has a PLF resolution on it for consideration. Smith shared a letter from Senator Torlakson, to Governor Schwarzenegger, requesting that the PLF be preserved in the 2008-09 budget (attachment to the minutes), and he added that a similar letter is being sent to the Governor by Assemblyman DeSaulnier. All BALIS libraries have similar resolutions. Smith said that it is important to continue writing letters, attending the Legislative Day appointments, and get the word out for continued support in the PLF. Smith commented that one of the reasons the PLF is surviving during these budget crisis times is because people are doing their part to get the message out that libraries are an integral part of education.

County Librarian Anne Cain suggested that Commissioners consider attending the meetings that have been scheduled with our local legislators. January 25th with Senator Perata's staff member at 1pm and Assemblyman DeSaulnier at 2:30pm. On February 1st, a meeting is scheduled with Senator Torlakson at 4:30pm and with Assembly member Hancock at 5:00pm. There is not yet a scheduled meeting with Assemblyman Houston.

Cain thanked Commissioner Smith for all his efforts to get the word out for support in the PLF. The cuts that the PLF received could have been much worse if it weren't for the grass roots efforts and his hard work in preserving funding in the PLF.

Smith added that he is available to draft letters for those legislators that have not yet wrote letters to the Governor supporting the PLF and to let your legislators know that he would do this for them.

TO READ OR NOT TO READ: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

County Librarian Anne Cain wanted Commissioners to be aware of the National Endowment for the Arts report, To Read or Not to Read, which pulls data from numerous recent studies on reading. Cain made this report required reading for all library managers. She encouraged Commissioners to read the study.

Cain said that when she first read the report, she thought that this would be a problem, but the evidence shows that the decline in reading ability nationwide, among all ages has serious implications. The importance of reading is critical and essential to the nation with significant political and social economic consequences. Contra Costa County Library's data shows that people are reading more, but this report shows that overall people are reading less. This report is a call t to action and that reading affects all facets of our lives. And that everyone should be concerned about reading. The report shows that those who read more attend more sporting events, and achieve academically, and that 80% of efficient readers vote. Most of the kids in juvenile hall have deficient reading skills. She added that Contra Costa County should pride itself in the fact that our County reading is on the incline according to Library statistics.

Commissioners commented that there is a shift in media with the way people communicate, and that many, especially youth, are blogging, texting, and communicating online, and question if this process of reading is being considered in the survey. However, the process of reading, what is being read and understood, the proficiency of reading and the certain skill set is addressed in this report.

14. AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING and FUTURE TOPICS

- o District III Supervisor, Mary Piepho, will attend the March 27, 2008
- o The Budget will be presented to the Commission at the next meeting .
- o District IV Supervisor, Susan Bonilla, will attend the September 25, 2008 meeting
- o Supervisors Glover, Chair (District V), Uilkema (District II) and Gioia (District I) have been invited to attend a future meeting.
- o Commissioner Burstyn requested a ‘green building’ update from Commissioners if they have additional information so that she could create a comprehensive report.
- o An update on the continued collaboration with schools in library technology and electronic resources was requested.
- o A Resolution for reforming national security letters will be on the next agenda and Commissioner Smith will provide a draft resolution similar to the one by ALA (American Library Association) and CLA (California Library Association).
- o Library relationship with senior services.
 - § Library staff recently attended a baby boomer conference about people living differently in the future and that the Library is involved with Contra Costa for Every Generation

15. ADJOURNMENT TO THE March 27, 2008 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

The Library Commission meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Submitted by Corinne Kelly
Executive Secretary
Contra Costa County Library