

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Commission Acting Chair, Walter Ruehlig, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. COMMISSION BOOKSHELF

Commissioners provided suggestions for current reading:

<u>Reading the Morning Paper</u>	Lydia Cassatt
<u>Beijing Coma</u>	Ma Jian
<u>Stick Out Your Tongue</u>	Ma Jian
<u>Roosevelt – The Soldier of Freedom</u>	James Burns
<u>Front Row at the White House</u>	Helen Thomas
<u>Charlie Wilson’s War</u>	George Crile
<u>The White Boned Demon</u>	Russ Terrill
<u>A Team of Rivals</u>	Doris Kearns Goodwin
<u>China Inc.</u>	Ted Fishman

3. ROLL CALL

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	TITLE	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		VACANT	CCC District 2			
		VACANT	City of Richmond			
		VACANT	Contra Costa Central Labor Council			
		VACANT	Friends Council			
		VACANT	City of Brentwood			
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
Bracken	Katherine	Library Commissioner	City of Pleasant Hill	X		
Brown	E. Joy	Library Commissioner	City of El Cerrito	X		
Brown	Carol	Library Commissioner	City of Orinda	X		
Enholm	Greg	Library Commissioner	CCC District 5	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	
Jordan	Catherine	Library Commissioner	City of Pleasant Hill (Alternate)	X		
Leffmann	Robert	Library Commissioner	City of Lafayette (Alternate)			X
Loeza	Porfirio	Library Commissioner	City of Pinole (Alternate)			X
Madfes	Sherry	Library Commissioner	City of Hercules	X		
Magann	Kathy	Library Commissioner	City of Pinole	X		
Marshburn	Peggy	Library Commissioner	Office of Education			X
McEwan	Jeanne	Library Commissioner	Town of Moraga	X		
McGrady	Lloyd	Library Commissioner	City of El Cerrito (Alternate)	X		
Meisch	Lynn A.	Library Commissioner	City of Walnut Creek (Alternate)	X		
Mellon	Michelle	Library Commissioner	City of Walnut Creek	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	
Prindle	Bob	Library Commissioner	Town of Moraga (Alternate)			X

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Ruehlig	Walter	Library Commissioner	City of Antioch	X		
Schmalenberger	Carol	Library Commissioner	City of Pittsburg (Alternate)			X
Shaffer	Ed	Library Commissioner	CC Council (Alternate)		X	
Shapiro	Sid	Library Commissioner	City of Hercules (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
Tumin	Cindy	Library Commissioner	City of Oakley	X		
Valdez	Cecilia	Library Commissioner	City of San Pablo	X		
Vasa	Utkarsh	Library Commissioner	CC Youth Commission (Alternate)			X
Whitley	Robert	Library Commissioner	CC Council		X	
Wittenbrock	Sandra	Library Commissioner	City of San Pablo (Alternate)			X

Total Commission positions: 29

Commission positions filled: 24

Commission positions vacant: 5

Commission quorum: 13

With 15 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

Recent appointees to the Library Commission introduced themselves: Michelle Mellon, Commissioner and Lynn Meisch, Alternate, City of Walnut Creek; Cindy Tumin, Commissioner, City of Oakley; Sherry Madfes Commissioner representative for the City of Hercules (previously Friends Council Representative) and Sid Shapiro, Alternate Commissioner representing the City of Hercules; Katherine Bracken, Commissioner and Catherine Jordan, Alternate Commissioner representing the City of Pleasant Hill. Jeanne McEwan, Commissioner, Town of Moraga.

Visitors included Gayle B. Uilkema, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisor, District II; Carol Yates, Lamorinda and Walnut Creek Community Liaison; Chauncey Lindquist, Concord resident; Norman Kern, Sound designer with Crazy Dream Sound Productions; Aifen Wang; Staff included: Cindy Brittain, Walnut Creek and Ygnacio Valley Senior Community Library Manager; Cathy Sanford, Deputy County Librarian: Support Services; Gail McPartland, Deputy County Librarian: Public Services; Corinne Kelly, Executive Secretary; Anne Cain, County Librarian.

5. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hoisington requested that two amendments be made to the May 22, 2008 minutes; both changes are located in "Items of Interest to the Commission" in the sixth paragraph:

- Change the "Lafayette Foundation" to the "Lafayette Community Foundation"

- Insert that Commissioner Parker reported on Vintage Danville as a new paragraph

Commissioners approved the minutes with the two amendments.

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the July 24, 2008 Meeting was approved.

8. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Valdez, said that her discussion with the new San Pablo Community Library Manager, Heidi Dolamore, led to scheduling a presentation of a cost proposal to add four library open hours on Sundays. This presentation will be given at the August 4th City Council Meeting. Valdez also shared that she recently became a member of the Helms Middle School's Coffee Club Moms after inviting the group to visit the San Pablo Library, and was able to invite Linda Ronstadt to meet the Club and the kids. Valdez shared a photo from this meeting that was in the West Contra Costa Unified School District news. **(attachment to the minutes)**

Commissioner Atkinson said that the Clayton Library had children dressed as bugs and a Toyota Prius disguised as a large bug with eyelashes during the City's annual 4th of July parade.

Commissioner Parker shared that Danville and San Ramon will conduct a joint cities read in October with, *Kabul Beauty School: An American Woman Goes Behind the Veil*, by Deborah Rodriguez and Kristin Ohlson, who will discuss their book at the conclusion of the event. Parker also shared a four-page summary of an economic study of libraries that was done by the San Francisco Friends of the Library. The study determined that library services return more than three times their dollar investment. She plans to use this resource for library advocacy. **(attachment to the agenda)**

Commissioner Brown said that the Orinda Library Parcel Tax, Measure E, passed with a 73% vote on June 3rd. The Paws to Read program has children practicing reading to friendly dogs. The October Lamorinda Reads program will feature *Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America* by Firoozeh Dumas.

Commissioner Hoisington encouraged reading CALTAC's (California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners) newsletters, [CALTACTICS http://www.caltac.org/news_and_awards/newsletters.php](http://www.caltac.org/news_and_awards/newsletters.php). Library Commissioners were enrolled by the Library as members of CALTAC. Hoisington said that there is a good article written by Commissioner Smith, who is the CALTAC President.

Commissioner Madfes announced that Elliot Warren, Hercules Senior Community Library Manager, has accepted the position of Collection Development/Technical Services Manager. She is sad to see him leave the Hercules Library, and added that he has done wonderful things as the Library is thriving and that marvelous children's programs are being held in the Library's magical story cone.

Cain, County Librarian, shared an *East County Times* letter to the Editor by Commissioner Ruehlig, which addressed the 6.1 million in library material circulation.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no Library Commission correspondence.

10. REPORT FROM COUNTY LIBRARIAN

Anne Cain, County Librarian, reported on the success of the Library a-Go-Go, the library book vending machine located at the Pittsburg/Bay Point BART Station. She thanked Commissioners for attending the 7am grand opening on May 29th, which was scheduled in order to attract regular commuters and the media. She shared media documentation provided by BART's public relations team. The machine is working great and she appreciates any feedback.

Cathy Sanford, Deputy County Librarian: Support Services, and Library a-Go-Go project manager said that the Library received two grants from the State to implement the book vending machines and the second one will be installed somewhere in Sandy Cove Shopping Center in Discovery Bay, but the exact location is not confirmed. The Swedish manufacturer had concerns about exposure to the weather and screen visibility in the location previously selected. The third machine will be located in the Pleasant Hill Transit Village, and is a part of the Transit Village second phase planning. This third booking vending machine is being funded by County redevelopment funds. The fourth machine will be located somewhere in West County following a needs assessment.

Commissioner Enholm suggested placing a neon type sign on the Library a-Go-Go machine alerting customers that the machine is operating or open for business. He then questioned if it is possible to reduce the repetition of the same book titles listed on the screen.

Sanford agreed that the multiple lists are not convenient and steps are being taken to reduce the title repetition. She added that as of July 17th, 273 library cards have been issued at the BART Library a Go-Go. Library a Go-Go is reaching many first time users.

At the request of Commissioner Smith, the Library created a "foreclosure information" Webpage. Smith thanked staff for the clarity of the Webpage and added that it a good example of how Internet information should look and that it is well suited for the visually impaired.

Cain shared the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) 2008 Awards Ceremony program that recognized Antioch Library's Wednesday Club, developed by Kathy Middleton, Antioch Adult Services Librarian. She added that Middleton was searching for money to keep the program going when she found the award, which includes \$1,000.

Commissioners will receive an invitation to the September 24th opening of the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Center's Library. The Leshar Foundation provided \$70,000 to open the library. Residents of the center built the shelving and the books will move in soon. Alison McKee, Librarian, will oversee that library as well as Juvenile Hall's Library, also funded with \$100,000 from the Leshar Foundation.

Cain mentioned *Contra Costa Times*' Dan Borenstein's July 19th column reporting that almost half of the County's \$12.7 million property tax revenue shortfall will come out of fire and library services. The Library's projected revenue shortfall is \$803,000, which is about 6.5% of \$12.7 million. She explained that details on the shortfall are in the Commission agenda packet and that \$803,000, while significant, represents less than 3% of the Library budget. There will be cuts to rebalance the budget. The Library is now closing the books on fiscal year 2007-2008, and the final numbers will be looked at to determine where to close the gap without reducing library hours at the 25 community libraries. A budget update will be given during the September 25th Library Commission meeting.

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

Commissioner Alan B. Smith reported that he has represented Contra Costa County on the BALIS Advisory Board for four years and his term is over.

Smith reported that the City of Pleasanton learned of a library advocacy plan during a BALIS library advocacy workshop presented by Dr. Ken Haycock, Director of The School of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University, and the City is implementing the plan. The City of Pleasanton will use the next two years to pursue an advocacy program, rather than working on details for a new library, which has been delayed due to the City's budget constraints.

Recently BALIS supported a resolution for SB 1516, the California Reading and Literacy Improvement

and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2010 and he wrote letters to legislators in support of SB 1516.

12. OLD BUSINESS

AMENDMENT TO THE BROWN ACT (OPEN MEETING LAW)

Amendments to the Brown Act became effective on July 1, 2008 and relate to items distributed to advisory bodies within 72 hours of a meeting. A statement will now be included on all Library Commission agendas letting the public know where they can get copies of any open session items that are distributed to Commissioners less than 72 hours prior to meetings.

13. NEW BUSINESS

DISTRICT 2 SUPERVISOR, GAYLE B. UILKEMA

Anne Cain introduced Gayle B. Uilkema, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor, District 2. She said that Supervisor Uilkema has always been very supportive of libraries and was instrumental in freeing up the land to build the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center

Supervisor Uilkema said that there are over 100 commissions and that it is difficult to visit them all; she is responsible for 132 County appointments to various advisory bodies. She considers libraries different from other advisory bodies in that libraries are a part of building of a community and a national institution. Libraries will always be well received by the Supervisors.

Uilkema is in her fourth term as a Contra Costa County Supervisor and was reelected in June 2008. Her district runs from the Alameda County line to the two bridges – Crockett and Martinez. Supervisorial District 2 serves the incorporated communities of Hercules, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Pinole, 1/3rd of Walnut Creek (including Rossmoor) and the unincorporated communities in Alhambra Valley, Briones, Canyon, Crockett, Pacheco, Port Costa, Rodeo, Saranap, Tara Hills, and Tormey. She has learned that there are fundamental beliefs that run across District 2 and that people ultimately want the same thing. She did a survey and found that in every instance there is support for libraries.

Uilkema said that the County is facing a difficult budget with an estimated deficit of \$51 million. This means that services and jobs will need to be cut to balance the budget. Projected property values have dropped leaving a \$12.7 million property tax revenue shortfall, so the County's budget will be looked at again. And the State budget numbers are not available but the State is facing \$17 billion shortfall. She said that she does not know how it will be done, but she feels optimistic and added that change prevents stagnation. The budget offers an opportunity for restructure.

Mr. David Twa, the new County Administrator, will begin on September 8th. He was the Administrator of the Year in Minnesota last year. Mr. Twa is a CPA, a lawyer, was an elected attorney and a County Administrator in Minnesota for over 20 years. And, he is a marathon runner. The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, as diverse as they are, selected Mr. David Twa unanimously to be the next County Administrator.

Uilkema said that she has summer interns survey people in District 2 to determine what is important to them. They conducted an eight-week community poll, but there was not enough time in their summer to do a presentation to each city council represented in District 2. Topics of interest to residents of District 2 include public transportation and roads, the environment and air quality, health and medical care and insurance coverage, police protection and public safety. Other concerns from District 2 constituents included drugs, crime, youth, and gangs. These concerns were similar in most communities. She added that she has not received one complaint or concern about libraries in almost 2 years. Uilkema offered to share data collected from her survey with anyone interested.

Uilkema discussed the growing population of those over 85. Only 22% of the population is under 20 years old. The largest growth in the population is shifting to senior citizens. Seniors want ease of transportation, places to go, and have medical needs. Retirement is a challenge for everyone. It is important to find a way to remain meaningful. She says that there should be opportunities to match seniors with programs such as reading to children and that a library could be a location to meet many seniors' needs. She expressed that many baby boomers are afraid of the issue of an aging population. This should be addressed now and we should help others. She suggested that some seniors will not admit that they do not understand how to use computers because they are embarrassed. Libraries can serve a vital role in the community by matching people, such as seniors with children and teens. She sees these opportunities with the new libraries coming in and she was happy to be a part of the Walnut Creek and Lafayette library groundbreaking and at the Hercules Library grand opening. Libraries provide a wonderful opportunity for the future by serving communities.

Commissioner Enholm mentioned Hercules Library's success and asked about the potential State bond and particularly if District 5 could have an understanding on how the Hercules Library became a reality and what is the exact process.

Commissioner Hoisington commented on the current Lafayette Library and praised Uilkema's comment from long ago, when during a Lafayette City Council meeting, people were upset on the overcrowding of the Lafayette Library during after school hours. Uilkema's comment was, "Where else would we want the children to be?" Hoisington added that coordinating with the schools is important in utilizing the library's valuable resources.

Uilkema added that teens are required to perform community service hours and the library is a perfect place to do this. They may act as computer technicians and teach seniors and those that need to learn computer skills.

Commissioner Atkinson commented that the Clayton Library utilizes many volunteers, mostly seniors, and recently had a birthday for a volunteer who turned 95. Clayton also has teen tutors.

Cain mentioned that teens are actively assisting staff with the Summer Reading Program by helping distribute prizes, logging reading records and more. Some libraries have as many as 20 teen volunteers this summer.

Uilkema said that supervisors will always support libraries. She added that it is very important to constantly remind them of the importance of libraries and what is being done in the libraries for the communities. Supervisor Uilkema thanked the Commission for their commitment, time, and involvement in community activities and all of the support the Commission gives for their community libraries, which demonstrates the value system that people have. She introduced Carol Yates, Lamorinda and Walnut Creek Community Liaison. She then thanked the Commission for inviting her to the meeting.

BAY AREA & INFORMATION SYSTEM (BALIS) LAY ADVISORY BOARD VACANCY

Commissioner Smith's appointment to the BALIS Lay Advisory Board expired due to term limits. Deborah Burstyn was the only person to apply for the vacant position.

Commissioners determined that there is not a need to interview Deborah Burstyn, acknowledging her previous participation as a Library Commissioner representing the City of Walnut Creek from May 1, 2003 to June 30, 2008.

Commissioner Parker added that Burstyn has always expressed fresh ideas and is an active library advocate.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to recommend that the Board of Supervisors appoint Deborah Burstyn to the BALIS Lay Advisory Board.

14. AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING and FUTURE TOPICS

- § New Library Commissioner Orientation will be held at 5pm on September 25, 2008, before the next Library Commission Meeting. All Commissioners and Alternates are invited to attend.
- § Budget
- § District IV Supervisor, Susan Bonilla, will attend the September 25, 2008 meeting.
- § District V Supervisor, Federal Glover, Chair, will attend the November 20, 2008.
- § District I Supervisor John Gioia, and District III Supervisor Mary Piepho have been invited to attend a future meeting.
- § Update on the continued collaboration with schools in library technology and electronic resources.
- § Invite Susan LaPat, Volunteer Coordinator, and other library staff to the November, 20, 2008 meeting to discuss library service to seniors.
- § Update on SB 1516, the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2010.
 - Anne Cain, County Librarian, informed the Commissioners that SB 1516 passed in the Senate on May 27th with a vote of 27-11. It was then referred to the Assembly Committee on Education and approved on an 8-3 vote. It was then referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and on July 10th was placed in the suspense file by that Committee.

15. ADJOURNMENT TO THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2008 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

The Library Commission meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Corinne Kelly
Executive Secretary
Contra Costa County Library