

APPROVED

MINUTES

Library Advisory Commission (LAC)

October 22, 2009

Council Conference Room

250 Hamilton Avenue

7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Leonardo Hochberg, Marc Marchiel, Raj Mashruwala, Theivanai Palaniappan, Valerie Stinger

Commissioners Absent: Vibhu Mittal

Staff Present: Diane Jennings, Cornelia van Aken, Evelyn Cheng

CALL TO ORDER – Vice-Chair Mashruwala called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS –

1. Enid Pearson, 1019 Forest Court, made reference to CMR 409:09 (City Manager Report on *Library Advisory Commission and Staff Response to Council's Direction to Reconsider Design for Renovation of Downtown Library*) which was included in the October 26 Council packet and spoke about her concern for more explanation/justification for any additional cost implications of locating Library Administration at the new Mitchell Park Library or the renovated Downtown Library.
2. Jeff Levinsky, 1682 Hamilton Ave, spoke about his concern that the Downtown Library collection size was lagging behind other libraries of comparable square footage.

AGENDA CHANGES, REQUESTS, DELETIONS – None

BUSINESS

1. Approval of draft minutes of Special Meeting/Retreat on September 3 and 17, 2009.
 - Without corrections, Marchiel moved to approve minutes of Special Meeting on September 3, 2009. Palaniappan seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.
 - Without corrections, Stinger moved to approve minutes of Retreat on September 17, 2009. Hochberg seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Presentation on Concepts for Public Art at the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center

- Jennings introduced Kelly Morariu, Assistant to the City Manager and Interim Staff Liaison to the Public Arts Commission (PAC), and recognized from the audience, Elise DeMarzo and Terry Acebo-Davis, Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the Public Arts Commission, both members of the subcommittee working on concepts for public art at the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center.
- Morariu gave a brief background of the sub-committee's process to come up with the recommendations. Key considerations were
 - to create maximum impact with public art
 - introduce new media artwork to the community;
 - budget
 - stakeholders' response
 - maximize existing resources
 - space considerations
 - timing
- The core projects recommended for priority focus are (1) new media library entry piece, (2) teen center mural, and (3) decorative bollards.
- Proposed funding for the recommended public art include the 1% for art committed from bond measure funds (\$280,000), as well as through the PAC budget (\$120,000) and other opportunities (fundraising and/or grants).
- Morariu provided copy of CMR 410:09 on *Approval of a One Percent for Art in City Capital Improvement Projects Contract with Artist Bruce Beasley in the Amount of \$270,000 for the Creation and Installation of an Artwork (Sculpture) for the Mitchell Park Library and Community Center*, which goes to Council on October 26.
- DeMarzo and Acebo-Davis confirmed that the PAC's goal is to display the City's collection as well as provide opportunity for a temporary rotating gallery showcasing the community's work and/or art from other local artists.
- Discussion followed, with members of the LAC asking questions/clarification, providing feedback/comments on the project.
- Public Works' Debra Jacobs and Karen Bengard also attended the LAC meeting to answer some of the questions raised by the Commission.
- DeMarzo said the PAC will handle the City's collection and any documentation and contracts associated with public art at the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center.

- Mashruwala thanked Morariu, DeMarzo and Acebo-Davis for the presentation.
3. Resignation of Susan Thom from the Commission and Establishing a Subcommittee to Put Together a Resolution
- Mashruwala regretfully acknowledges the resignation of Susan Thom from the LAC. Stinger and Mashruwala will draft the LAC Resolution for Thom.
 - Jennings said that City Council's Resolution expressing appreciation to Thom for her outstanding public service as member of the LAC, is scheduled on Monday, November 9.
 - Mashruwala encouraged the LAC to focus on what the Commission can do moving forward, to work effectively with the community to support libraries of Palo Alto.
4. Election of co-Vice Chair
- Jennings said with the recent resignation of Thom and Mashruwala's business commitments in India, it would be helpful for the Commission to elect a co-Vice Chair to serve as alternate/back-up.
 - Jennings added that Thom approached Stinger with this proposal back in August and Stinger had agreed. There is a need now for the LAC to take an official vote.
 - **Motion:** Mashruwala moved, seconded by Palaniappan: "the LAC appoint Valerie Stinger as co-Vice Chair of the LAC." Motion passed unanimously, 5-0.
 - Jennings said the City Clerk's Office decided to delay the recruitment for Thom's position and will do one recruitment for the three seats expiring in January 2010 (Thom, Marchiel, Palaniappan).
 - Stinger agreed to serve as co-Vice Chair for the remaining months through January 2010.
5. Review of LAC Mission
- Members of the LAC reviewed the Commission's purpose and duties as stipulated in Chapter 2.24 Section 50 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code.
6. Review of LAC Responsibilities
- Commissioners agreed that while the LAC has advisory responsibility to City Council on planning and policy matters pertaining to Library, there had not been much interaction between the Commissioners and Council members recently. Members of the LAC should be in communication with Council on a regular basis.

- A sub-committee (members: Stinger and Palaniappan) will work on putting together key points that the LAC would like to discuss with Council members to ensure that the messages are consistent, and at the same time help educate new Commissioners in their dialogue with Council.
 - This item will be discussed at the next LAC meeting in November.
7. Review of Schedule and Commission's Role with Library Building Projects
- Jennings provided latest updates to the Library building projects:
 - College Terrace* – A community meeting was held on October 16 to inform the public about the proposed plan for landscaping. The site will be fenced off entirely when construction starts. Project will take twelve months, reopening in Fall 2010.
 - Downtown & Mitchell Park* – Discussions center on the best timing of the construction bids for these two facilities and issuance of the bond in two series.
 - Temporary facility at Cubberley* – project is moving ahead quickly, with construction projected to be completed by April 2010.
 - Main Library* - design work to start when Mitchell Park design is completed, with construction to start when the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center opens in 2012. Temporary facility has not been identified.
8. LAC 2009/10 Goals
- Commissioners reviewed the March 5, 2009 and September 3, 2009 notes on the LAC 2009/10 Goals and provided comments and suggestions to modify goals for 2010:
 - Outreach Plan:* include communications with City Council on a regular basis; with different organizations for possible partnerships, as well as reaching out to community and schools.
 - Service Priorities for the future:* understanding what the community needs and how people - from every age range -use library beyond traditional use; and how to provide and incorporate these services with new library buildings.
 - Support the development of library building projects* - the Main Library building project scheduled to begin 2011 and to include as a subset the technology projects that are underway.
 - Jennings suggested the LAC work on policy matters (i.e. use of meeting rooms) to take to the community and City Council and have them in place before the new Mitchell Park Library opens.
 - A sub-committee, with members: Marchiel (lead), Mashruwala and Mittal, will work on refining the LAC 2010 Goals and in preparation for the upcoming joint meeting with City Council.

9. Priority Setting and Establishment of a Working Committee for the LAC's Joint Meeting with City Council
- Mashruwala asked members of the LAC to bring ideas to facilitate priority setting at the next LAC meeting.
 - The date of the LAC's joint meeting with City Council is now scheduled for January/February next year (date to be determined), after new Council gets seated.
 - Jennings said the usual practice is for the LAC Chair and Vice Chair to meet with the Mayor and Vice Mayor to determine the agenda for the joint meeting.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. A community meeting on Library and Community Center bond projects will be held on October 29, 7:00 p.m. at the Mitchell Park Community Center. Teen focus groups will meet earlier (at 4 p.m.). Commissioners are encouraged to attend.
2. Jennings gave an update on labor actions: The one day furlough by SEIU union on September 24 resulted in closure of all libraries, except Mitchell Park Library (with reduced hours, from 12 Noon to 6:00 p.m.) The vast majority of library SEIU workers did not report to work. The City presented its "last, best, and final" offer to the Union on October 16 but this was not accepted by SEIU. However, the City can impose its final offer, upon approval from City Council.
3. Cornelia van Aken, Assistant Director, provided updates to Library programs:
 - November 1 "Day of the Dead" community celebration, a joint collaboration with the Art Center, Junior Museum and Zoo, Children's Theatre, Main and Children's Libraries.
 - Adult programs held at the Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium: *Help for Job Seekers* series (October 20, 27, November 6, 10 & 17); *Fall Author Events* with Keith Raffel (November 13) and Jean Oda Moy (December 11)
 - A 3-part college series for teens and parents, with Part 3 on *Stretched Out Teens: Fostering Resilience* on November 17, at the Main Library.
 - Team is currently working on programs for 2010 Silicon Valley Reads, featuring Michael Pollan's "*In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*".

OTHER REPORTS

Commissioner reports and questions:

Stinger attended the October 8 Library Bond Stakeholders' Committee meeting. The focus of discussion was public art at the new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center.

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CMR 409:09 (copy distributed to the LAC) is an informational report included in the October 26 Council packet. Informational reports are not on the agenda for discussion and will need to be agendaized should Council want to discuss the LAC's conclusions.

AGENDA for meeting on November 19, 2009:

The items suggested for the meeting are:

- LAC's draft Resolution for Susan Thom
- Subcommittee report on script for set of messages (talking points with Council)
- LAC's 2010 Goals
- Priority setting for LAC's Joint Meeting with City Council
- Update on Library Audit Recommendations

Hochberg moved to adjourn.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:50 p.m.