

# APPROVED



## MINUTES

### Library Advisory Commission (LAC)

February 27, 2003

Council Conference Room

250 Hamilton Avenue

5:30 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Tony Angiletta, Sandra Hirsh (until 6:05), Lenore Jones, John Kagel, Tina Kass (Chair) , Mary Jean Place, Tom Wyman  
**Staff Present:** Paul Thiltgen, Diane Jennings, Evelyn Cheng  
**Council Liaison:** Nancy Lytle

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting called to order by Chair Kass at 5:40 p.m.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS –

Place expressed her appreciation to the members of the LAC and for the opportunity to work in the Commission these years.

#### BUSINESS

The Library Advisory Commission met in retreat to review and discuss the following:

- ⌘ The LAC reviewed and discussed a summary prepared by Chair Kass on LAC priorities, mission and recommendations for Palo Alto libraries as developed in the New Library Plan (NLP).
- ⌘ Jennings clarified some points regarding increase in Library staffing and collection budget since the approval of the NLP.
- ⌘ Jennings added that the Library has not received significant negative feedback to the recent reduction in hours at Downtown and College Terrace Libraries.
- ⌘ Thiltgen said that staff would like to focus resources into the Resource Libraries (Main, Mitchell Park and Children's) while responding to Library staffing and budget issues. One of the City's long- term goals is to implement structural changes.
- ⌘ LAC members expressed concern that the City may re-deploy staff to other departments instead of libraries and that once buildings are closed, they are difficult to get back.
- ⌘ Jennings gave assurance that the budget reductions proposed by staff do not have major impact on the general priorities of the LAC and encouraged the LAC to work towards long-term plans. Thiltgen advised the LAC to coordinate short-term proposals with long-term views.

- €# Kass proposed that the LAC adopt the Interim Library Plan as the base plan which recommends the temporary closure of the neighborhood libraries.
- €# Wyman, however, encouraged the LAC to recommend keeping all six libraries instead.
- €# Angiletta said that the LAC should stay true to goal for providing the best library services in improving the collection in the Resource Libraries.
- €# Kass said that while there are two points of view, the LAC should develop long-term goals to provide to City Council. The LAC would need to make clear that these recommendations have major differences from those developed in the NLP a few years ago.
- €# Kagel recommended that the LAC send an interim letter to City Council outlining the majority and minority views when the 2003-05 Budget is completed in June.
- €# Kass will draft the letter. Wyman offered to help with the draft.

Retreat ended at 7:05 p.m.