

APPROVED

MINUTES

Library Advisory Commission (LAC)

May 11, 2006

Council Conference Room

250 Hamilton Ave.

7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Sanford Forte, Genevieve Gerard, Sandra Hirsh (Chair), Lenore Jones, Paula Skokowski, Valerie Stinger

Commissioners Absent: John Stucky

Staff Present: Paula Simpson, Evelyn Cheng

Council Liaison: John Barton

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – None

BUSINESS

1. Library Service Model Analysis and Recommendations (LSMAR)

- a) *Debriefing on community meetings held at branch libraries – May 4, 6, 8 and 10*
- b) *Discussion of draft recommendations*
- c) *Preparation for May 15 presentation to Council*

- Hirsh recognized Mary Carlstead, 147 Walter Hays, from the audience. Carlstead spoke about her concern that the LAC plan would set up a north-south conflict.
- Members of the LAC reviewed the updated timeline and working schedule to confirm Commissioner attendance at upcoming meetings.
- Simpson had prepared drafts of public comments made at the four community meetings held at branch libraries from May 4 through May 10, including a summary of common themes, for the LAC's review. Simpson said average attendance at these meetings was 26, with several people attending more than one of the four meetings.
- Skokowski proposed four major themes from the community meetings that should be addressed: (1) collections, (2) branches (what is in each branch), (3) Mitchell Park, (4) Children's Library (broader services to meet children's needs, not just 3rd grade and younger).

- Skokowski expressed her concerns about the plan. She stated the LAC's recommendations do not match survey results nor what the community wants. She would like serious issues to be addressed around the four themes so that the LAC's plan will have the community's endorsement.
- Gerard said the structure of the LAC's plan is a concept that tested poorly in the survey and public feedback demanded conceptual changes in the draft recommendations.
- Hirsh said that the purpose of the May 15 meeting with City Council is to get mid-course direction before taking the draft recommendations to the next level, which will include additional research and input to best address long-term needs of Palo Alto.
- Members of the LAC agreed they need to be more explicit and work on clarifying statements in the draft report to avoid any misperceptions.
- Simpson asked the LAC not to give up on the vision too soon and to think about what has worked well in other communities. She said the LAC may need outside expertise to answer some of the tough questions, e.g. space availability issues.
- Skokowski suggested enhancing services at Mitchell Park Library by integrating plans with the surrounding campus (Mitchell Park Community Center, tennis courts, park).
- Members of the LAC reviewed the draft Powerpoint presentation for the May 15 Council meeting and provided feedback for revisions.
 - Under 10 Fundamental Ideas, Stinger moved
 “to accept the bullet point *Library needs more space*, but to include points ‘driven by programmatic need to accommodate accessibility, current and future collections, programs and use areas.’”
 Jones seconded. Motion passed, 4-2 (Gerard, Skokowski)
 - Under Input and Data Collected, Skokowski made Motion
 “to refer Council to key findings in Summary Report by Godbe Research”
 Motion failed as it was not seconded.
 Skokowski changed Motion
 “slide to include 87% satisfaction findings of population from survey in the presentation.”
 Gerard seconded. Motion failed, 2-4 (Hirsh, Jones, Forte, Stinger)
- Barton offered suggestions and feedback for the LAC's presentation to Council. He encouraged the LAC to come to the meeting with recommendations as well as questions and concerns.

- Council members will be provided with a copy of Godbe's report on survey results.
- The LAC agreed on two new efforts:
 - 1) Skokowski and Gerard will provide the LAC with a memorandum presenting a proposal for reconfiguring how the LAC should present its recommendations for improving Library collections. The proposal will be discussed at the May 25 LAC meeting.
 - 2) The LAC ad-hoc communications team should reunite (Gerard, Stinger and Skokowski) to work on communicating to and educating the general public about the LAC's plan for the Palo Alto City Library.

COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Simpson provided an update about the Library Director recruitment: Contract is signed with outside recruiter, Library Associates. Recruiter will meet with the Assistant City Manager Emily Harrison, HR Director Russ Carlsen, Simpson and Library managers next week and also tour branch libraries.
2. Barton will not be able to attend the 5/25 and 6/15 LAC meetings.
3. Stinger and Hirsh will not be able to attend the 6/22 LAC meeting.

Jones moved to adjourn.

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:30 p.m.