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AGENDA REPORT

TO: DEANNA J. SANTANA
CITY ADMINISTRATOR

FROM: Gerry Garzon
Interim Library Director

SUBJECT: Library Advisory Commission
Annual Report

DATE: April 25, 2013

City Administrator
Approval

Date

5/1/13

COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-Wide

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council accepts this informational Annual Report from the Oakland Public Library Advisory Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

GERRY GARZÓN
Interim Director, Oakland Public Library

For questions regarding this report, please contact Gerry Garzón, Interim Director, Oakland Public Library, 510-238-6608.

Attachments
--LAC Annual Report

Item: _____
Life Enrichment Committee
May 14, 2013



May 14, 2013

LIFE ENRICHMENT COMMITTEE
Oakland City Council

Subject: Annual Report of the Library Advisory Commission

Chairperson Brooks and Members of the Committee:

The Library Advisory Commission hereby reports on its activities for the period since the most recent formal report to the Committee (June 2008).

Introduction:

The Library Advisory Commission last submitted a report to the Committee in June 2008, almost five years ago. My report will focus on activities during my tenure (July 2011 to present).

The summer of 2012 marked the beginning of an era of renewed activity for the Library Advisory Commission. My own election as Chairperson in July 2012 was quickly followed by the election of my LAC leadership partner, Vice Chairperson Shanthi Gonzales, and by the successful recruitment and appointment of numerous passionate, skilled and motivated new commissioners. This year, for possibly the first time ever, the City of Oakland will boast a full, 15-member Library Commission, and that commission has focused its collaborative energy on supporting the vital work of the Oakland Public Library.

The LAC takes seriously its mandated duty “to advise and make recommendations on the operation and future development of the library system and to act as a liaison between the Library Department and the Mayor and City Council.” We also are vigilant in providing citizen oversight of Measure Q parcel-tax expenditures.

As you will read in the following sections about the LAC’s ongoing activities and future goals, the commission is dedicated to increasing community awareness of the OPL’s role as a vibrant community center, education partner, and temple of information and inspiration. The LAC is also diligently working on multiple projects to safeguard the future of the Oakland Public Library, ensuring that these critical programs and services will continue to be available to all present and future Oakland residents.

Item No.: _____
Life Enrichment Committee
May 14, 2013

Attachment A contains the names of commissioners who have served during this five-year period.

Commission Activities:
LAC Strategic Plan Goals for 2013:

1. Increase awareness of library programs and build ongoing support in Oakland and Sacramento among supporters and library stakeholders. LAC accomplishments and ongoing activities include the following:

- Create talking points as needed and distribute them to commissioners.
- Participate in ongoing discussions with other library supporters about coordinating our messages so we can speak with one voice.
- Provide OPL marketing materials in hard copy as commissioners meet with community leaders and residents.
- Attend community meetings and budget hearings to share information about library services.

2. Increase commissioner knowledge and collaboration with other library supporters.

- Continue to learn about the wide range of library programs and activities through ongoing presentations at commission meetings.
- Continue to learn skills that will make us more effective advocates for strong library services through professional development trainings.
- Continue to strengthen relationships and coordinate activities with other library supporters in Oakland and across the state by organizing mixers and meetings.
- Reviewed and revised commissioner onboarding materials and systematized the onboarding process, identifying the roles each party plays.
- Clarified LAC role and expectations with existing and incoming commissioners.
- Continue to identify and take advantage of opportunities for education and networking with other library advocates locally and statewide, such as regional conferences and trainings.
- Drafting a network mapping survey to be administered to the commission during summer 2013, results of which will be used in our ongoing networking and advocacy work.

3. Restore library service hours that were lost during budget cuts in 2009 by 2015-2017 budget cycle.

- Exploring a leadership role in a campaign to restore library service hours to pre-2009 levels.

4. Improve LAC infrastructure to facilitate the goals detailed above.

- Created committee structures and clarified the roles of relevant parties in helping the commission to carry out its work.

- Brought all commissioners up to the baseline of knowledge necessary to be effective in their roles and created numerous opportunities for them to gain additional knowledge.

5. Encourage appointments to fill vacant LAC seats.

- Recruitment of a full complement of commissioners – representing the rich range of Oakland’s diversity – will be achieved by November 2013.

Future Issues and Activities:

1. Ongoing strategic planning:

- Coordinate a mid-year retreat on Aug. 17 to review accomplishments and clarify goals and activities for the next 1-2 years.
- Participate in staff’s upcoming year-long Task Force to determine Oakland Public Library’s future needs and direction.

2. Restoration of service hours: Continue to explore the leadership role the LAC could play in a campaign to restore lost library service hours during the 2015-17 budget cycle.

3. Exploration of long-term sustainability of library funding: Continue to research available long-term funding strategies to ensure OPL’s ability to provide adequate library services to the City of Oakland.

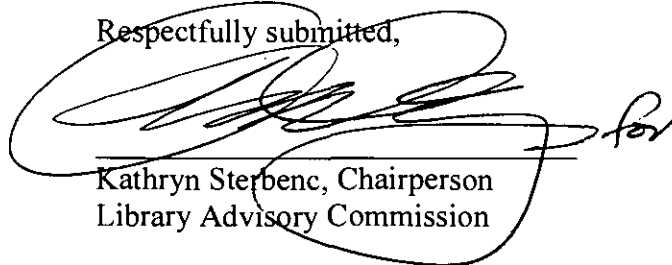
4. Sustained efforts to inform all Oaklanders of their library services and programs.

5. Sustained efforts to build and maintain relationships with state-level elected officials.

6. Committed focus on ensuring that adequate library programs and services are available for Oakland’s underserved and isolated communities.

The LAC will continue to work closely with the Library Director and elected officials to ensure that the public has a voice in how decisions are made about the future of public libraries in Oakland.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathryn Stebenc, Chairperson
Library Advisory Commission

Report of the Library Advisory Commission
List of Commissioners
Acknowledgment of Commissioners who served from June 2008 to April 2013

The LAC thanks the following individuals who ended their terms on the Commission since the last report to the Life Enrichment Committee.

Muhammad M. Alabi
Bridget Berrigan
Jill Broadhurst (Vice-Chairperson, 2010-2011)
Marilyn Citron (Chairperson, 2008-2010)
Susanna Gilden (Vice-Chairperson, 2008-2010)
Sylvester Grisby, Sr.
Genevieve Katz
Jessica Leavitt
Tom Manley
Arthur Noble
Margaret (Peggy) Simmons
Steven G. Tidrick (Chairperson, 2010-2012)
Billie Wooldridge
Jacky Wu
Sue Yascolt

The following is a list of current Commissioners (appointed on or before April 16, 2013):

Kathryn Sterbenc, Chairperson
Shanthi Gonzales, Vice-Chairperson
Ain Bailey
Victoria A. Barbero
Ruby Bernstein
David Bolaños
Roy Chan
April Harper
Carolyn Mixon
Kathryn O'Neal
Susanne M. Perkins
Andrew Racle
Charles Sanchez
Linda White-Taylor