

Berkeley Public Library
Board of Library Trustees

Regular Meeting
January 10, 2001

Minutes
7:13 p.m.

Claremont Branch
2940 Benvenue Avenue

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of January 10, 2001 was called to order at 7:13 p.m.

Present: Trustees Anderson, Cross, Garcia, James, Shirek (7:40 p.m.)

Absent: None

Also Present: Deputy Director of Library Services MaryLou Mull, Building Project Manager Elena Engel, Branch Services Manager Audrey Powers, Supervising Librarian Karen Joseph-Smith, Administrative Secretary Yvette Gan

II. Public Comments

One speaker was heard.

III. Approval of Agenda

R01-01 Moved by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee James, to approve the agenda as proposed by Trustee James. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Staff Report - Claremont Branch

Supervising Librarian Karen Joseph-Smith reported on Claremont branch activities. Since returning from her temporary position in Technical Services at the end of September, she has been getting re-acquainted with all the changes that happened during the renovation. New staff include Teen Librarian Viola Dyas and Library Aides Sigrid Allen and Catherine Pataque. There is currently one open Aide position as an Aide is on maternity leave.

Two new programs are being planned for Claremont: A murder mystery (the third such program) and a workshop on researching medical information through the Internet. There will be an Open Poetry Reading in March, and a lecture on the Negro Leagues in celebration of Juneteenth. Children's programs are continuing to see an increase in attendance numbers.

Red Oak Realty, a local real estate company, donated \$500 last year to the branch, and is planning to do so again this year.

The Board thanked Ms. Joseph-Smith for her report.

V. Consent Calendar

R01-02 Moved by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Cross, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion approved unanimously.

R01-03 Approved minutes of regular meeting – December 13, 2000.

R01-04 Accepted resignation of Wylendia Eastman, Library Specialist (Reference/Cataloging), Technical Services

VI. Reports for Action/Discussion

1. Building Projects Update

Building Project Manager Elena Engel noted that the Board's report on the building project to the City Council will most likely be on the Feb. 27th City Council agenda.

She also reported on a meeting with Don Arntz of Arntz Builders which was held to reach a settlement on the building project as the completion date of Dec. 2, 2000, agreed to by Arntz has now passed. It would be preferable to trade liquidated damages owed to the library by Arntz Builders from Dec. 2, 2000, onward in exchange for an agreement by Arntz that no claims would be filed against the library by either Arntz or any of its sub-contractors. Part of the settlement would include negotiations on about 150 outstanding change orders which would be treated as a lump sum. It was agreed that both parties would provide their best estimates of the value of these change orders through January 9, 2001, and meet again in two weeks to discuss those estimates. April 16, 2001, is the new substantial completion date put forward by Arntz, with May 16th being the final completion date.

[Shirek arrived at 7:40 p.m.]

Architect Stuart Colby has left Ripley BOORA and his replacement Jim Scoggin is busy familiarizing himself with the project. Ms. Engel gave a status report on the building and passed around photos of both the Kittredge and Bancroft wings. She has asked the Planning Department to notify her if plans involving Library Gardens are on the agenda of any public meetings.

2. Branch ADA Renovation and Branch Building Projects, and Project Impact

Branch Services Manager Audrey Powers reported on Project Impact. She and Ms. Carol Lopes have visited the tool lending libraries (TLL) in Oakland and San Leandro, both of which are administered in very different ways. In San Leandro, the TLL is under the aegis of the Permit Department. Borrowers are required to undergo a course and obtain building permits before tools can be issued. Ms. Powers will continue to work with Project Impact staff on the possibility of creating a Mitigation Resource Center, and whether the library's Tool Lending Library would play a part in this.

Trustee Garcia asked if TLL staff were still dispensing construction advice to patrons, and not just instructions on tool use. A discussion followed on the question of liability, and Trustee James noted that the City Attorney's office should be involved in this issue. He also suggested that the staff ask patrons to complete an anonymous survey to determine how many TLL patrons are contractors.

Ms. Powers noted that the Foundation's Executive Board will be holding its retreat on Saturday, Feb. 10th, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the West Berkeley Senior Center. Sara Cox is currently the Foundation administrator. Anna Rabkin will continue as the Foundation President for another year.

Branch head have begun thinking and planning for branch renovation projects. Staff agree that even if the library is not awarded any of the Proposition 14 State funds, that plans for branch renovation should go forward. All of this will require enormous expenditures in staff time and the library will have to pay for upfront costs, such as Environmental Impact Reports, and survey and title fees.

3. Recruitment for Director of Library Services

Acting Director MaryLou Mull reported that an all-staff meeting had been held on January 4th to discuss what staff wish to see in a new Director. The five staff members attending the American Library Association's (ALA) Mid-Winter Conference will distribute flyers announcing

that the position will be open soon, and that interested parties should visit the City's web site. An ALA article on selecting and evaluating a library director was distributed.

4. Board of Library Trustees Meeting with Library Staff

The meeting will be held on Friday, January 19th, at the Northbrae Community Center, 941 The Alameda, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The trustees will have an open discussion with the staff about the qualities/skills needed in a new Director and the future of the library.

VII. Reports for Information

1. Staff Newsletter, December 2000
2. BPL Calendar of Events, January 2001
3. Newspaper articles:
 - *Library Volunteers Reap Honors For Quality Services* (Berkeley Tri-City Post, 12/6/00)
 - *Library Leader Was Known For Advocacy, Humor* (Daily Planet, 12/9/00)
 - *Family Entertainment At The Library* (Berkeley Tri-City Post, 12/13/00)
 - *Reader Has The Berkeley Tool Library Blues* (Daily Planet, 12/18/00)
 - *Berkeley Library Tooled For Success* (West County Times, 12/20/00)
 - *Tool Library Needs More Tools, Not More Bureaucrats* (Daily Planet, 12/20/00)
 - *Library Sing-A-Longs* (Daily Planet, 12/21/00)
 - *West Berkeley To Witness "Murder" In Library* (Daily Planet, 12/23/00)
 - *Kwanzaa Celebration at Library* (Daily Planet, 12/29/00)
 - *Library Plans to Defy Law On Porn* (SF Examiner, 1/1/03)An ALA article on Internet filtering and a possible lawsuit by the ACLU was distributed. Trustee James asked library management to keep an eye on this issue.
4. Correspondence from Mr. Bob Shotland to the Berkeley Public Library Foundation

VIII. Addenda To Agenda

Ms. Mull reported that the City of Berkeley will be sending out a memo to all commissioners to attend a budget meeting on Jan. 30th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at City Council Chambers.

There will be a CALTAC workshop, "California Libraries - Honoring Our Past and Building Our Future" on Feb. 24th in San Mateo. Brochures on CALTAC membership were distributed.

Trustee James announced that a memorial service will be held for Adelia Lines on Sunday, March 18th, in the late afternoon at the First Unitarian Church of Berkeley which is located in Kensington.

IX. Agenda Building

Next Meeting: February 14, 2001, at South Branch, 1901 Russell Street

Agenda Items: Display Policy for Art Curated by Berkeley Art Center (if completed), Building Projects Update, Branch ADA Renovation and Branch Building Projects, Report to City Council, Election of Chair and Vice-Chair, Closed Session to discuss Recruitment for Library Director.

X. Adjourn

R01-05 Moved by Trustee Cross, seconded by Trustee Shirek to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.