

Berkeley Public Library
Board of Library Trustees

Regular Meeting
April 11, 2001

Minutes
7:12 p.m.

North Branch
1170 The Alameda

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of April 11, 2001 was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

Present: Trustees Anderson, Cross, Garcia, James

Absent: Trustee Shirek

Also Present: Acting Director of Library Services MaryLou Mull, Acting Deputy Director of Library Services Linda Perkins, Building Project Manager Elena Engel, Branch Services Manager Audrey Powers, Supervising Librarian Barbara Alesandrini, Administrative Secretary Yvette Gan.

II. Public Comments: None

III. Approval of Agenda

R01-27 Moved by Trustee Anderson, seconded by Trustee Cross, to approve the agenda as proposed by Trustee James. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Staff Report - North Branch

Supervising Librarian Barbara Alesandrini reported on the activities of the North Branch. Staff served over 290,000 patrons in the past year, an increase of 36,000 from the previous year. She drew the attention of the Trustees to the annual Quilt Show and distributed booklets about the 60 quilts currently on display. Ms. Alesandrini applied for and was awarded a Partnerships For Change grant for \$10,000 to enhance and expand services to seniors. North Branch has a strong volunteer program with computer tutors, student Friends and Teen volunteers.

Branch staff are presently beginning to work with the new Millenium circulation system. The six new public computers provided by the Gates Foundation have proven very popular with patrons but have also increased the workload and stress levels for staff.

The more pressing needs for this branch are space and staffing. This facility lacks office space, a staff work room, a staff break area and a community meeting room. Because of the energy crises, staff are leaving the lights off till 10 a.m. and lowering heating levels.

The Board thanked Ms. Alesandrini for her report.

V. Consent Calendar

R01-28 Moved by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cross, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion approved unanimously.

R01-29 Approved minutes of Regular Meeting – March 14, 2001.

R01-30 Accepted resignation of John Muller, Library Assistant, Technical Services.

R01-31 Accepted resignation of Carol Naito, Librarian II, Children's Services.

R01-32 Accepted resignation of Linda Seward, Library Specialist (ILL), General Services.

VI. Reports for Action/Discussion

1. Building Projects Update

Trustee James reported on his presentation about the building project to the City Council on March 20th. He informed the Council that the project will still be on budget if it is completed by July 25th, but if it goes past that date, then it will not.

Building Project Manager Elena Engel reported that the attorneys are drawing up the settlement agreement with Arntz. Arntz has said that June 25th will be the substantial completion date for the project, and July 25th the final completion date.

She provided a status report on the work in progress on both the Kittredge and Bancroft wings. The first order for furniture has been issued, and by the end of this week, she will issue a Purchase Order for the rest. There is some concern because furniture prices have increased recently.

A Move Steering Committee is being formed to coordinate the move back to 2090 Kittredge. Ms. Engel has given tours to all Central Library departments so that staff can actually see the spaces they will move into, and begin finalizing plans.

2. Approval of Extended Services Proposals for Library Project Managers and Ripley/BORA

R01-33 Moved by Trustee James, seconded by Trustee Anderson, to extend the contracts with Library Project Managers by \$368,287.00 and with Ripley/BOORA by \$147,857.79 with a substantial building completion date of June 25, 2001, and a final completion date of July 25, 2001. Motion approved unanimously.

3. Branch Projects

A. ADA Renovation

Branch Services Manager Audrey Powers distributed copies of newspaper articles about census data for California and for the City of Berkeley. These statistics will be used in the applications for branch bonds.

Ms. Powers reported on the changes at the Tool Lending Library (TLL). A storage shed is being installed in the patio area of the South Branch for tools. This will make the TLL environment safer and will save staff time during their opening and closing procedures. South Branch Supervising Librarian Jeri Ewart is working with the TLL staff to analyze workflow. A 15 hr/week TLL staff was appointed to the 20 hr/week position, a new 20 hr/week staff has been hired, and 10 additional hours/week have been authorized. With four staff on board, there is now greater flexibility in scheduling.

ADA issues are also being addressed. The maintenance unit has lowered the counter tops and has added a second door. The City's Disability Compliance Coordinator approved of these interim solutions and also provided funding for the new counter tops. When staff discovered drainage problems in the driveway area, these were also fixed.

Acting Director MaryLou Mull added that staff were also looking at the visual impact of the storage shed in the patio area. There are plans to put in a lattice, benches and potted plants to make it more attractive.

Both Ms. Mull and Ms. Powers have received correspondence from the City Attorney's office expressing concern about the appropriateness of advice which TLL staff have provided about actual building methods. The job descriptions for the TLL positions also need to be revised and updated.

B. Building/Expansion

Ms. Powers noted that branch heads and management have been discussing the branch bond applications. A lengthy discussion followed about the procedures and planning involved in the applications, and the need to educate the community and City Council about the intent and requirements of the Bond Act.

4. Internet Filtering Bill

Trustee James provided background information on Assembly Bill 151 which is being sponsored by Assemblywoman Sarah Reyes of Fresno. Letters were sent last month asking Senator Don Perata and Assemblywoman Dion Aroner to vote against this bill.

President of the Friends, Ann Carroll, called Trustee James to suggest that representatives of the Board, the Foundation, the Friends, and staff meet to discuss cross-communication between these groups. Ms. Mull will have the Administrative Secretary poll people for dates for a meeting.

5. Foundation Update

The Foundation's interim Executive Administrator, Sara Cox, will be leaving on April 27th to take a new job as a Deputy City Clerk. Meanwhile, the search for an Executive Director continues. The Foundation will end its capital campaign on June 30th, and will begin a branch campaign for \$5 million over the next five years.

Ms. Mull will call Foundation President Anna Rabkin to discuss terms of a lease agreement for the Foundation office space in the renovated Central Library. There will also need to be a lease agreement for the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library.

VII. Reports for Information

1. Staff Newsletter, March 2001
2. BPL Calendar of Events, April 2001
3. BPL Program Announcements:
 - *Baba Yaga and Vasilisa The Brave*
 - *Pam Brown, Storyteller, Trickster, Magician*
 - *Hands-On Science*
 - *Kurzweil 3000 Workshop*
 - *College Application Essay Workshop*
 - *Annual Quilt Show*
4. Newspaper articles:
 - *Lawsuits Target Web Filtering Law (SF Chronicle, 3/20/01)*
 - *Tree Demolitions Anger Residents (Berkeley Daily Planet, 3/21/01)*
 - *Berkeley Library Trees Get The Chop (Oakland Tribune, 3/21/01)*
 - *Services for Beloved Librarian (Berkeley Tri-City Post, 3/21/01)*
 - *Willard Needs A Librarian Now (Berkeley Daily Planet, 3/23/01)*
 - *Censoring the Libraries (SF Chronicle, 3/23/01)*
 - *New History Room for Library (Berkeley Daily Planet, 3/24-25/01)*
 - *Berkeley High School Library Long Overdue (Berkeley Daily Planet, 3/26/01)*
 - *Dead Trees Resemble the Communications Tower Fiasco (Berkeley Daily Planet, 3/28/01)*
 - *Personal Memorial (Berkeley Daily Planet, 3/29/01)*
 - *BHS Students Get To Check Out Reopened Library (Berkeley Tri-City Post, 3/30/01)*
 - *Treasures At The Library (Sunset Magazine, April 2001)*
 - *Libraries Are Vital To A Good Education (Contra Costa Times, 4/4/01)*
5. The Best in Bookmarks: Art and Information in a Traditional Format
6. Response from Assemblywoman Dion Aroner Re: AB 151

VIII. Addenda To Agenda

Ms. Mull reported that the bankruptcy of Northpoint Communications also affected the Library when all Internet service was suddenly suspended. The City's Information Technology department was extremely helpful to the Library in providing a temporary link through its server.

Four managers attended the City's workshop on workers compensation issues. Other managers and supervising staff will attend at a later date.

The City will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Civic Center in May. The Trustees, Foundation and Friends should see invitations in the mail soon.

Ms. Mull will be attending Legislative Days on April 23rd and 24th in Sacramento.

The Board went into closed session at 10:00 p.m., and returned to open session at 10:15 p.m.

R01-34 Moved by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee James, to commend Ms. Engel on her excellent performance as the Building Project Manager, and to award her a 2% merit increase effective May 1, 2001. Motion approved unanimously.

The Board returned to closed session again at 10:17 p.m. and returned to open session at 11:35 p.m. without taking any action.

IX. Agenda Building

Next Meeting: May 9, 2001, at South Branch, 1901 Russell Street

X. Adjourn

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:35 p.m.