

Berkeley Public Library
Board of Library Trustees

Regular Meeting
May 9, 2001

Minutes
7:00 p.m.

South Branch
1901 Russell Street

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of May 9, 2001 was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Trustees Anderson, Cross, Garcia, Shirek

Absent: Trustee James

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, Acting Children's Services Manager Elizabeth Overmyer, Administrative Secretary Yvette Gan.

II. Public Comments: None

III. Approval of Agenda

R01-35 Moved by Trustee Cross, seconded by Trustee Anderson, to approve the agenda as proposed by Trustee James. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Staff Report - Children's Services

Acting Children's Services Manager Elizabeth Overmyer noted she had been the Acting Manager for Children's Services for six out of the past 12 months. She provided details about the Summer reading game, brochures for middle school students and teachers, visits from the Central YMCA, and planning for the move back to 2090 Kittredge.

In terms of staffing, Children's Services has had an unusual year. On two separate occasions, Linda Perkins was appointed Acting Deputy Director, which resulted in Ms. Overmyer being appointed Acting Children's Services Manager. Ms. Overmyer's position is being filled (temporarily) by Nora Hale, the South Branch Children's Librarian, and Ms. Hale's workload is currently handled by two part-time librarians, Sarah Dentan and Michele McKenzie. Children's Librarian Carol Naito retired in mid-April.

The library community was stunned by the news of an assault on a student at a Berkeley school a few months ago. Children's services librarians decided to create a list of books which would help parents and children talk about the issue of sex. Just as this list was completed, the City's Health and Human Services department called, asking if the library had anything that could be handed out at a meeting with parents and school staff. It's titled, "Funny You Should Ask...".

The Board thanked Ms. Overmyer for an interesting report.

V. Consent Calendar

R01-36 Moved by Trustee Cross, seconded by Trustee Anderson, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion approved unanimously.

R01-37 Approved minutes of Regular Meeting – April 11, 2001.

R01-38 Accepted resignation of Steve Siebers, Library Assistant, North Branch.

R01-39 Accepted resignation of Patricia Cleage, Library Aide, Technical Services.

VI. Reports for Action/Discussion

1. Building Projects Update

Building Project Manager Elena Engel reported that she and Acting Director Mull had met with Don Arntz to find out what the completion date would be, but he has not provided that information. A City staff member advised that most projects usually do not set a completion date till about two months beforehand. A memo will be sent to staff to update them regarding the completion date. If this project does not meet the substantial completion date of June 25th, then it will go over budget and the Board of Library Trustees will need to ask the City Council for a loan.

A discussion followed on the possibility of using the Bancroft wing to store furniture that has been ordered, but no decision was made. Trustee Garcia felt that the Library's project team was in good shape with regard to change orders and submittals. He noted that Arntz Builders is still working on the final language of the agreement.

Building project status for Kittredge: The framing for the curtain wall has been completed, and the builders are beginning on the glazing of the windows. The roofing is completed and air-conditioning units are being installed. The building is not yet watertight. The compact shelving will arrive in about three weeks. Next to come are the pavers and casework for the exterior of the building.

The bid opening for the Audio-Visual equipment will be on May 15th. A contract for approximately \$550,000 has been signed with Pivot Interiors to provide staff furniture and some of the public furniture. The next bid to go out will be for computers.

2. Branch Projects

A. ADA Renovation

Branch Services Manager Audrey Powers noted that any further ADA work at Claremont would be put on hold because of the Library Bond Act of 2000. She reported on the renovations recently completed at the Tool Lending Library (TLL). The City's Disability Compliance Office will reimburse the library for the cost of the replacement counter. The funds for the remaining expenses came out of the Maintenance budget. Ms. Powers lauded the TLL and Maintenance staff who worked very hard on these renovations.

B. Building/Expansion

Branch heads have attended a series of workshops held by the State Library that will help them prepare their applications for Library Bond Act of 2000 funds. The workshops have focused on the Libris space planning software, needs assessment and on library technology.

The City Manager's office has created a team of neighborhood services liaisons. Each City department has key staff assigned to the four quadrants of the City. The Deputy Director and branch heads will be working more closely with their contacts among the City staff, and it is anticipated that information obtained through this work will help create branch profiles for the application.

3. Internet Filtering Bill

Ms. Mull attended Legislative Days (an annual event sponsored by the California Library Association) in Sacramento on April 23rd and 24th. She met with Assemblywoman Dion Aroner and an aide from Senator Don Perata's office about Assembly Bill 151. Ms. Aroner has said that she will not support this bill, and Senator Perata's aide was of the opinion that it would eventually stall. If this bill does pass, the Library will lose about \$10,000 in federal funding.

4. Meeting with Friends and Foundation

Trustee Garcia reported on the meeting of representatives of the Friends, Foundation, Board, and staff which took place on May 4th. The topic was cross-communication among the four groups. There was also a discussion of the branch libraries and the State's Library Bond Act of 2000. This group will continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

The Foundation has decided that their next goal is to support all the branches. Staff will be working with the Foundation on a case statement.

VII. Reports for Information

1. Staff Newsletter, April 2001
2. BPL Calendar of Events, May 2001
3. BPL Program Announcements/Press Releases: 22nd Annual Quilt Show, Positive Knowledge, ColibrP, Apollo String Quartet at North Berkeley Branch Library
4. Newspaper articles:
 - *Briefly...* (Berkeley Tri-City Post, 4/11/01)
 - *Parking Proposal Debate Continues* (Daily Planet, 4/13/01)
 - *If I Had A Hammer...* (LeConte Neighborhood Association, 4/01)
 - *Briefly...(Berkeley Tri-City Post, 4/25/01)*

VIII. Addenda To Agenda

Acting Deputy Director Ms. Perkins noted that on April 19th she and Trustee James attended a meeting of the LeConte Neighborhood Association in response to an article in their April newsletter about the Tool Lending Library. Much misinformation has been circulated and it was critical to set the record straight. Ms. Powers will submit an article for the next edition.

The interviews for the position of Coordinator of Volunteers took place last week; many of the candidates had experience in similar work and gave excellent interviews.

Ms. Mull reported that she has been working with the Friends on their scholarship awards, attending meetings of the City about the Neighborhood Services Liaisons, and reworking the Classification study.

Sara Cox, the Executive Administrator for the Foundation, has left to take the job of Deputy City Clerk. The Foundation is continuing its search for an Executive Director.

All City employees will be provided with new City badge. However, since Library staff have their own Library badges, Ms. Mull felt it was appropriate for staff to continue using their Library badges while on duty in the Library, and to use their City badges while visiting other City departments. The Trustees agreed with Ms. Mull.

IX. Agenda Building

Next Regular Meeting: June 13, 2001, at South Branch, 1901 Russell Street
Agenda Items: Display Policy for Art Curated by Berkeley Art Center, Building Projects Update, Branch Projects: ADA Renovation and Building/Expansion, Tool Lending Library, Internet Filtering Bill

The Board returned to closed session again at 9:02 p.m. and returned to open session at 9:42 p.m. without taking any action.

X. Adjourn

R01-40 Moved by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Shirek to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.