

Berkeley Public Library
Board of Library Trustees

Regular Meeting
April 19, 2006

Minutes
7:09 p.m.

South Berkeley Senior Center
2939 Ellis Street

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of April 19, 2006, was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

Present: Trustees Laura Anderson, Susan Kupfer, Ying Lee, Darryl Moore, Terry Powell

Absent: None

Also present: Director of Library Services Jackie Griffin, Deputy Director of Library Services Vivian Pisano, Library Financial Manager Beverli Marshall, Administrative Secretary Yvette Gan

Trustee Kupfer noted that the Mayor and City Council had proclaimed Sunday, April 30, 2006, to be "Children's Day / Book Day". Celebrations will take place at the Central Library that day. The Mayor had also complimented the Library staff on their efforts to help out the homeless youth in the City's shelter with the provision of library cards.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were 9 speakers, with comments on RFID and on SEIU Local 535.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Lee requested that item VI.1 (FY06 Budget Status Report and FY07 Preliminary Budget Discussion) be moved to be the third item discussed under "VI". Trustee Powell asked the items VI.5 (Memo from Chair and Vice-Chair regarding proposed clarification of disciplinary action authority) and VI.6 (Memo from Chair and Vice-Chair regarding affirmation of budgetary authority) be moved to a future meeting, probably in May.

R06-16 Moved by Trustee Powell, seconded by Trustee Lee, to approve the agenda as amended.
Motion carried unanimously.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

R06-17 Moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Lee, to approve the Consent Calendar.
Motion approved unanimously.

R06-18 Approved minutes of regular meeting – March 15, 2006.

R06-19 Approved minutes of special meeting – April 8, 2006.

V. REPORTS RECOMMENDING SPECIFIC ACTION

1. Request to close Central Library on Sunday, May 28, 2006, for necessary upgrades to online catalog and circulation system

Francisca Goldsmith, Collection Development Manager, noted that in order to install the "scoping" function, install icons and simplify loan rules, the online catalog would have to

be updated. It would take two days, and staff recommend that the Library be closed on Sunday, May 28, 2006 (Monday, May 29, is Memorial Day holiday).

- R06-20 Moved by Trustee Lee, seconded by Trustee Powell, to close the Berkeley Public Library on Sunday, May 28, 2006, for necessary upgrades to the online catalog and circulation system.** Motion carried unanimously.

VI. REPORTS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. Report on Labor-Management Issues by Chair of Ad Hoc Committee, Deputy Director Vivian Pisano

Deputy Director Vivian Pisano met with the task force on shelving on March 15, 2006. The task force has identified statistics that they need for a four-month period. The study should result in options for moving forward after looking at long-term needs, costs and the impact of adding more open hours. Local 535 union leaders have said they are not willing to continue with the Ad Hoc Committee.

2. Report from Library employees and unions, discussion of staff issues

Local 535 SEIU representatives presented a petition of no confidence in the Library Director.

3. FY06 Budget Status Report and FY 07 Preliminary Budget Discussion

Library Financial Manager Beverli Marshall presented an overview of the FY06 Budget Status Report and the FY07 Preliminary Budget. There is an error in the Proposed Balancing Measures chart: item 2's program should read "Technical Services" and not "Administration".

The baseline for FY07 has changed by about \$200,000 from the proposed baseline which was provided to the Board at their June 2005 meeting due to reconciling with the City's budget system.

Trustees Lee and Moore objected to the use of the word "generous" to describe the benefits. Ms. Marshall explained that City employees receive benefits which cost about 53% of their salaries. The average rate of benefits in other Bay area cities is 40%. For San Francisco Public Library, the rate is about 26 or 27%. Trustee Lee asked to see the study of comparable benefits which had been conducted by the City Manager's office.

With regard to the library tax rate, the current Personal Income Growth index is at 3.79% and the Consumer Price Index shows a 2.6% increase. There is 4.8% COLA which will take effect on July 1, 2006, for salaries. However, as the budget was based on a 4% increase, the expenditures will outweigh revenues. The final figures for both indexes should be released sometime in early May. The Board of Library Trustees needs to approve the Library budget by May 17, 2006, and forward it to City Council for approval.

Trustee Moore said that his priorities were to restore the hours at the Central Library and to evaluate and reduce the structural deficit over a five-year period. He felt that a capital fund of 2 – 3% would be appropriate, rather than a reserve of 6%.

The Library will receive \$73,000 from the Gates Foundation to replace the original Gates computers that are now four years old. Trustee Kupfer asked the Network Administrator to provide a wishlist for adding staff and equipment to the Information Technology department.

4. Resolution in support of California Proposition 81: Statewide measure to provide \$600 million to fund library construction or renovation projects

City Attorney Manuela Albuquerque advised the Board that it cannot pass resolutions on political items. Trustee Moore noted that, in his role as City Councilmember, he and Councilmember Kriss Worthington are submitting a resolution to the City Council to support Proposition 81 which will be on the June ballot.

5. Memo from Chair and Vice-Chair regarding proposed clarification of disciplinary action authority

Deferred to a future meeting.

Trustee Powell noted that she and Trustee Kupfer were working with the City Attorney's office on a statement that would clarify their support of management decisions and actions, and to also say that inappropriate behavior from any employee would not be tolerated.

6. Memo from Chair and Vice-Chair regarding affirmation of budgetary authority

Deferred to a future meeting.

VII. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

1. Desktop computer replacement program for staff and public computers
2. Library events: Fliers and press releases for various library programs
3. News article: "Berkeley Libraries Speak Volumes" – Palo Alto Weekly, 3/3/06

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS - Action cannot be taken on any of these items

1. Letter from SEIU Local 535 dated 2/15/06 re: library issues.

IX. AGENDA BUILDING (5 minutes)

Next regular meeting: May 17, 2005, 7:00 pm, South Berkeley Senior Center, 2939 Ellis Street, Berkeley.

1. Tracking chart for follow-up on Board items

Trustee Kupfer asked that items marked as "completed" on the tracking chart be removed.

Agenda items:

- Fines and Fees (consent calendar)
- EBSCO contract (consent calendar)
- Budget – including extending hours
- Tax rate recommendations
- Link + project

X. CLOSED SESSION

R06-21 Moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Powell, that the Board move into Closed Session at 9:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board returned to open session at 10:50 p.m. No action was taken.

XI. ADJOURN

R06-22 Moved by Trustee Moore , seconded by Trustee Lee, to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.