

ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY

ALAMEDA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
MEETING SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

April 7, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by chairperson, Michael Baldwin, at 7:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Michael Baldwin  
Pat Gacoscos  
Ge'nell Gary  
Sherry Hu  
Teresa Keng  
Tyler Dragoni  
Cheryl Hoffmann  
Sarah Wilson  
Karen Bridges  
Subru Bhat

**Members Absent:**

Maria "Sucy" Collazo

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Caroline Masters thanked the library staff for the work they did during the closure and work to reopen

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Approval of Minutes of January 6, 2021

Commissioner Karen Bridges moved and Commissioner Subru Bhat seconded approval of the minutes of January 6, 2021. The motion was approved.

**DISCUSSION CALENDAR**

2. Library ReOpening Update

County Librarian Cindy Chadwick reported that AC Library locations have begun re-opening to the public. She also shared the Library website and navigated to a page listing of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and guidelines for visiting the library.

Commissioner Bhat inquired about the hours for Union City Library and whether they reflected the pre-pandemic hours of operation. Chadwick referred to the new library visiting hours on ACL website. She notes that the hours are not the same as before the pandemic, but the library hopes to get to regular hours soon.

### 3. ACLF Presentation: A Space to Innovate

Tiona Smith, Executive Director of the Alameda County Library Foundation (ACLF), shared a presentation on ACLF and its role in supporting Alameda County Library.

Smith explained that the Foundation is staffed and managed by County employees and is governed by a board of directors. Recent projects funded by ACLF include the new Mobile Outreach Services vehicle "Poppy," Lunch at the Library, and Alameda County Reads.

Commissioner Bhat asked if fundraising for the Foundation is different than general fundraising. Director Smith replied that general fundraising is done year-round but fundraising strategies are done for specific projects.

Commissioner Bridges thanked Smith for the work she has done to support the new Newark Library and encouraged the Commissioners to contribute to the Newark Capital Campaign.

Commissioner Teresa Keng also expressed excitement for the new Newark Library.

### 4. Update on Archimedes

Brian Edwards, Division Director of the Fremont Libraries, gave a presentation on Archimedes explaining its origin and progress since its establishment at the Library in 2018.

Edwards introduced Chris Kyauk, Coordinator of Innovation and Cultivation. Kyauk described how Archimedes rose to the challenge presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Archimedes team 3D printed 4,000 ear savers and door openers to distribute to staff and community members, totaling approximately 670 hours of printing. Sewing machines were also purchased to sew face masks.

Kyauk shared that Archimedes has been distributing Grab and Go Crafts weekly since July 2020. Archimedes has also fostered partnerships with local organizations to support programming for members.

Edwards shared plans to turn Irvington Library into a dedicated Archimedes maker space with a children's collection.

Commissioner Bridges expressed that she is looking forward to STEAM programs in the libraries moving forward.

Commissioner Pat Gacoscos asked if Archimedes is only open to Fremont students and residents and wanted to know about how recruitment is done for the program. Edwards answered that Archimedes is open and projects are distributed to everyone of all ages

throughout the Library locations, not only to residents of Fremont. He explained that though Fremont is currently the focus, there is a great need for it in other cities and the plan is to work toward expanding Archimedes. Regarding recruitment, Kyauk added that there has not been much need to do outreach as members have learned about the program by word of mouth. However, the team has envisioned reaching out to those in the community who do not have access to a maker space.

## 5. County Librarian's Report

Chadwick thanked the Library staff for attending the meeting, the work that they are doing in our communities and living as kind, connected humans.

Chadwick shared that this week (April 4 – 10) is National Library Week. She noted that libraries are included in the American Recovery Act, with funds specifically set aside for libraries.

Chadwick shared the webpage for the County's first Youth Poet Laureate program. The city of Oakland has had a program for many years, but it was only open to residents within the city limits. The Alameda County program is open to any youth in Alameda County outside of Oakland between the ages of 13-18. Applications are accepted until April 30<sup>th</sup> and all information can be found on the Library website. Chadwick encouraged the Commissioners to help spread the word.

Chadwick spoke briefly about the Library's partnership with the Alameda County Arts Commission and their annual Art IS Education celebration during the month of March. Watercolor sheets that were distributed as part of the program are still available to community partners.

Chadwick reported that Castro Valley served as a test site for a COVID vaccination POD (Point of Dispensing) in January and February, which went extremely well. The Library is now working with the County's Public Health Department to staff another POD in the Fremont area.

Chadwick shared photos of the inside of the new NWK library. The old library officially closed its doors and ceased service as of April 1<sup>st</sup>. Staff is working to move over to the new building in the next couple months with hopes to open doors sometime in the summer.

Commissioner Bridges added that in the process of the move, they have found some items that cannot be used in the new library. The Newark Library League is planning to donate the items to the other libraries. She suggested having the manager at the Commissioners' home branch contact Joe Stoner at Newark.

## 6. Commissioners' Updates and Reports

Commissioner Baldwin shared that he visited the recently-installed Story Walk at Castro Valley Library. He hears that it may be a permanent art piece and recommends others to visit.

Commissioner Keng is working with the Jewish Coalition for Tutoring and hopes the Library is interested in a partnership. Chadwick replied that she is happy to connect and partner with them.

Commissioner Gacoscos thanked and congratulated Alameda County Library for remaining alive and active through the pandemic despite closing its doors to the public last year

Mayor Ge'neil Gary and Councilmembers Teresa Keng and Sherry Hu formally introduced themselves as the newest members of ACLAC representing the cities of Albany, Fremont and Dublin.

ACLAC Secretary Noelle Khean reported that effective March 22, 2021 Jared Ottmann, Commissioner At Large, resigned from ACLAC due to moving out of the County. She reported that there has been interest by some members of the community to fill the position and an update will be provided at the July meeting.

Khean informed the Commission that election for Commission Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be on the agenda for July.

The Commission expressed hope that July might be an in-person or hybrid meeting.

7. Next Meeting Date/Place

Date: July 7, 2021  
Place: Virtual or Hybrid Meeting  
Time: 7:00 pm

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.