



Library Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Time: 12:00 – 1:30 pm

Location: Cachuma Lake Recreation Hall

2225 Highway 154, Santa Barbara, CA

Administrative Agenda:

I. Meeting Called to Order

II. Roll Call: *by Secretary*

III. Public Comment: *Public Comment period is set aside to allow public testimony on items not on today's agenda.*

IV. Minutes: The minutes of the November 8, 2018 meeting will be considered.

Standard Agenda:

Purpose: Addressing the need for an affective and sustainable long term library service delivery model.

1. Welcome & Introductions- (Legacy Works Group)
2. Defining our purpose, conditions for success, and principles for working together
3. Laying a foundation to understand the countywide library system
4. Next Steps/Future Items
5. Adjourn



Library Ad Hoc Committee

Meeting of November 8, 2018

MINUTES

The first meeting of the Library Ad Hoc Committee was held from 10:00 – 11:30 am at the Planning Commission Hearing Room located at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA.

Committee Members Present:

Kristina Hernandez
Sarah Bleyl
Mary Housel
Allison Gray
Patricia Saley
Judith Dale

County Staff Present:

Das Williams, 1st District Supervisor
Joan Hartmann, 3rd District Supervisor
George Chapjian, Director
Ryder Bailey, Chief Financial Officer
Brooke Moore, AOP

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA:

I. ROLL CALL: By Secretary

STANDARD AGENDA:

Purpose: Addressing the need for an affective and sustainable long term library service delivery model.

II. HOW WE WILL DEFINE SUCCESS? WHAT ARE OUR GOALS AND OBJECTIVES?

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

Supervisor Williams started the conversation by suggesting that success is achieving financial sustainability for every library in the County at a reasonable and decent level of service, but that defining that was the hard part.

Supervisor Williams added that socioeconomic status should play a part and that setting some expectations that other counties cannot do is fine. Setting some expectations both of what cities can do and what we can do while keeping in mind that we have been skating on reserves and that is not limitless. The county has chosen to delegate some authority to the LAC. It is practical in making sure everyone puts in some money. There is a functionality in the system for the county.

Supervisor Hartmann stated that a short term goal should be to have something done prior to Budget Workshops that heads in a direction within a few months, then develop a strategy for long term for how to get other funding. Additionally Supervisor Hartmann continued saying, governance is very important and that she likes the zone approach for this diverse county, but that it needs more coherence. A stronger governance and policies everyone can agree on, some being adopted from the county and some being specific to its zone - depending upon city & county policies and what each zone is able to do.

Supervisor Hartmann said that we need to come up with something for budget workshops. We would have a way to look at contributions and maybe some prorating for low income residents. Governance is absolutely essential to work out anything better than what we have. Supervisor Hartmann concluded by saying she would like to see libraries taking on a larger role in guiding the communities.

George Chapjian agreed and added that enhancement of the county small library system is important.

Ryder Bailey stated that funding, defining the partners, and getting the long term planned out are key elements to the success of Libraries.

Judith Dale expressed that defining roles and accountability with the administrative structure is important, stating that the branches need to be heard so that we can come out from this making it smooth and positive.

Kristina Hernandez agrees that financial sustainability is key while maintaining a baseline of quality service in each community.

Mary Housel said that to define some type of financial structure we should look at the state standards, what's quality and what's equitable.

Sarah Bleyl is concerned about administration, stating that they are all different and may not all agree.

Allison Gray commented that there are appropriate places for different discussions and that certain things should not be under purview of the LAC.

III. TIMELINE (GOAL TO COMPLETE PRIOR TO APRIL 2019-COUNTY BUDGET WORKSHOPS)

a. Frequency of meetings, monthly?

The committee will determine at a later date due to unknowns surrounding the Supervisor's schedules.

IV. IS THERE A NEED FOR A CONSULTANT TO DRIVE THE PROCESS?

The committee decided on a facilitator to assist the Ad Hoc, rather than a consultant.

V. FUNDING COMMITMENTS FROM PARTNERS, CITIES, AND FRIENDS GROUPS.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION:

Supervisor Williams stated that a certain amount of fixed money, knowing the threshold, would help to get more money and that a good grid would be helpful. Supervisor Hartmann questioned what money generators could be placed and helpful in libraries and stated that this is something that needs to be expanded upon in future meetings. Sarah Bleyl said that her city wants to charge only the cost, no more, to administer the Village Library. George Chapjian remarked that there are going to be trade-offs and that these issues will have to be worked through. George Chapjian also stated that quarterly reporting to City Councils may be necessary and that there is an issue of control on a local level. Supervisor Williams questioned why libraries automatically extend due date for materials with no pending holds. Sarah Bleyl responded that it is customer service, as well as a Black Gold decision. Mary House stated that auto renewal lowers revenue and that the Black Gold system would benefit from outsider input. Supervisor Williams replied that funding is already low and eliminating revenue streams, even small percentages, seems unhealthy. George Chapjian commented that it is a barrier issue and that the goals are literacy and education. Sarah Bleyl stated that it shouldn't be a money making decision. Supervisor Hartmann said that Black Gold is an advantage, a fundamental thing that we need to understand. Mary House stated that it is the responsibility of the libraries to work it out. Sarah Bleyl stated that some groups are lenient with funding and some are not. Patricia Saley stated that Friends find it frustrating that they give money unconditionally and with no say in how it is spent. Patricia Saley went on to say that Friends, at times, feel underappreciated raising and contributing money and getting nothing back and that a little respect would go a long way. Supervisor Hartmann stated that this is something that needs to be addressed in policies. Mary House said that there are so many different models for spending and accountability. To that end, Supervisor Hartmann responded that there may be ways to engage these organizations with working policies and asked if the group could be structured to form policies.

VI. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COUNTYWIDE CONTRACT?

a. Administration charges

The committee spoke briefly on the impact of administration charges, but ended up tabling the item for a later date.

VII. OTHER ITEMS:

1. **Future allocated funding is \$3,516,200 (baseline per capita \$7.80; current Board policy is to increase this base by population increases) + \$113,800 on-going for smaller branch library critical needs.**

This item was not discussed.

2. Goleta, zone 4, adding Buellton and Solvang for FY2019-20.

Allison Gray stated that work was being done to come in with a reasonable number to administer Buellton and Solvang Branch libraries. They are trying to determine an appropriate administration fee, but they are still coming out at a significant cost with all estimated time for basic functions and day to day aspects of what it takes to run a branch. Gray said they will be unable to meet the December 1st Black Gold imposed deadline, but will be presenting by mid-December. Buellton and Solvang both have anticipated deficits. Communication and transparency with everyone is key. The Goleta City Manager, Michelle Greene, has been in on the whole evolution of this transition. Gray added that adding the branches has been hard because they have not fully established the Goleta library yet, but there is no reason why it will not happen. Joan Hartmann concluded by saying, we saw how much communal support there is for the library. Hopefully counsel will approve it.

NEXT STEPS/FUTURE ITEMS:

- Short term solutions
- Agenda
- Facilitator
- Finish first draft