



Library Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 18, 2019

Time: 12:30 – 2:00 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 April 1, 2019 meeting will be considered.

Standard Agenda:

1. Budget Hearing Updates
2. Work Planning for Exploring Alternative Revenue Sources & Governance Models
3. Next Steps/Closing
4. Adjourn



Library Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

April 1, 2019

ACTION MINUTES

Committee Members present:

Sarah Bleyl
Mary Housel
Allison Gray
Patricia Saley
Judith Dale
Das Williams, 1st District Supervisor
Joan Hartmann, 3rd District Supervisor

Committee Members absent:

Jessica Cadiente

County Staff Present:

George Chapjian, Director
Ryder Bailey, CSD CFO
Natasha Garduno, Executive Assistant
Darcel Elliott, 1st District Chief of Staff
Gina Fischer, 3rd District Representative

Legacy Works Group Facilitators:

Carrie Kappel
Megan Miley

Administrative Agenda:

- I. **Meeting Called to Order:** *Meeting officially convened at 9:08 a.m.*
- II. **Roll Call:** *by Secretary*
- III. **Public Comment:** None was made.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes of March 11, 2019**

ACTION: A motion was made by Judith Dale and seconded by Allison Gray to approve the minutes of March 11, 2019. All approved. Motion passed.

Standard Agenda:

1. Welcome & Meeting Objectives

The following were the meeting objectives for the group discussion:

- Progress on guiding principles
- Progress on library categories
- Budget updates

2. Library Categories & Guiding Principles for equitable delivery of library services

The library directors have met twice to work on library categories and have identified the range of current services.

The following are highlights on why the committee is working on categories:

- There is not enough money in the system to fund current service levels
- If we can't secure additional funding, services will be cut
- Decision makers need to be informed on what this means under different sets of priorities
- It seems useful to compare similar branch libraries and define current service levels in each category

The committee has compiled current service levels and is in the process of defining minimum/realistic service levels for each category.

The following are principles applied by the library directors:

- Everyone deserves library service.
- There are needs based on factors other than population, but per capita funding should not be redistributed to address these needs
- Main library support services add value to the branch services
- A library cannot be run by volunteers and donations - friends, volunteers and grants are important but should not be relied on for core operations

The committee also noted important differences within library categories for a variety of reasons. The following are highlights with regard to equity:

- Differences in government and Friends revenue, staff capacity
- In some cases significant portions of budgets are going to rent
- These are the issues that make it hard to talk about equity in general, because underneath the broad issue there are these more specific dynamics at play, which are difficult to tease apart

3. Budget Updates & Scenarios

The committee worked briefly in small groups to discuss variations and equity challenges in the following areas:

- Space and rent (i.e., variation in the value of facilities, in unmet space needs, and in cost)
- Tax base and special taxes (i.e., variation in access to City general funds and special taxes)
- Friends and other community support

Participants reflected on the implications of variation in these areas for defining minimum service levels for each category and identified open questions. Recommendations were made for how the committee should move forward in defining the pathway toward a sustainable and equitable finance and governance framework, given the variation and potential inequity in the current system.

Space and Rent

- Guadalupe and Orcutt's rents hamper them. Minimum standards could require supplementary \$ to level the playing field.

Tax Base and Special Taxes

- Taxes should provide supplemental \$, not supplant existing support for the library from either the County or cities
- County tax, if a parcel tax, could supersede Measure L if it passes. If it doesn't pass countywide, then pursue local options.
- Next step - Talk to County Counsel about options
- Board of Supervisors discussed Co. sales tax increase for this year but need another vote. Raise your voices.

Friends and other community support

- How to increase the potential of Friends or other philanthropic funding via training, encouragement, etc.? Challenge is resistance to change and perception that gov't should take care of libraries
- Minimum service levels and priorities for the system as a whole could allow one voice and motivate new revenues

4. Next Steps/Closing

- LWG will distribute tables and charts once corrections have been made.
- LWG will synthesize the principles and questions articulated here and package these into talking points to accompany budget scenarios for upcoming budget hearings
- LWG will also synthesize the financial and governance challenges we have heard and begin to highlight potential alternate finance and governance frameworks that the committee could explore and start to move toward. The remaining meetings in April will focus on exploring those options and laying out a plan for how the most promising alternatives should be vetted and pursued.

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.