MEETING OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION
MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2009

1. CALL THE SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER
   Commission Chair, Chris Tang, called the meeting to order at 7:55 P.M. when a quorum was established.

2. COMMISSION BOOKSHELF
   The Commissioners decided not report on books due to time constraints.

3. ROLL CALL

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Total Commission positions: 29
Commission positions filled: 25
Commission positions vacant: 4
Commission quorum: 15

With 16 Library Commissioners present, a quorum was established.

**VOTING:**
According to the By-Laws of the Library Commission, in order for a vote to pass, a majority of the city representatives and a majority of the County representatives must approve it. Upon reauthorization of the Library Commission, the five special appointees to the Library Commission draw lots to determine whether their votes count with the cities or the County. Through June 2011 the special appointees will be counted as follows:

- Three representatives votes count with the cities
- - Youth Council
- - Friends Council
- - Contra Costa Council
- Two representatives votes count with the County
- - Superintendent of Schools
- - Central Labor Council

4. **INTRODUCTIONS**
Others present at the meeting include: Corinne Kelly, Executive Secretary and Anne Cain, County Librarian.

5. **ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC**
There were no items from the public.

6. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
Commissioners approved the minutes from the meeting of March 12, 2009.

7. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Commissioners approved the agenda.

8. **ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Commission Chair, Tang, conveyed that El Cerrito alternate Library Commissioner, Lloyd McGrady hoped to attend this meeting, however he fell and broke his femur and is in rehabilitation. He was going to announce that he is leaving the Commission after being a Commissioner or alternate since 1998. He enjoyed serving on the Commission and working with Commissioners and Library staff over the past eleven years.

Commissioners agreed to the suggestion by Commissioner Hoisington that the Commission authorize the Chair to send Mr. McGrady a letter thanking him for his service and wishing him a speedy recovery.

Commissioner McEwan (Moraga) said that on June 2, at the Moraga Library, author Richie Unterberger will discuss his book *The Unreleased Beatles: Music and Film*. She shared brochures and information that she picked up on her recent trip to New Zealand where she visited many libraries. She said that libraries in New Zealand charge a small fee to check out some material such as best sellers and audio-visual.
Commissioner Hoisington (Lafayette) shared a thank you letter to the Lafayette Library about library service received. Quoting the letter, "no one can know or overvalue the importance of inspiring a young person to want to achieve and you succeeded where I failed." (attachment to the minutes)

Commissioner Tumin (Oakley) said that she will conduct a geocache treasure hunt class at the Oakley Library with Oakley City Councilwoman Pat Anderson on June 10.

9. CORRESPONDENCE
Commission Chair Tang thanked Commissioner Smith (District IV) for his assistance drafting the letter to the Governor. A copy of this letter and the Governor’s response is in the packet.

10. REPORT FROM COUNTY LIBRARIAN
County Librarian, Anne Cain, reported that Juvenile Hall and the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility libraries received the 2008 Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission Award for Outstanding Services/Contribution by a Facility or Institution Program.

The Library’s literacy program, Project Second Chance (PSC), had a successful “Bookies” fundraiser on March 19. The Annual Best Martini in the East Bay Contest fundraiser for PSC will be held on June 22 at the Lafayette Park Hotel.

The Library’s 2nd Annual Reading Festival was a success with over three times more participants then last year, with regional and local programming over the course of a week (May 3-9) and featuring five major authors (Omar Tyree, Mark Curtis, Melissa Anelli, Francisco Jimenez, and Daniel Handler.)

The second Library-a-Go-Go, the Library's book dispensing machine, was installed at the Sandy Cove Shopping Center in Byron/Discovery Bay on May 21. The del Norte BART Library a-Go-Go launch is scheduled for June 16.

The Brentwood Community Library will close on June 4 and reopen in a new location on June 22. The Crockett Library will close for renovation on June 16 to July 3. The Crockett Library received a Crockett Community Foundation grant for $20,000 for the renovation.

The San Pablo Library received $5,000 from ALA library literacy and gaming grant and will have a gaming program around a music theme. Heidi Dolamore, San Pablo Community Library Manager, submitted the grant that was one of ten selected out of 390 applicants.

Contra Costa County Library assisted the Millman Respite Center, an adult day program of the Contra Costa Jewish Community Center in Walnut Creek, in establishing a resource library for dementia caregivers. This program was part of a civic pride grant awarded by the City of Walnut Creek which asked the Library to participate. The Library’s Collection Development Department helped with selecting the collection.

Antioch’s Prewett Park Gateway Community Center, which includes a 1500 square foot library express, held a groundbreaking event on March 21, 2009.

The Library has partnered with the City of Antioch and the Antioch School District to provide after school library service to Deer Valley High School students in their library. The extended open hours allow students time to place holds and pick up Contra Costa County Library material.

Diablo Valley College and the Dougherty Station Library received a joint-use commendation, with a
celebration for the event on April 24.

Cain spoke at a memorial for former Walnut Creek Library Commissioner, Stanford White (May 1999 – March 2003) White was a professor at St. Mary’s, was very active in the Lafayette community, and was a strong advocate for libraries.

11. OLD BUSINESS

LEGISLATION
Commissioner Smith (District IV) said that he and Commissioner Sukhdev Singh (District 5 alternate) represented the Library Commission during Library Legislative Day in Sacramento on April 15 along with Library staff. They met with Assembly members Buchanan and Torlakson, and Senator DeSaulnier. Others from Contra Costa County met with Assembly member Skinner. They met with Senator Hancock’s media person, Larry Levin, with whom Smith has since developed a good working relationship. Smith added that it is beneficial to attend Legislative Days.

MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM
Commissioners reported on the responses from their Friends groups about the Museum Pass program proposal by Don Tatkin, Mayor of Lafayette, during the March Library Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Atkinson (Clayton) was not present, but Chair Tang relayed Atkinson’s comment that the officers of the Clayton Friends expressed that there is not enough time and money to involve themselves in a museum pass program at this time, especially in today’s economy.

Commissioner Hoisington (Lafayette) said that the Lafayette Friends are currently overwhelmed with moving to the new Lafayette Library and Learning Center and cannot consider a pass program at this time. They felt that it is a great idea, but could not promise financial support. Hoisington pointed out that this Commission agenda includes an article about the Library of Michigan Foundation’s Museum Pass program that was in ALA’s ALCTS (formally FOLUSA) March 2009 newsletter.

County Librarian, Anne Cain, added that the Commission packet includes a free family pass program that the Lindsay Wildlife Museum in Walnut Creek is providing for all community libraries while the supply lasts. This pass program was made possible by a grant that the Lindsay Wildlife Museum received from the Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation and Bechtel. This program is being advertised on the Library’s Website.

Commissioner Hoisington commented that the Lindsay Wildlife Museum pass could act as a pilot for a larger pass program.

Commissioners thought that maybe other funders, such as Macy’s that funds other Museum Pass programs, could be a resource to support such a program in Contra Costa County.

Commissioner Bracken (Pleasant Hill) said that the Pleasant Hill Friends were interested in the proposal by Mayor Tatkin and wanted to learn more.

Commissioner Stephenson (Danville) commented that she liked that the passes would bring more families to the library.

Commissioner White (Brentwood) said that the Brentwood Friends thought the museum pass program was an interesting idea and wanted more information, however this is not a good time for Brentwood since they are moving to a new library facility that will open on June 22.
Commissioner Reed (Friends’ Council) said that the Antioch Friends considered the Museum Pass program a great idea, but something to consider at a future time.

The Commission majority expressed the same concern, that this is not the time to attempt to initiate a Museum Pass program. The Friends generally are supportive of the concept but are concerned about the timing, particularly with the interest of the Friends groups in helping support the shortfall from the cuts that are being made to the materials budget. They would like to learn about the outcome of the Lindsay Wildlife Museum pass program.

County Librarian Cain said that she will take this information back to Mayor Tatzin. She thinks that this feedback will not come as a surprise to him, and maybe this can be revisited in the future.

BUDGET AND FACILITIES UPDATE

County Librarian, Anne Cain, reviewed the May 2009 draft of the Library Facility Ownership & Responsibility Status Report that is in the Commission packet. An earlier version of this report was presented to the Public Managers Association (PMA) on April 9 and to the Board of Supervisors on April 28. A Contra Costa Times editorial on April 30 supported the Library's actions.

The Report traces the history of the plan to transfer library facility related responsibilities to the cities. The Library has been moving in this direction before the current budget crises; this plan is a part of the Library Strategic Plan, which was completed in January 2006. The Report looks at each community library and outlines each agreement that shows who is responsible for what. The Library is working on a uniform agreement that will replace all of the existing agreements. A subcommittee of the PMA was formed to work on the agreement.

Commissioner Hoisington questioned the status on the telephone systems and whether telephones are considered facility related or not.

Cain said that telephone lines are complex as they include data lines, computer and fax lines and telephone lines. Data lines will remain the responsibility of the Library. Some telephone lines, such as those in Hercules and San Ramon, are already provided by the cities. The Library has a staff member conducting a thorough analysis of the telephone lines.

The Library sent letters to each city outlining their options for 2009-2010. The cities are being asked to pay for facility related costs and the County will provide for a base level of 35 hours and 18 hours in the outlets (Bay Point, Crockett, Rodeo.)

Some cities have budget proposals scheduled for their city council meetings. The Library has met with several cities. The cities are expected to adopt their budget by June 30.

The Library anticipates that hours will be reduced in many locations and there will be Library staff layoffs. There is a required process to go through to notify Library staff in those positions that will be impacted by the layoffs and the Library will meet and confirm with employee unions about the impact of the layoffs.

Commissioner McEwen expressed concern for staff and questioned if any information about Library staff layoffs has reached the newspapers.

Cain said that the Library will publicize the reduction in hours.
Cain reviewed the status of discussions with individual cities and provided any known dates for public meetings on this issue.

Smith said that on April 25 he conducted an advocacy meeting for the Library's Friends Council and he is willing to visit any Friends group to assist them.

In response to a question, Cain stated that the proposed cuts do not take into account the State's proposal to "borrow" $2 billion in local property taxes from counties and cities.

12. AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING and FUTURE TOPICS
- District IV Supervisor, Susan Bonilla, will attend the July 23, 2009 Commission Meeting.
- District I Supervisor, John Gioia, District III Supervisor Mary Piepho, and District V Supervisor, Federal Glover have been invited to attend a future meeting.
- Update on the continued collaboration with schools in library technology and electronic resources.
- Teen services
- Presentation on the juvenile hall and Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility libraries.
- Discuss changing the regular meeting schedules at the September 24 meeting and set the meeting dates for 2010 during the November 19 meeting.

13. The Library Commission meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT TO THE July 23, 2009 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

Submitted by Corinne Kelly
Executive Secretary
Contra Costa County Library
**A Little Latino Culture for the Library Commission.**


Michener is world famous for such historical novels as *Hawaii*, and *Tales of the Pacific*. If you have tried to wade through *Alaska* or *Poland* you have great respect for his mastery of detail and his phenomenal memory. His ability to visit an area, read tons of resource material, and, with almost no reference to his resources, produce a lengthy novel that can hold your interest, is amazing.

Michener's *The Novel* (New York: Random House, 1991) is a story around the writing of books, and is probably used in colleges to help incipient writers. *The World Is My Home: a Memoir* (New York: Random House, 1992) can probably broaden the enquiring mind more than a standard (and somewhat more expensive) travel tour around the world.

Those of his books which were turned into movies were, of course, modified and gained or lost (you decide) as a result. This brief note is for me a chance to say, “Here is a book that, coupled with Villaseñor’s, changed my feeling toward Mexico and its peoples.”


Not everyone is sympathetic with those who come into this country illegally. But this story is so heroic and scary that it really tugs at your heart strings. It is not easy to wade through the trials and tribulations and murders.

But it ends up happily on the hilltops of Carlsbad, CA, in San Diego County. Those are the hilltops where the majority of our country’s pinonsettias are grown. This area was bought long ago by the family of the author, Victor Villaseñor.

This book is not for the faint of heart or for those who cannot tolerate vulgar language. But it is an epic story of part of California’s history. It is good reading for anyone who wants to know about the struggles of our illegal entrants.

While I’m at it, let me note a few more on Latin America — just in case you have missed them:

Theroux, Paul. *The Old Patagonian Express*. By Train through the Americas. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1979. This is his typical down-to-earth approach to traveling close to the natives as he goes from Boston in the USA to the lower parts of South America.

Meisch, Lynn. *A Traveler’s Guide to El Dorado & the Inca Empire*. San Francisco: Headlands Press (Penguin Books) 1977. This covers Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia extremely well. Traveler’s books get quickly out of date. Only a few are so good that they are worth studying in any edition, and then getting separately the up-to-date facts for choices you make. This is one of those exceptional books.

Prescott, William H. *History of the Conquest of Peru*. New York: The Heritage Press. [Many dates, this one 1957, 504 p.] The writing of this book could fill a volume or two of the biography of this unusual scholar. The author was born in 1796 and grew up in Boston. Suffice it to say that his books, *Ferdinand and Isabella, The Conquest of Mexico*, and *Philip the Second*, have survived for over two centuries. They remain accurate and most readable.

- C. H. Reed 5/09
January 29, 2009

Lafayette Library
952 Moraga Road
Lafayette, CA 94549
283-3872

Dear Lafayette Library,

Over the years my two sons and I have spent many happy hours in libraries. Over the past three years since we moved to Lafayette, your library has been no exception. However, as my boys have gotten older, their time spent in the library has diminished slightly - although I am sure that will change as time goes by.

Recently, I brought my son, a senior in high school, into your library to help him get started on a very important term paper. Frankly, he had showed little interest in working on that paper and I was worried. I consulted with the research staff and the woman in charge was so sweet and so helpful and she worked directly with my son to find some excellent resources for his paper. During the time that my son and I were there, several people also joined in to help and I could tell that it boosted my son's interest in his project tremendously - you all took an interest in him!

No one can know or overvalue the importance of inspiring a young person to want to achieve and you succeeded where I failed. When I was at that library with my child, I know that you all served as a catalyst to spark his interest -- he later raved about the resources you showed him. Thank you very, very much for ALWAYS being the nicest, kindest and most scholarly library staff around and for helping a student achieve!

Sincerely,

Peggy Horn