



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, August 21, 2006

**1. SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BALIS SYSTEM ADVISORY BOARD
SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION**

This special meeting has been scheduled to interview and recommend a representative for the Bay Area Library & Information System (BALIS) Lay System Advisory Board (SAB) to represent the Contra Costa County Library.

The Library Commission Chair, Walter Ruehlig, called the meeting to order at 6pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Sub-Committee: Library Commission Chair and City of Antioch Representative, Walter Ruehlig; Library Commissioner District VI Representative, Greg Enholm; Library Commissioner City of Oakley Representative, James Villegas, was not present.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The order of the interviews was amended and conducted in reverse of the August 21, 2006 Agenda.

4. INTRODUCTIONS

Also Present: Library Commissioner City of Lafayette Representative, Robert Leffmann; Concord Resident, Chauncey Lindquist; Library Executive Secretary, Corinne Kelly.

5. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no items from the public.

**6. APPLICANTS FOR THE BAY AREA LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (BALIS)
LAY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER VACANCY WERE INTERVIEWED:**

§ INTERVIEW of PATRICK F. O'NEILL

Patrick F. O'Neill introduced himself to the Sub-Committee. He has been a Concord resident since 2002. He is an active Library patron with his two children, ages six and three. O'Neill explained that he is interested in Contra Costa County Library and its services, in particular library information systems and how it interfaces in a user-friendly manner with the public.

O'Neill explained that he looked into the Library Commission structure. He has also looked at other County Commissions He expressed that the BALIS Advisory Board is something that he would be interested in.

Commission Chair, Ruehlig, explained that the Library Commission meetings are open to the public and suggested that O'Neill consider attending the September 28, 2006 meeting.

Commissioner Enholm mentioned that Contra Costa County Libraries have Friends of the Library groups that could use his talents. O'Neill said that he has attended the Friends booksales in the past.

Ruehlig, explained that there are many ways to get involved with the County Library and Enholm added that O'Neill would be welcome wherever he goes.

O'Neill questioned the BALIS Advisory Board meeting locations and asked if the meetings are public. Enholm said that they meet close to Martinez, they are open meetings, and that O'Neill could attend and make a contribution as a member of the public.

Ruehlig asked O'Neill about his ideas for possible library services.

O'Neill said that he would like to see the Library Website list all of the programs in one location, without the need to click to the individual libraries. He attends programs at many locations and he would like a simplified format to view activities and event programming.

O'Neill uses the Library catalog feature on the Website and would like a link that could show what is available at other libraries beyond Contra Costa County Library. Enholm explained that the Library Commission recently received a presentation on this and believes that it will soon be available to library patrons.

O'Neill also expressed that a reduction in fines for DVDs and VHS should be considered.

Ruehlig drew attention to O'Neill's resume with a master's degree in math and linguistics. O'Neill talked about his current involvement as a musician in a professional orchestra in another County, and would like to see similar opportunities in the Concord area.

Ruehlig and Enholm thanked O'Neill for his interview and added Contra Costa County could definitely use someone like him in some aspect of the Library and that Ruehlig will contact him.

§ INTERVIEW of ALAN B. SMITH

The Sub-Committee interviewed Alan B. Smith, who is the incumbent.

Smith shared with those present the background of BALIS, which Senate Bill 792 signed into law. There are fifteen systems throughout the State that bring local libraries together to, for example, increase purchasing power. BALIS is one of the cooperatives in the State that shares resources. The BALIS Libraries are Alameda City, Alameda County, Berkeley, Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, Pleasanton, San Francisco, and Contra Costa County. Richmond rejoined BALIS this year.

Smith explained that BALIS has an Administrative Council made up of the Library Directors representing each BALIS Library. Contra Costa County Librarian, Anne Cain, has been the Council's Chair for the last two years.

Two other Bay Area consortiums of libraries are the Peninsula Library System (PLS), and the Silicon Valley Library System (SVLS). The administration for BALIS, PLS and SVLS is in San Mateo.

Smith explained that the BALIS Advisory Board's mission is to review the BALIS Plan of Service each year. Smith added that the job also includes legislative advocacy. For the first time in its twenty plus history, this year BALIS SAB took a position and supported Proposition 81, the Library Construction Bond. He is now working with the BALIS Advisory Board to support full funding of the PLF (Public Library Foundation). Smith believes that bringing BALIS Libraries together with the two other library consortiums, PLS and SVLS, would show strong support when asking the Governor for full funding of the PLF. Smith plans to make this request before the Governor submits a budget. Smith added that he has been very active in gathering support for the PLF and he will be on the September Mayors' Conference Agenda with County Librarian, Anne Cain, asking for their support. Smith mentioned that he is also working with the California Library Association's

(CLA) lobbyists, Mike and Christina Dillon, and will be at the CLA's November conference. He is also working with Supervisor DeSaulnier and Senator Torlakson to urge them to ask the Governor for full funding of the PLF.

Ruehlig asked about any upcoming BALIS activities and Smith said that BALIS is planning to have a workshop on marketing libraries and target audiences.

7. DELIBERATE TO SELECT APPLICANT AS BALIS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

Commissioner Leffman commented on his positive impression with Smith's previous service to libraries, his hard work, his enthusiasm and his top credentials. Leffman added that Contra Costa County Library is fortunate to have someone of Smith's caliber serve on the BALIS Advisory Board.

Commissioner Enholm said that in his two years as a Library Commissioner, he has witnessed Smith's work and wonderful dedication to Proposition 81. Enholm added that being an incumbent offers a form of continuity to the position and the working relationship that he already has with the library community including County Librarian, Anne Cain. Enholm believes that Cain would prefer to have continuity in the position, even though he knows that she would develop a working relationship to bring a new person onboard. He would prefer to continue that relationship without interruption, which would occur with a new person in that position. Enholm said that Smith is already doing a great job and it is an advantage to continue with those relationships.

Commissioner Leffman added that it takes time to establish those contacts that Smith has made over the years. Smith has exposure to and knowledge of library issues and needs, and has a vision for the future. Leffman added that he hopes Patrick F. O'Neill is able to be directed to an area of the Contra Costa County Library where he could become involved.

Commissioner Enholm added that he hopes O'Neill considers attending a Library Commission meeting to give him the opportunity to develop an understanding of the Library and possibly ready him to fill a future vacancy. The Sub-Committee of the Library Commission, Ruehlig and Enholm, unanimously voted to recommend that the Board of Supervisors offer the position of the BALIS Advisory Board representing Contra Costa County Library to Alan B. Smith.

Commission Chair, Ruehlig, will notify O'Neill and Smith of the recommendation.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Library Sub-Committee of the Library Commissioner meeting adjourned at 6:30pm. The next Library Commission meeting will be held on September 28, 2006.

Submitted by Corinne Kelly
Executive Secretary
Contra Costa County Library