Minutes of the
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD
February 9, 2005

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:	Ruth Belikove, Vice President Karen Butter, Board Member Mark Schoenrock, Board Member Alan Mitchell, Board Member
Absent:	Leslie Krongold, President
Staff:	Library Director Susan Hardie, Secretary Jenna Gaber, Recording Secretary

CONSENT CALENDAR

Board member Mitchell MOVED approval of the Consent Calendar. Board member Butter SECONDED the motion which CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.

An asterisk indicates items so enacted and adopted on the Consent Calendar.

A. *Report from Library Director highlighting Library Department activities for the month of February 2005. Accepted.

B. *Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board meeting of January 12, 2005. Approved.

C. *Library Services Report for the month of December 2004. Accepted.

D. *Report from Finance Department reflecting FY 2003-04 Library expenditures (by fund) through January 2005. Accepted.

E. *Bills for ratification. Approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Main Library Project Update and Ground Breaking

Board member Butter asked about the budget for the Main Library project. She was concerned about the negative $569,044 shown in the Revenue/Expenditures column. She also said, and other Board members agreed, that this budget format is difficult to understand. Library Director Hardie agreed that this budget is not easily understood, and said she would speak with the Project Manager to see whether the format could be improved. She also assured the Board that the project is not overspent.

On the subject of reports to the Board, members are disappointed that Mr. Haun is not reporting directly to them. Library Director Hardie explained that the Library Board is receiving exactly the same information as the City Council gets each month from Mr. Haun. She said that this is the reporting format that the City has decided on, and mentioned that the presentations are broadcast on City cable. Dr. Mitchell asked what information is contained in the presentations, and Library Director Hardie replied that Mr. Haun simply reviews the information in the Construction Report, which the Board also receives. She said that she attends all of the Project Manager's presentations and would be glad to take notes and report to the Board if anything of significance occurs.

Library Director Hardie handed out invitations to the groundbreaking ceremony. She stated that the Library is spending a minimal amount of money on this ceremony. The State Librarian and Wilma Chan have agreed to speak at the ceremony.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Library Building Team (M. Hartigan)

The building team did not met this month.

B. Alameda Free Library Foundation (R. Belikove)

Vice President Belikove stated that the Foundation had their second dinner party with the fundraising consultants. Their goal is to raise $500,000.

C Friends of the Alameda Free Library (M. Skeen)

Molly Skeen reported that there will be a clearance book sale at the "O" Club on the President's Day weekend.

D. Library Building Watch (L. Krongold)

Library Building Watch did not meet this month.

F. Patron suggestions/comments (Speak-Outs) and Library Director's response.

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

Marc Lambert asked if there would still be money to upgrade the branch libraries. Library Director Hardie answered in the affirmative. Mr. Lambert handed out an invitation for a library support event on Friday in San Francisco.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Vice President Belikove commented on the newspaper article regarding the Berkeley Library's purchase of a $650,000 RFID system to track their books.

Board member Butter commented on Unique Management Services. She wonders if it is very beneficial to the library. Library Director Hardie stated that it is teaching patrons that they need to return their books. She feels that it is a very useful in having library items returned in a timely manner along with their unpaid fines. UMS promises that their invoices will always be less than the money we collect. If at anytime invoices exceed revenues, the balance of invoices which exceed revenues will be waived by UMS.

Vice President Belikove commented on another article regarding banning gay books in Alabama.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Library Director Hardie reported on Day in the District to the Board. Vice President Belikove, Marilyn Ashcraft and Marc Lambert also attended.

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Mitchell MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Board member Butter SECONDED the motion which CARRIED by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hardie, Secretary