

Library Commission 03/04/20

Written Communications

Item #4

Discuss Poet Laureate Program and Budget

**From:** [Liana Crabtree](#)  
**To:** [Dianne Thompson](#); [Whitney Zeller](#)  
**Cc:** [Christine Hanel](#); [REDACTED]; [Amanda Wo](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
[Clare Varesio](#); [Gopal Kumarappan](#); [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED];  
**Subject:** Re: poet laureate program  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 4, 2020 3:44:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-Cupertino .png](#)  
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This message includes:

Adrian Kolb, PL Steering Committee 2017  
Amanda Wo, Library Commissioner 2017-present  
Ann Muto, Poet Laureate 2016-2017  
Ann Stevenson, PL Steering Committee 2017  
Bev Lenihan, PL Steering Committee 2017  
Clare Varesio, Community Librarian 2017-present  
Gopal Kumarrapan, Library Commissioner, 2015-2019  
Jing Jing Yang, Poet Laureate 2020-2021  
Kaecey McCormick, Poet Laureate 2018-2019  
Rose Grymes, Library Commissioner, 2011(?) -2019

Dear Whitney and Dianne,

Whitney, please include this message as written communication for the 3/4/2020 Library Commission meeting. Please also forward this message to library commissioners as your schedule permits.

Dianne, thank you for your reply (below) regarding my request during the 2/5/2020 Library Commission meeting and also during the 2/24/2020 Council meeting that the Municipal Code be updated to reflect that the Library Commission is the designated "steering committee" for the Cupertino Poet Laureate Program (PLP).

In February 2020, Library Commissioners selected the PLP as a "Top 3" priority item for its 2020-2021 Work Program. When the PLP work program item was sent to Council on 2/24/2020, it was flagged as "not until 2021-22", which was not part of the Library Commission's original priority item (see PDF p 7 [cupertino.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=8a2e62f5-e636-4244-a52c-937d812d3363.pdf](https://cupertino.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=8a2e62f5-e636-4244-a52c-937d812d3363.pdf)).

Probably when the then-members of the standalone Poet Laureate Program Steering Committee asked the Library Commission in Fall 2017 to receive the Steering Committee role-

-beginning after the selection of the 2018-2019 Poet Laureate, the PLP Steering Committee intended full-time support for the PLP (not half-time or "selection year only" support).

Everyone agrees the PLP is a treasured community tradition that promotes creative expression, community building, and cross-cultural connection. Feedback received from Past Poet Laureates is that the program can be of benefit to more community members if the Commission can take a more active role to promote events and if the City can offer consistent administrative and logistical support for the Poet Laureate.

I respect that the City prefers not to codify the Library Commission's commitment to serve as the Steering Committee for the PLP. However, with the qualifier added to the Library Commission's Work Program "not until 2021-22," the Library Commission's on-going responsibility to serve the PLP is not captured anywhere for 2020-2021.

Library Commissioners term out and staff supporting the Library Commission turns over or is reassigned. **If not the Municipal Code or the Work Program, where or how is it recorded that the Library Commission serves continuously as the PLP Steering Committee?** Today, it seems we are dependent upon tribal knowledge or institutional memory for this information.

Sincerely,

Liana Crabtree  
Library Commissioner

**Note:** The Library Commission accepted the role as the successor PLP Steering Committee during the September 2017 Library Commission meeting.

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**From:** Dianne Thompson <diannet@cupertino.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 2, 2020 2:00 PM  
**To:** Liana Crabtree <lcrabtree@cupertino.org>  
**Cc:** Christine Hanel <ChristineH@cupertino.org>  
**Subject:** poet laureate program

Hello Liana,

I wanted to follow up with you on a question you raised recently regarding our Poet Laureate Program not being included in the Muni Code. You are correct. It isn't necessary or feasible for all City programs to be included in the Muni Code. It doesn't mean that it isn't important, it just means that it's not codified. It is a wonderful program! An upside to this is that it probably provides more flexibility than if it were codified.

Best regards,

Dianne



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