



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 20, 2021

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on **May 20, 2021** virtually and telephonically pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 and the Sixteenth Supplement to Mayoral Proclamation Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency dated February 25, 2020. The purpose of the orders is to provide the safest environment for all persons consistent with San Francisco Department of Public Health Order of the Health Order No. C19-07e and current public health recommendations, while allowing the public to observe and address the Commission.

The regular meeting of the San Francisco Library Commission was called to order at 4:32 PM.

Commissioners Present: Lee, López, Mall, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf. Huang arrived at 5:12 PM.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement Statement.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, libraryusers2004@yahoo.com, said it was great the Library is open again on May 3. He said the Library service is very limited as the Library acknowledges.

Mr. Rivers thanked everyone for the reopening of the Library and asked what the reopening timeline is for the Oceanview and Ingleside branches.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 SUMMER TOGETHER & SUMMER STRIDE

City Librarian, Michael Lambert thanked the Library's Summer Together partners, the Department of Children, Youth & Families, Recreation & Parks and the Human Rights Commission, which have enabled the Library to take the signature Summer Stride program to the next level this summer.

Lambert thanked HRC Director Dr. Sheryl Davis for her partnership and support in helping the Library reach our underserved communities in San Francisco.

The City Librarian gave a brief overview of the Library's role in the Summer Together initiative, which was born out of the recognition that there has been tremendous learning loss for kids and increasing gaps in inequity over the past year.

Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections & Technical Services, highlighted the SFPL aspect of the Summer Together program, which is helping children build home libraries by giving each child in SFUSD, from pre-K through 12 grade, ten free books. She said we received \$3 million funding from DCYF and a donation from

CrankStart enabled us to purchase the books. The book giveaway runs from June 12 through September 14 and they will give out 500,000 books.

Christy Estrovitz, Manager of Youth Services Manager, shared highlights of the 2021 Summer Stride program, including the authors and books. Summer Stride is SFPL’s signature summer learning program and she shared how the program was reconfigured to reach as many students as possible with input from SFPL partners like DCYF, SFUSD and Dr. Sheryl Davis, Executive Director of SF Human Rights Commission. She said through the partnership with Chronicle Books, we commissioned Bay Area artist Kaylani Jaunita to create original art for Summer Stride. Christy Estrovitz said the SFPL YELL intern program will be virtual again this year.

Guest speaker, Dr. Sheryl Davis, presented the SFPL and San Francisco Human Rights Commission Everybody Reads 2021 Summer Guide program.

Explanatory documents: [Summer Together & Summer Stride](#) presentation.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, libraryusers2004@yahoo.com said he always enjoys hearing about and participating in the Summer Stride, it is a great program. He also shared in the 14 months since COVID started, he has gotten two letters from the Library.

Naima Dean, Librarian, gave her thanks for the Library’s ability to provide the Summer Stride program for seniors and adults. She expressed she was thankful that the Library is opening and able to offer more summer programing.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Wolf commented that Summer Stride is a great program and staff did a great job pivoting last year to seamlessly keep forging ahead with virtual programming. Commissioner Wolf said the partnership with Dr. Davis really elevates and deepens things and is a great model for how Departments can work together for children and the good of the community. Because of the leadership of the staff, and community support, we have a new book program with 500,000 books going out to students, demonstrating what can be done during extraordinary times.

Commissioner Lopez commented that all the programming for public school kids being offered is amazing and the thought going in to giving books to the children and reaching out to them to participate is significant and she appreciates the work and planning that goes into producing amazing programming like this.

President Wardell Ghirarduzzi thanked staff and Dr. Davis for their contributions in making this program. She said the curriculum and literacy guide developed by Dr. Davis elevates the program. President Wardell Ghirarduzzi thanked San Francisco Friends of the Library for their support of this program.

Commissioner Lee asked if there might be internships in the future that will open more oppportunities for future librarians.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 CITY LIBRARIANS REPORT

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, gave a presentation and updated on recent Library activities and announcements. The following topics were covered: SFPL Reopening Plan, Asian American Pacific Islander Month (AAPI) and Tech Week.

The City Librarian gave an overview of the Library’s efforts to resume in-person services and reopen the library system. He reported that the Main Library reopened successfully for limited in-person services on Monday, May 3.

Chief of the Main Library, Tom Fortin and Chief of Branches Cathy Delneo provided additional details on the reopening of the Main Library and Branches.

Tom Fortin, Chief of Main, reported that the Main Library phased reopening is on track to have the entire building opened by June 1, which is contingent upon the completion of the elevator replacement project and getting state inspectors to sign off on the Public Works project completion. He said, once we get all the floors reopened, we will sunset the SFPL To Go service on Larkin Street.

Chief of Branches, Cathy Delneo, reported that the Chinatown and Mission Bay Branches resumed in-person services earlier that week. She said between Browse & Bounce and SFPL To Go, 15 of the 28 locations are operational for library services again and next month, they will launch 4 more branches for in-person services. Reopening these libraries and launching more locations for in-person services will be dependent upon staffing capacity as there are currently have over 100 SFPL staff deployed as DSWs and there are several vacancies they are working actively working to fill.

Cristina Mitra, SFPL Engagement Coordinator, shared some of the AAPI programming, which celebrate the diversity, cultures and stories that come from the Asian and Pacific Islands and their communities in the U.S. AAPI programming included Author Vanessa Hua in conversation with Yalitza Ferreras, A River of Stars and Virtual K-Pop Dance Class with Ray Chan,

Anissa Malady, Adult Engagement Coordinator, who spoke highlighted additional AAPI programming, with authors Dr. Russell Low, Alka Joshi and Muriel Leung. Anissa talked about the partnership with the Asian Art Museum for six programs and the Mystery Panel Series, which focus on the cultural awareness months. Anissa pointed out all these programs will be available on YouTube.

Kate Epler, Bridge Program Manager, gave an overview of the Library's fourth annual Tech Week. She said the goal of the week is to meet people where they are to help them get connected, to demystify technology and help people with skill building to reach their goals. Kate reported Tech Week services included a Tech Week Hotline; Office hours at Tenderloin Tech Lab; and appointments with Felton Tech Squad. Events included more than 30 classes, workshops and events; Zoom and YouTube livestreams; classes in Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin and Vietnamese. More than 2,500 people attended 37 virtual sessions. Tech Week survey results showed that 90% of participants felt more comfortable with tech after attending Tech Week. Explanatory documents: [SFPL Reopening Plan](#) presentation, [AAPI Month](#) presentation, and [Tech Week](#) presentation.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, libraryusers2004@yahoo.com, said he is glad that the Library has plans for reopening. He is disappointed that the Library seems slow in opening compared to other areas and with Tech Week.

Ellen Egbert said she has been a public library user for a long time and was disappointed to see that, although libraries are going to be open for the fall, patrons are not going to have Browse & Bounce for students, who come to the Library to study, because they don't have opportunities to study at home. She expressed concern that the Library Staff is being preempted by the city for other purposes when we need them for our school children.

Naima Dean thanked City Librarian Michael Lambert for saying we may need to move our opening slowly based on staff and recalling staff. She said the Library needs to get new people to replace retirees and get them up and running. She also noted AAPI Month and the trauma for Asian American Communities that the Library serves.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono thanked the presenters, which she said is one of the best parts of Commission meetings. Commissioner Ono said the re-opening is proceeding nicely and likes the AAPI events and all SFPL events in general.

Vice President Pete Huang agreed with Commissioner Ono and thanked everybody in the Library community. He said all the good work being done now is a cumulation of the good input that has happened consistently throughout the last year. Vice President Huang noted that it has been challenging for the entire system, strained in many ways. He said we have a strong result today because we were able to do it strongly over the last year and will continue to support everyone involved.

President Wardell Ghirarduzzi said the AAPI programs are wonderful and that the Asian diaspora is deep and wide and it's diverse. The Library has picked the diversity within the AAPI community in its programs, which is difficult, and you want to make sure that the community sees themselves in the programming and teach everyone about the diversity within the AAPI community.

City Librarian, Michael Lambert, thanked Ellen Egbert, saying she is a long-time member of the Library and that we are planning to reopen the Bernal Heights branch as Browse & Bounce in July.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES APRIL 15, 2021

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, libraryusers2004@yahoo.com, talked about the Minutes, which are generally not bad. He said in his previous comments he said nobody elected the City Librarian, the Mayor appointed the City Librarian.

Motion: by Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Lopez to approve the [Minutes of APRIL 15, 2021 Commission Meeting](#) as presented.

Action: AYES 7-0 (Huang, Lee, Lopez, Mall, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 ADJOURNMENT

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, libraryusers2004@yahoo.com reiterated that the library used to, and many commissions and other bodies do it as a routine matter, and should have at or near the end of a meeting an item that is reserved for commissioner's to say what they would like to take up at a future meeting.

Motion: By Commissioner Mall seconded by Vice President Huang to adjourn the Meeting of **MAY 20, 2021**.

Action: AYES 7-0 (Huang, Lee, Lopez, Mall, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf)

The meeting adjourned at **6:41 p.m.**

Margot Shaub

Library Commission Affairs Analyst

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the Commission Liaison Affairs Analyst/Custodian of Records, 6th floor, Main Library; (2) in the rear of Koret Auditorium immediately prior to, and during, the meeting; and (3), to the extent possible, on the Public Library Commission webpage: sfpl.org/library-commission/public-notice/agendas. Additional materials not listed as explanatory documents on this agenda, if any, that are distributed to Library Commissioners prior to or during the meeting in connection with any agenda item will be available to the public for inspection and copying in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.1 and Sunshine Ordinance Sections 67.9, 67.28(b), and 67.28(d)