



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
January 26, 2017
4:00 p.m.
Meeting Notes
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Location: Latino Hispanic Room

CHAIR: Cathy Delneo, Chief of Branches

Attendees: Miriam Pavis (BAY) Excused, Larry Ware (BAY) Excused, Nina Youkelson (BHE), Penni Wisner (EVA). Marcia Parrott (EXC) Excused, Ruth Grabowski (EXC) Excused, Nora Dowley (GPA), Laura Bernabei (ING), Harriet Sollod (MER) Excused, Judy Strebel (MIS), Rosa M.Quinones (MIS) Excused, Kenneth Fax (MBA) Excused, Mailine Chew (MBA), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Kathleen McClay (NBE) Excused, Anh Le (NBE), Pinkie Bolden (OVI), Edna James (OVI), Vanessa Wallace (OVI) Excused, Bessie Hahn (ORT), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR), Michael Leahy (PSI) Excused, Don Thielges (POR) Excused, Chet Roaman (POT), Marcia Popper (PRE), Kaitlyn Tran (PRE), Elaine Cahn (RIC) Excused, Joan Walton (SUN) Excused, Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Rochelle Fort (VVA), Anne Jones (WPO), Maryam Roberts (WPO) Excused, Callen Taylor (WSA)

Administrators: Thomas Fortin (Chief of Main), Sue Blackman (SFPL Commission Secretary)

Introductions: New CNL members Penni Wisner (EVA), Mailine Chew (MBA), Ahn Le (NBE), Anne Jones (WPO) were introduced. Welcome!

HOUSEKEEPING

- The next regular **CNL Meeting** will be on **Thursday, February 23, 2017, 4:00 p.m., in the Latino Hispanic Room B, Main Library, Lower Level.**
- The next **CNL Steering Committee Meeting** will be on **Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 4:30 p.m. in Room 601 – Main Library.**
- The next **Library Commission Meeting** will be on **Thursday, February 16, 2017, 4:30 p.m. in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.**
 - The following CNL representative will attend the Library Commission Meeting:

Bessie Hahn – Thursday, February 16, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Branch Open Houses
 - Richmond Branch hosted an Open House event on January 21st, with a theme of unity, diversity and inclusiveness. In addition to Lion Dancers, a clown, and face painting, they also provided community agencies with a tabling area. The branch staff solicited donations for raffles including a women's bicycle!
 - Eureka Valley Branch hosted an Open House on January 14th and included their popular Drag Queen Storytime event in the festivities.
 - Visitacion Valley Branch's Open House on January 14th included a panel of community advocates, children's play activities, and the Lion Dancers.
 - The Ortega Branch celebrated their Open House on January 14th with Lion Dancers and a red envelope craft program.
 - West Portal Branch will host an open house on February 11th and will include Laughter Yoga sessions hosted by the branch's new CNL representative, Anne Jones.
- Community led programs
 - Laughter Yoga at the West Portal Branch, led by CNL representative Anne Jones, happens on the first Tuesday of every month.
 - A community volunteer offers yoga most Sundays at the Visitacion Valley Branch.
- Library grounds signage update
 - The new signage related to behavior on Library grounds will be installed at the Presidio Branch following the irrigation and drainage project, which is slated to begin in the next couple of weeks.

UPDATES

City Librarian's Report – Thomas Fortin

- Exhibits at the Main
 - *Everyone Deserves a Home* (Jewett Gallery – lower level) is a moving photo exhibit of people who were previously homeless and are now in permanent housing.
 - *The Alcatraz Florilegium* (Skylight Gallery – 6th floor) is a display of botanical paintings of the flowers from the gardens on Alcatraz.
- Fine Forgiveness update
 - The Fine Forgiveness has reached its halfway point, and has been a huge success!
At the half-way point:
 - More than 3,000 patrons have had their ability to check out library materials restored!
 - \$167,000 of fines have been waived.
 - 5,000 items have been returned.
 - The value of returned billed items (items 60 days or more overdue) is \$90,000.
 - The decision to hold the Fine Forgiveness program for 6 weeks was based in part on the recommendation made by the CNL representatives.
 - The CNL representative from Western Addition, Callen Taylor, who is a school librarian at Visitacion Valley Middle School, shared how she's been working with the Visitacion Valley staff to bring students directly to the branch to participate in the Fine Forgiveness program. She

suggested that branch staff reach out to school librarians about the Fine Forgiveness program. The COB office will share this idea with Branch Managers, who can communicate with their local school contacts.

- Budget
 - The budget process for FYs 2018 and 2019 is at its midpoint. The next step is for the Library to seek approval on the draft budget from the Library Commission at their February meeting. After the Commission approves a budget, it must be brought before the Board of Supervisors, and then to the Mayor's office.
 - The current political climate and the uncertainty of funding at the Federal level make this a challenging budget season in San Francisco. However, the Library's set-aside provides something of a buffer and we are still in a strong fiscal position.
 - The Mayor has asked City Departments to keep requests for additional positions to a minimum for FY 2018, so the Library is altering its originally planned budget requests to reflect that directive.
 - The Mayor's direction regarding additional positions does *not* apply to positions that were approved in prior fiscal years, such as the expanded hours positions that were approved through the FY 2017 budget process.
 - The Library's budget proposals for FY 2018 and 2019 include funding related to improvements to the Ocean View, Chinatown, and Mission Branches.

Library Commission Report – Sue Blackman

- The Commission voted on its leadership. The Commission President will continue to be Dr. Mary Wardell Ghirarduzzi and the Vice-President will continue to be Susan Mall. There is one vacant position on the Commission, and there may be other changes to the cohort as some terms expire this year.
- The January Commission Meeting centered on the budget. The Commission was supportive of the Library's budget, and asked for some additional data to have a better understanding of requests related to adding selected positions, given the budget direction this year.
- The February meeting will be a key meeting, as that's when the Commission is likely to approve the Library's budget.

Expanded Hours – Cathy Delneo

- Expansion plan:
 - Branches open 45 hours per week (ANZ, BHE, EVA, GPA, GGV, ING, MBA, NBE, OVI, PSI, POR, POT, PRE, and VVA) will increase their hours to 50 hours per week.
 - BAY will increase their hours from 50 to 55 hours per week.
 - All branches will be open 7 days per week.
- The Library has begun hiring staff for the new positions associated with expanded hours.
- The 3.5 Youth and Teen Librarian positions that were included in a separate budget proposal for FY 2017 will also support the expansion of open hours.
- The Library is hopeful that the new hours will begin in June 2017.
- With the addition of new expanded hours and youth Librarian positions, there will no longer be single positions that are split between two worksites.
- The new positions are all fully budgeted in the current year's budget and are not subject to reconsideration in the current budget process.

Neighborhood Sharing - All

- Anh Le / North Beach
 - Blinds to block the glare from the afternoon sun are needed for the windows on the Columbus Avenue side of the building.
 - There is a significant homeless issue requiring regular and more frequent security patrol.
 - Poetry Readings every Tuesday night (6:30 – 8:00 pm) is a popular and well attended program sponsored by the Friends of the Library.
 - Another successful program is the Build It! LEGO Club. Children and their parents meet biweekly on Thursdays (4:00 – 5:00 pm) to build with LEGOs.
 - The LEGO kits are shared; CNL members who would like to see this program at their branch can encourage the Children’s librarians to borrow them.
- Penny Wisner/ Eureka Valley Branch
 - Penny shared that the community around the Eureka Valley Branch has ongoing concerns related to public safety, some of which is associated with people congregating on the grounds of the Eureka Valley Branch after-hours.
 - Penny inquired if other branches have similar issues and whether the CNL representatives feel that the availability of free public Wi-Fi is a draw to branch library grounds in their neighborhoods.
 - The CNL representatives from other locations indicated that people do use the Library’s Wi-Fi after-hours in some neighborhoods, but that they don’t see it as being a draw to people engaged in criminal activity.
 - Edna James, Ocean View, suggested that the availability of Wi-Fi through the City’s robust networks is an important public safety mechanism, particularly during major emergencies.
 - Callen Taylor, Western Addition, indicated that she does not have internet access at home and relies of free Wi-Fi like the Library offers. She shared her belief that the Library isn’t in the business of policing who uses this resource or why they use it, but is rather in the business of providing an equally accessible resource to the community.

Adjournment: 5:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Florinda Battad