



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
June 24, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Facilitator: Cathy Delneo, Chief of Branches

Attendees: A.J. Cave (ANZ), Katherine Hsieh (CHI), Penni Wisner (EVA), Marcia Parrot (EXC), Judy Blanchard (MER), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Diane Silver (PAR), Marcia Popper (PRE), Kaitlyn Tran (PRE), Joan Walton (SUN), Regan Gong (NW District Manager), Michael Roman (Junior Management Assistant), Florinda Battad (Library Technical Assistant II)

Excused: Larry Ware (BAY), Lena Yu (CHI), Ruth Grabowski (EXC), Nora Dowley (GPA), Gail Seagraves (Main), Mailene Chew (Main), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Kathleen McClay (NBE), Bessie Hahn (ORT), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Rochelle Fort (VVA), Maryam Roberts (WPO), Callen Taylor (WSA), Michael-Vincent D'Anella-Mercanti (Friends), Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor (Assistant Chief of Branches), Darice Murray-McKay (Central District Manager), Anne Vannucchi (SE District Manager), Denise Sanderson (SW District Manager)

Library Administrators: Michael Lambert (City Librarian), Maureen Singleton (Chief Operating Officer), Margot Shaub (Library Commission Affairs Analyst), Katrin Reimuller (Assistant Chief of Main)

HOUSEKEEPING

Upcoming Meetings

➤ The next **Library Commission Meeting in July** will be on **Thursday, July 15, 2021, 4:30 p.m., SFPL Virtual Library**

➤ The next **CNL Meeting in July** will be on **Thursday, July 22, 2021, 4:00 p.m., SFPL Virtual Library**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We hope to resume in-person CNL meetings in the fall.
- Facilities Director, Roberto Lombardi is retiring, but will stay with the Library as a return retiree to work on special projects. Chief Operations Officer, Maureen Singleton will oversee Facilities.
- Marica (PRE) – The San Francisco Chronicle's Editorial Board published a piece that was unnecessarily critical of the Library, asking why it has not reopened like other public spaces.

ML – Mayor London Breed and I responded with a [press release](#) that the Library will reopen more branches for limited indoor and front-door pick-up service. You can also hear my [radio interview](#) on KALW regarding reopening our branch libraries.

UPDATES

City Librarian’s Report – Michael Lambert

- The Library is making excellent progress reopening the branch libraries.
 - In June, Bernal Heights, Golden Gate Valley, Ingleside, North Beach, Sunset, and Western Addition opened for SFPL To Go front door service, while Excelsior, Ortega, Richmond, and Visitacion Valley all opened for full in-person service.
 - It has been heartwarming to have children and families using the library again. Reopenings have been festive, with staff decorating their branches to welcome back their patrons.
 - Some branches have not had any staff since March 2020, and are working hard to get ready for reopening in July.
- Staffing
 - Branch reopenings and the type of service they provide will depend on staffing.
 - The Library is missing twenty-two percent of its staff - about 140 vacant positions.
 - Forty of the fifty-seven Library staff working as Disaster Service Workers (DSW) will return to the library on July 1st.
- The service model at the libraries providing in-person service has been retooled to reflect the changing Public Health guidelines.
 - Public seating is available.
 - Physical distancing is no longer required.
 - People who are vaccinated do not need to wear masks.
- The Library is giving away ten free books for each San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) student during Summer Stride.
- Q&A
 - Katherine (CHI) – *The book bundles are very popular. How were the books chosen and how was the program funded?*
ML – The book bundles are age appropriate and curated by SFPL and SFUSD librarians. Titles include books that are on the SFUSD’s Recommended Summer Reading Lists. The Library received \$3 million from the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) to purchase half a million books.
 - Katherine (CHI) – *When will the Library have in-person programs?*
ML – We hope to allow meeting room use and in-person programs in September; however, our top priority is opening for in-person service.

Library Commission Report – Margot Shaub

- The [Racial Equity Resolution was approved](#), affirming the Library Commission’s commitment to racial equity and support of SFPL’s Racial Equity Action Plan.
- Shawna Sherman, manager of SFPL’s African American Center, received Library Journal’s 2021 Movers and Shakers Award.
 - CD – The Library Journal award is a national award, where recipients are nominated by their colleagues.

- ML – Forty-six individuals were honored in different focus areas. Shawna was recognized in the Change Agent category. It is a prestigious individual honor on a national scale.
- Challenges and accomplishments of the FOG (Free Orton-Gillingham) Readers literacy program during the pandemic
- Reopening Plan updates at the Main and branches
- Q&A
 - Judy (MER) – *How does the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement impact the branches?*
MS – The Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement is part of SFPL’s Racial Equity Plan. Developed with Ohlone elders and the American Indian Cultural District (AICD), the land acknowledgement is read before the start of every library meeting and program.

Adjournment: 4:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad