



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
April 28, 2022 4:00 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Facilitator: Rebecca Alcala-Veraflor - Acting Chief of Branches

Attendees: A.J. Cave (ANZ), Lena Yu (CHI), Penni Wisner (EVA), Marcia Parrot (EXC), Nora Dowley (GPA), Judy Blanchard (MER), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR), Marcia Popper (PRE), Kaitlyn Tran (PRE), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Vicky Lam (Friends), Michael-Vincent D'Anella-Mercanti (Friends), Karsyn Kapur (Friends), Ana Elisa de Campos Salles (CE District Manager), Anne Vannucchi (SE District Manager), Denise Sanderson (SW District Manager), Genevieve Feldman (NE District Manager), Florinda Battad (Library Technical Assistant II), Michael Roman (Junior Management Assistant)

Excused: Larry Ware (BAY), Lena Yu Katherine Hsieh (CHI), Ruth Grabowski (EXC), Mailene Chew (Main), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Kathleen McClay (NBE), Joan Walton (SUN), Rochelle Fort (VVA), Maryam Roberts (WPO), Callen Taylor (WSA), Marysa Torres (Friends), Ana Elisa de Campos Salles (CE District Manager), Regan Gong (NW District Manager)

Library Administrators: Michael Lambert (City Librarian), Margot Shaub (Library Commission Affairs Analyst),

Guest: Naomi Jelks (Racial Equity Manager for Public Service), Michelle Jeffers (Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships)

HOUSEKEEPING

Upcoming Meetings

➤ The next **Library Commission Meeting in May** will be on **Thursday, May 19, 2022, 4:30 p.m.**
The meeting will be held virtually and in-person. Attendees are encouraged to attend virtually.

➤ The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meeting in May** will be on **Thursday, May 26, 2022, 4:00 p.m., SFPL Virtual Library**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congratulations to the new members of the Library's executive leadership team:
 - Naomi Jelks, Racial Equity Manager for Public Service
 - Rebecca Alcala-Veraflor, Chief of Branches
 - Mike Fernandez, Chief Financial Officer

UPDATES

City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

Racial Equity Manager

- Naomi's task is to undertake the second phase of the Library's Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) and draft public facing programs and services that ensure that the Library is a welcoming and equitable system for all.

Mission Temporary Site

- The Library has secured 1234 Valencia Street, which was once the Yoga Tree Studio, as the location for the Mission temporary site.
- Opening in June
- The Mission Branch renovation has gone out to bid.

Reopening Highlights

- The monthly number of visitors is increasing, with March having the highest traffic since reopening.
- Circulation reached the one million mark since the library closure.
- Offering in-person programming including children's storytimes
- 7-day service resumes
 - April 30 – Golden Gate Valley
 - June – Excelsior and Portola
 - Summer – Glen Park, Ingleside, Noe Valley and Visitacion Valley

Branch Capital Projects Updates

- Community engagement meetings are planned for the Chinatown and Ocean View renovations.
- The preliminary planning assessment is underway for the Ocean View project.

Q&A

- *Penni (EVA) – What is involved in the outward facing Racial Equity Action Plan?*
ML – In phase one of the REAP, the Library focused on racial equity in our internal practices – hiring, promotion, discipline. The Library's demographics are close to being in line with the City's, however, we still have work to do. We want the higher classification positions, as well as the composition of the Library Commission to be more diverse. The second phase of the REAP focuses on our public facing practices so that we can better reach the City's most underserved populations. In the second phase we will look at how to deliver public services and programs and allocate resources in a more equitable way.
NJ – The City's Office of Racial Equity is in the process of developing a template for how to achieve these goals. Every City department is undergoing the work of addressing structural racism and racial disparities.
ML – The Library's book giveaway is an example of the second phase of the REAP. Last summer, SFPL received \$3 million in additional funding, and bought books to help youth with their distance learning and recovery from the pandemic. Every San Francisco Unified School District student received 10 free books to seed home libraries.
RAV – Our programming is created with equal intention and designed to be accessible to all.

Library Commission Report – Margot Shaub

Highlights from the Library Commission Meeting include:

- Following the resolution requiring commissions to hold in-person meetings, the Library Commission had their second meeting in the hybrid model.
- Chief Operating Officer, Maureen Singleton gave a presentation on the Library Preservation Fund (LPF).
 - The LPF is funded with money from the General Fund and property taxes.
 - For the LPF to be renewed, the Board of Supervisors must first approve to have it placed on the November 8th ballot.
 - The term of the fund will be 25 years rather than 15.
- Library Human Resources Director, Lori Regler gave a report on talent acquisition, which included a workforce overview, the hiring process, and its diversity recruitment efforts.
- SFPL's Evergreen programs are part of the City's Evergreen initiative highlighting San Francisco's cannabis culture and history.
- The Library's Director of Communications, Kate Patterson gave an exhibitions update.
 - More than a Wall – photo exhibit exploring life along the US-Mexico border
 - Black Excellence, Black Invention – celebrating the thousands of Black innovators and their meaningful contributions and inventions

Q&A

- *ML – Before the LPF was passed in 1994, branch libraries were understaffed and open 3-4 days a week. The LPF transformed SFPL into a leading library system, with a book budget and a depth and breadth of programming unheard of in most major metropolitan areas. A charter amendment to renew the LPF on the November 8th ballot will go before the Board of Supervisors. CNL members are important advocates in helping the Library secure its future.*
- *Nora – What are you hearing from Board members who are against set asides?*
ML – Opponents of set asides feel they take away control of how money is spent. However, the Friends of SFPL petitioned for designated funding because the Library was not being funded and its budget was getting cut. Renewal of the LPF would reauthorize for the Library 2.3% of the General Fund and 2.5 cents for every \$100 in assessed valuation. All together this is 1.5% of the City's \$13 billion municipal budget.
- *Nora – Is there concern that the LPF won't be renewed?*
ML - A recent survey showed that 83% of those polled were in favor of renewing it.
- *Penni – Is it unusual to ask for a 25-year term?*
ML – The Library is the highest rated City department and increasing the term would confirm seeing the value in investing in the Library.
- *Penni – Is there a way to lobby the Board of Supervisors? Is there a fact sheet available that we can use when we talk to others about the LPF?*
ML – We can send the Library Preservation Fund Renewal memo to the CNL representatives. The measure will go before the Board on May 24th. Speaking to the Board of Supervisors is the most powerful activity that can be done.
- *Michael-Vincent (Friends) – Information about the LPF is also available on the [Friends of SFPL](#) website.*
ML – The Library would not be here without the help of the Friends.

Summer Stride 2022 – Michelle Jeffers

Summer at the SF Public Library 2022.pptx

- Students will receive a free book and get a bonus book when they visit the library in the summer.
- The featured art is by picture book author Minnie Phan, who will be at the Summer Stride kick-off party at the Main Library on Friday, June 3rd.
- Returning to Summer Stride
 - In-person programs
 - StoryWalks
 - Shuttles to National Parks

Q&A

- *Naomi – What are the dates of the program?*
MJ – Summer Stride is from June through August. The program guide will be mailed out in May. The guide will also be distributed in the San Francisco Chronicle on June 5th and in the June issue of *At the Library*.
- *Nora – Will there be direct outreach to schools?*
MJ – We are providing flyers to schools and mailing the program guide directly to students.
NJ – The Library will also participate in Sunday Streets.
- *Diane (PAR) – How many participated in Summer Stride last year?*
MJ – We had 17,000 finishers last year.
GF – Last year was not an ordinary year and it's hard to get the statistics, but before the pandemic, the number of people participating in Summer Stride increases every year.
- *Lena (CHI) – Aileen has been going to childcare centers and distributing trackers.*
RAV – Staff love being out in the community and it feels good to be able to make connections again after the pandemic.

Adjournment: 5:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad