



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
May 26, 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), Katherine Hsieh (CHI), Marcia Parrot (EXC), Nora Dowley (GPA), Judy Blanchard (MER), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR), Kaitlyn Tran (PRE), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Genevieve Feldman (NE District Manager), Florinda Battad (Library Technical Assistant II), Michael Roman (Junior Management Assistant)

Excused: Larry Ware (BAY), Lena Yu (CHI), Penni Wisner (EVA), Ruth Grabowski (EXC), Mailene Chew (Main), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Kathleen McClay (NBE), Marcia Popper (PRE), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Joan Walton (SUN), Rochelle Fort (VVA), Maryam Roberts (WPO), Callen Taylor (WSA), Ana Elisa de Campos Salles (CE District Manager), Anne Vannucchi (SE District Manager), Denise Sanderson (SW District Manager), Regan Gong (NW District Manager)

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

HOUSEKEEPING

Upcoming Meetings

- The next **Library Commission Meeting in June** will be on **Thursday, June 16, 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 June** will be on **Thursday, June 23, 2022, 4:00 p.m., SFPL Virtual Library**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The American Library Association (ALA) will have its annual conference in-person on June 23-28, 2022 in Washington D.C.
- Future meeting agendas:
 - The Library's Racial Equity manager, Naomi Jelks will give an update on the Racial Equity Action Plan in the summer.
 - Librarians from the Jail and Reentry Services will present in September.
 - Send your ideas for future agenda topics to cob@sfpl.org.

UPDATES

City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

Library Preservation Fund (LPF)

- Mayor Breed and District 11 Supervisor Safai co-sponsored legislation to renew the LPF for 25 years. A [press release](#) was sent out on May 23rd.
- The Charter Amendment will go before the full Board of Supervisors in late June, then pending their vote and approval, it will go on the ballot in the November 8, 2022 election.
- The importance of the LPF can't be overstated. At the time, branch libraries were not fully staffed and open 3-4 days per week. The Library was able to transform into one of the highest rated City departments because of dedicated funding.

Q&A

- **Nora (GPA) Why renew the LPF for 25 years?**

(ML) Maureen Singleton, the Library's Chief Operating Officer, had the foresight to add an additional 10 years to the renewal period. The Mayor and the Controller were both receptive to the idea, due in part to the Library's role in contributing to the City's social infrastructure. The Library's profile was raised when it helped the City bounce back from the pandemic.

- **Ruth (NVA) Having been at the Library at that time, I don't believe it was that bad off.**

(ML) According to the history that had been passed down to me, the LPF began as a citizen led petition drive because of the poor support from the Mayoral administration at the time. The truth probably lies somewhere in the middle.

Library Commission Report – Margot Shaub

Highlights from the Library Commission Meeting include:

- Naomi Jelks gave a progress report on the Library's Racial Equity Action Plan.
- Celebrating Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Dia de los Ninos, Dia de los Libros

June agenda:

- Library Commission bylaws to include Racial Equity language
- Strategic planning update
- Reopening update

Library Improvements for Tomorrow (LIFT) Updates – Rebecca Alcala-Veraflor

Mission Branch

- The Mission temporary site will be in the old Yoga Tree yoga studio at 1234 Valencia. Rebecca shared photos of the work that is being done inside.
- The target opening date is Saturday, June 18th.
- The Library is working with the Precita Eyes Muralists Association to create a mural inside the temporary space.
- The temporary space will also have a collage of photos from the Mission neighborhood that are a part of the SFPL History Center photo collection.
- The branch will participate in Sunday Streets on July 10th, which runs along Valencia Street.

Q&A

- **Nora (GPA) Will there be any Storytime space at the temporary site?**

(RAV) The temporary site is too small, so the branch will work with the Library's Mobile Outreach Services to hold Storytimes outdoors in Garfield Park. Staff will also reconnect with preschools and day care centers in the neighborhood to provide Storytimes in the community.

Chinatown

- Community meetings were held at the branch and online in May. Department of Public Works Architect, Andy Sohn presented the preliminary plans for the renovation.
- Highlights include:
 - Restore the historic entrance to the Community Room
 - Enlarge the Community Room
 - Restore the historic reading room by removing the steel bracing and the mezzanine

Q&A

- **Nora (GPA) What sorts of questions were asked by patrons who attended the meetings?**

(RAV) There were questions about collection size, to which we responded that we are committed to having a large Chinese language collection. There were questions and comments about the Teen Area and the importance of providing a space for teens.

(GF) People attending the meetings were very engaged and wanted to know more about the architecture, asked about roof access, and talked about the historic entrance.

(RAV) Patrons also wanted to know about the temporary site. It will be a year before the branch closes, and we asked them for their ideas for possible locations.

- **Nora (GPA) What are the plans for the roof?**

(RAV) The roof will be enhanced so that it can be a more pleasant, usable space. The mechanical equipment on the roof will be replaced with modern equipment, which will be encased to make them less noisy. We are still discussing what kind of access patrons will have on the roof.

Ocean View

- We will have community meetings in June:
 - Wednesday, June 8 - virtual meeting at 6:00 pm
 - Thursday, June 9 - in-person at the IT Bookman Center at 6:00 pm
 - Saturday, June 11 - in-person in the Ocean View Branch Community Room at 11:00 am
- The Library will build a new and larger branch at Orizaba Avenue and Brotherhood Way.

Q&A

- **Nora (GPA) At what stage is the renovation?**

(RAV) A site for the new building has been selected on Orizaba Avenue and Brotherhood Way. The project is in the planning phase with the Preliminary Project Assessment. This is a preliminary process that reviews the project and provides planning and environmental feedback and an outline of planning procedures.

- **Ruth (NVA) Is the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) involved in the discussion?**

(RAV) The Library will work with SFMTA to help improve pedestrian safety and access on Brotherhood Way.

- **Nora (GPA) Will there be a use for the old space?**

(RAV) The size and layout are too difficult to make the space very useful.

Adjournment: 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad