



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
February 23, 2023 4:00 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Facilitator: Terry Carlson – Assistant Chief of Branches

Attendees: A.J. Cave (ANZ), Lena Yu (CHI), Nora Dowley (GPA), Sonia Moscardon (ING), Deirdre Merrill (MAR), Judy Blanchard (MER), Kathy Mallegni (MER), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Florinda Battad (Library Technical Assistant II), Michael Roman (Junior Management Assistant)

Excused: Katherine Hsieh (CHI), Penni Wisner (EVA), Marcia Parrott (EXC), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Peter Linenthal (POT), Marcia Popper (PRE), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Joan Walton (SUN)

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

Guest: Kate Patterson (Director of Communications)

HOUSEKEEPING

Upcoming Meetings

- The next **Library Commission Meetings in March** will be on **Thursday, March 16, 2023** at 4:30 pm. *The meeting will be held virtually and in-person. Attendees are encouraged to attend virtually.*
- The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meeting in March** will be on **Thursday, March 23 2023**, at 4:00 p.m., *SFPL Virtual Library*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Terry introduced two new CNL members: Sonia Moscardon representing Ingleside and Deirdre Merrill representing Marina. They are long-time library users and we are thrilled to have them represent their neighborhood branches. Welcome Sonia and Deirdre!
- Nine branch managers have been recently hired. One is going through the reference check process, and two will start in March. The managers who have already started will attend a training that is spread out over several days, with various library departments involved in the training.
- The Bayview/Linda Brooks Burton Branch is having an Open House on Saturday, 2/25 from 11:00am – 2:00pm.

UPDATES

City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

Night of Ideas

- Night of Ideas (NOI) is a partnership with the French consulate, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and KQED to present a free, marathon program of philosophy, debate, art and culture. The first NOI in 2019 had over 6,000 attendees, with the second one in 2020, equally well-attended.
- NOI has been virtual since the pandemic, however this year it is returning as an in-person event. The Main Library will once again be open from 7pm – 1am, with talks and performances on every floor.
- There will be a special salon devoted to the Library’s future, where the public’s feedback and aspirations for the Library can be collected for the Strategic Planning initiative.

SFPL Book Stop

- San Francisco’s first book kiosk was unveiled on February 18 at the Island Cove Market on Treasure Island.
- The Book Stop kiosk is a pilot program to extend the Library’s reach in areas without a library.
- The service will be fine tuned before adding a second kiosk, potentially in a public housing location in the Bayview.

Chief of Public Services

- March 14 will be Dolly Goyal’s first day as SFPL’s Chief of Public Services. The Branch Division, Collections and Technical Services, and Community Programs and Partnerships will all report to her.

Q&A

- **A.J. (ANZ) – What is the cost of the book kiosk?**
Lambert – The book kiosk costs \$30,000
- **Diane (PAR) – What is the population of Treasure Island?**
Lambert –The population is projected to grow to 9,000 people within the next ten years. There are plans for more housing and increased ferry service.
- **Ruth (NVA) – Are there any updates for the Chinatown and Ocean View renovations?**
Lambert – The Ocean View neighborhood is under served and we are committed to building a new library there. We have \$15 million in the FY2025 budget for Ocean View, and if approved it will give us \$30.5 million for the project. The estimated cost is \$47 million, so we will continue to build the budget across a few more budget cycles.
Chinatown staff have seen the updated designs from Public Works. The branch will have a gallery space, an expanded Community Room, and the original street-level entrance will be re-opened. In order to restore the historic grandeur of the Carnegie library, the mezzanine will be removed, and the retrofitting will be concealed in the walls. The elevators will be consolidated and the mechanical system on the roof will be replaced, giving patrons access to the roof and possibly open the area for programs.
- **Nora (GPA) – Is the Library Preservation Fund still paying off the Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP) bonds? Can bonds be a method of funding for the new projects?**
Singleton – Yes, we are still paying that debt and should be finished in 2028. Selling bonds has not been considered a funding source for these projects. In order to sell bonds, we would need to talk to the Mayor and the Controller’s Office. Revenue bonds were a good solution for BLIP because we needed an infusion of money rather than funding over time.
- **Lena (CHI) – Has a temporary location been found when Chinatown closes?**
Lambert – We haven’t identified a specific space yet, however we are getting help from our colleagues at the San Francisco Real Estate Division, and several community members, like Malcolm Yeung, Director of the Chinatown Community Development Center. Potential sites include the vacant Peking Bazaar storefront, the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the vacant CVS on Kearney and Pine.
- **Judy (MER) – Are there any Mission Branch updates?**

Lambert – We are getting close to breaking ground on construction, and the Mission Temporary Site is going strong!

Library Commission Report – Margot Shaub
Library Commission Agendas, Minutes & Resolutions
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_yCQNwYmnw4

Highlights from the Library Commission Meeting:

- The Strategic Planning group was introduced, and they presented a project timeline.
- The Library Commission approved the FY2024/2025 budget.
- Leah Esguerra is the Library’s Social Service Team Supervisor. She reported on the Social Service Program, where she and her team of Health and Safety Associates (HaSAs) connect patrons experiencing homelessness with much needed resources and services.
- SFPL’s Digital Equity Manager, Kate Eppler, gave an update on the services provided at the Bridge at Main.

Upcoming at the next Library Commission Meeting:

- Public Service Progress Report
- Discover and Go ice rink next to the Main
- Chief of Public Services update
- Night of Ideas
- Women’s History Month
- SF Recovers Initiative – A city-wide resolution to support people struggling with addiction. SFPL will have resources available that can be easily accessed and taken for free.

Q&A

- **Nora (GPA) – Appointments to use the Digi Lab are limited. Are there plans to increase access?**

Lambert – The Digi Lab is a pilot program with one librarian available to help patrons. We are in the process of training additional staff and plan on occupying another study room to add a second Digi Lab. However, the equipment for the lab is not easily available and it takes some time for staff to find.

- **Sonia (ING) – How many books have been digitized, percentage wise?**

Lambert – SFPL is the official archive for the City’s government documents, historical photos, and unique treasures. I don’t have the number of items that have been digitized, but staff have been actively working to digitize a huge backlog of materials. SFPL’s digital collections can be found here: <https://digitalsf.org/>

Carlson – The [Digi Center](#) staff are working on two huge projects: digitizing materials for the C. Hormel LGBTQIA Center and the voter information pamphlets and handbooks for San Francisco municipal elections dating back to 1907. They will partner with the Internet Archive in the future to digitize more books.

Night of Ideas – Kate Patterson

- <https://nightofideas.org/san-francisco/>

Q&A

- **Marcia (PAR) – Will Night of Ideas be live streamed on Zoom?**

Patterson – Unfortunately, we don’t have the capacity to stream the event live. There will be programming on every floor, in every nook and cranny of the Main Library. We just don’t have the staffing to be able to stream the many programs happening that night.

Adjournment: 4:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad