



San Francisco Public Library

DRAFT

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of APRIL 20, 2023

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on APRIL 20, 2023, virtually and at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

The regular meeting of the San Francisco Library Commission was called to order at **4:30 PM**.

Commissioners Present: Wolf, Huang, Bolander, López (**arrived at 4:55 PM**), Mall and Ono.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Glenn said he wanted to mention a number of things he discovered since last month and there is an interest in the I.T. Bookman Neighborhood Center in the connection between a private and public cooperation between the Center and the Public Library, which is right across the street from the existing library and it would be a wonderful location. The pastor there, shows interest in that and Mayor Breed is not interested in the Library at this time because Asha Safai is considering running for Mayor and would get all the votes in District 11.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director Library Users Association, Libraryusers2004@yahoo.com, said the Library continues to provide information about access to its program inequitably and this should be remedied. The Library favors electronic notification about existing programs while not providing the same information to those without easy or any computer access from home. Many programs continue to be available only on-line with no publicity reaching folks who walk into a library, which disproportionately affects minorities, poor, disabled and older people and those not fluent in English. The Library continues to tout Facebook and Twitter, whose rocket just exploded unfortunately. The printer copier has serious privacy issues.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 16, 2023

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said the March 16, 2023, minutes censor important information, like his comments on Facebook and the Library should not be touting it and recruiting users in its publications and the minutes should include an exchange between Commissioner Susan Mall and City Librarian Michael Lambert about providing listening devices on requests.

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner **HUANG** seconded by Commissioner **MALL** to approve the **MARCH 16, 2023** Minutes.

Action: AYES 6-0 (Wolf, Huang, Ono, Mall, López, and Bolander)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 JAIL AND REENTRY SERVICES (JARS)

Rachel Kinnon, Jeanie Austin, and Bee Okelo co-presented about the Library's Jail and Reentry outreach programs, (JARS) highlighting the local program that resulted in national networking with other librarians, which led to a \$2 Million dollar grant from the Melon Foundation to expand and increase Library Services to incarcerated people around the United States. Kinnon said Library staff works inside each of the two County jails every week, circulating books and facilitating programs. Reference by Mail service has responded to over 13,000 information requests in the last five years. Staff directs patrons to visit the Bridge at Main as their first stop to learn more about the Library's resources. The Library now hosts monthly meetings for people who were just paroled to San Francisco. Jeanie Austin and Bee Okelo said the Melon grant enables them to expand information access for incarcerated people in part by identifying where Library services exist. Kinnon went over recent projects the Library has been working on with Treasures' Office, Sheriff's Office and the San Francisco Jail Justice Coalition including a brand-new Family Visiting Room and the Tablet Project, an initiative to provide free tablets with free resources on them to people in SF County Jails. Usually tablets and services can be cost prohibitive to incarcerated people or their family and friends. The Library works with its partners and Hoopla to provide incarcerated people in the county jails to access eBooks, Audio Books, Movies, Music, and TV shows on their tablets for free. and patrons have logged over 7000 hours on Hoopla

Allie Riker, from the Sheriff's Office said there will be more publicity about the Tablet Project and collaboration with the Library in the coming weeks. Riker thanked the City Librarian and Commission for making the program possible.

Michelle Lau from the Treasurer's Office, said the team was set up about six years ago to take a hard look at fines and fees that have a disproportionate impact on people of low income and communities of color. They worked with the Library to implement fine and fee discounts across the City for people with low income or people experiencing homelessness. Lau said the partnership with the Library goes back to when they worked to eliminate overdue Library fines. The Library has been a leader in this space and a pioneer in eliminating overdue fines and now the Tablet program is a true new model, the first in the Nation partnership between the Library and Sheriff's Office to ensure that money is not a barrier to people communicating with their families and accessing important resources while they are incarcerated.

City Librarian Lambert thanked all the presenters and shared a testimonial from a patron that used to be in the County jail. The patron wrote after being released they started a business and wrote and self-published a book, the patron thanked Rachel for all the self-help books she brought to them in San Bruno Jail.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said he did think it is important and valuable to treat everyone like a human being with respect and appreciation and asked people to refer to page numbers and he is glad about the tablets

and the Library understanding barriers to access.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall said after the One City One Book Committee chose Ear Hustle last year, she was personally moved by the book and moved by the descriptions by the parents about their children and the families visiting, she asked if there is a direct correlation between recidivism and the number of books the someone checks out.

Kinnon said there has been research done on educational opportunities while people are incarcerated and recidivism rates but she is not aware of one specifically about books. There are studies about civilian contact and educational and positive programing in jail that help people make different choices in the future.

Commissioner Lopez asked how long people can keep the tablets and if they have to use it in a specific place.

Kinnon said they are still working on deploying them but Patrons will have all day access to the tablets, except during count time, which they get them again after and return in the evening.

President Wolf said great partnerships really happen because everyone involved is committed and it is the partnership with the Treasurer's Office and the Sheriff's Office that really make this project shine and has transformed how the incarcerated have access to learning and information materials.

Commissioner Wolf announced a shift in the Agenda to the City Librarian's report as Agenda Item 4 and push Capital Projects to Agenda Item 5.

Wolf said on behalf of the Commissioners, the wanted to acknowledge Michael Lambert was elected President of the Public Libraries Association, which is a three-year term beginning in June, and symbolized Michael as a leader in the field, recognized by his peers, he brings incredible leadership and new ways of thinking about why libraries matter.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Doreen Horstin, Branch Manager for Park Branch Library gave an overview of SF Recovers Initiative Book Giveaway and said as a resident of District 6 she was interested in the work Supervisor Matt Dorsey was doing to address addiction and the overdose crisis. Supervisors Dorsey, Stefani and Mandelman presented the San Francisco Recovers Resolution and plan to the Board of Supervisors in 2022. The plan enlists 20 City Department in addressing the overdose crisis and Horstin asked how the Library could help. The main components of SF Recovery effort are in place, with a soft launch at three locations, the Main, Mission Bay, and Park Branches, where 12-Step and Recovery books will be available to anyone who needs them free of charge. If the effort is successful, they will expand the program to other branches. Through Friends of the Library Funds and City Funds they were able to order more than 400 copies of 20 titles in English and Spanish to give away.

Horstin invited Supervisor Dorsey to make remarks.

Supervisor Dorsey talked about San Francisco Recovers program, which he announced last September. Dorsey and Supervisors Mandelman and Stefani helped identify all the things the city could do that other cities have done. Dorsey

said he reached out to Department Heads asking what the Board can do to make them successful with this program and it meant the world to him that the Library, which was not included in the first 21 departments identified, offered to play a role. In the recovery community it is really important to understand that the basic texts are really foundational to what recovery is.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships gave an overview of the Creativity Explored Library Card Contest, which celebrated its 40th year in SF and was started in 1983 as a belief that art is essential to life, and the project expanded the notion of artistry by providing developmentally disabled people access to creative expression with studio space, supplies, teaching, and artist support so they may have the human right of making art. This year's prompt to the Creativity Explored Artist this year was to design Library cards that were inspired by the City of San Francisco and their love of Libraries. 30 pieces of art were submitted and displayed, which then went through a public voting process. The five winners were Isiah Gomez, Golden Gate Reflection; Andrew Wong, Good Night Moon; Guadalupe Ramon, Victorian Dream; Nubia Ortega, Untitled; Hiro Medina, A Pecking Good Read

Jen Woo, Family Engagement Coordinator, presented this year's Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration, which was themed Strengthening the Fabric of our Communities. Highlights of the program included music and dance programs and among the featured artists were Nancy Hom, authors Nguyen Phan Que Mai, Abi Balingit, Jennifer Cheng, Kathryn Ma, June Jo Lee, Euce and Sabrina Moyle and Diana Khoi Nguyen.

Public Comment

Richard said he is a lifelong San Franciscan, veteran, 77-years old, living in the Knob Hill neighborhood and he is 42 years sober and clean, and involved in some way with the recovery movement in SF and Nationally. He endorses Doreen's presentation for the reading materials for recovering addicts and drunks. The Library could be a valuable resource to help with recovery and staying sober with this program.

Peter Warfield said he had raised the hand and doesn't know why that was not reported, then pressed star 3 and had lowered his hand and pressed star 3 again and raised it to speak not and thinks there needs to be a little bit of attention pad or at least some allowance for miscommunications. He was not able to see the winning cards since the reveal was in-person. Many of the programs could be discussed as separate agenda items and should be rather than lumping them all together. He asked about the slow arrival of books and can't that be speeded up and the current magazines are hard to find at local libraries.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono thanked Doreen for the presentation and Supervisor Dorsey for coming to the Commission to explain the program and asked if there are any books with Al-Anon, with a family component available for distribution.

Horstin said she ordered Al-Anon books for distribution which were the first to go into the collection and are resources for families that ask for them.

Ono asked if there was a vote on the cards and are all of the designs available.

Michelle Jeffers said the five designs she showed will be available but did not show all 30 that were voted on, those five will be made into library cards.

Ono said she appreciates all of the Asian American programming in April and others that will come up later in the year for people to partake in.

Commissioner Mall said she has alcoholism in her family and echoes the need for resources for family members and friends. Mall asked if each library hosts a meeting as well because books are only part of the issue.

Michael Lambert said to his knowledge not every Library location hosts a meeting.

Horstin said she knows people can rent Library meeting rooms but is not sure if they are taking advantage of that or not.

Commissioner Lopez asked if there are any books geared toward the younger population.

Horstin said when she ordered the collection, she ordered everything she could find, some were teen publications and there are young people experiencing this in their families and she would like to expand and get more materials in the Library.

Commissioner Bolander thanked them for the presentation and said as a recovering alcoholic this is very valuable work and would love to see the Library do more, it effects the people going through it and their families and support like this is very powerful, he said he did it on his own, and encouraged the Commission and the organization to look into continuing this funding and expanding if possible.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 FACILITIES AND SMALL CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE

John Cunha, Chief of Facilities, gave an overview of Library facilities including the maintenance of 30 Library buildings through Custodial, Delivery Services, Engineering and Security Units. Cunha said the Library has served as a community center, activated as respite centers and now all libraries are open and returned to seven-day service. Recent completed projects have included the Main Library Elevator upgrade, Marina Branch Library Roof and Waterproofing and Support Services Building Windows Replacement. Upcoming projects are 750 Brannen Street Compact shelving, Park Branch Library Roof and Waterproofing and Talking Books and Braille Center Remodel. Facilities priorities include maintaining a state of good repair by focusing on funding to deliver as-needed repairs and renewals; prioritization of energy efficiency and climate resilience improvement; support programmatic priorities by considering facilities needs as part of Strategic and Racial Equity planning.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said he heard of the strategic plan but not sure he remembers a Facilities Master Plan and one might want to be doing that. He said he is alarmed that the 750 Brannen Facility compact shelving is for collections that are not popular in circulation. Access to books and materials is a way to get interest if people know they exist. The Library ought to consider space, the new building resulted in less space for books.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall said she was happy to hear about the elevators being updated. Mall asked if there are only six community rooms that are air-conditioned out of 28 and are we stuck with that.

Cunha said that is correct and it is something they work on continually but the community rooms are typically larger rooms that happen in larger renovations.

Vice President Huang thanked Cunha for the presentation and starting it by recognizing his team, which much of their work can often be overlooked. Huang asked John to pass along the Commission's gratitude for the teams hard work.

Commissioner Lopez said she was at the Library and people were talking about how clean it was, how nice it looked and how shiny the floors were. Lopez said she agreed that all the different branches are kept up really well and thanked staff.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 ADJOURNMENT OF THE APRIL 20, 2023 COMMISSION MEETING

Public Comment

Peter Warfield asked the Commission to not adjourn until they insist that future Agenda Items have an Item at the end of the Agenda that provides for Commissioners to suggest items, they would like to see on future Commission Agendas.

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner **Lopez**, seconded by Commissioner **Huang** to adjourn the meeting.

Action: AYES 6-0 (Wolf, Huang, Ono, Mall, López, and Bolander)

The meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM

Margot Shaub - Commission Affairs Analyst

To access **Commission Meeting recordings** please visit: [Library Commission Meeting Recording](#)

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the Commission Liaison Affairs Analyst/Custodian of Records, 6th floor, Main Library; (2) in the rear of Koret Auditorium immediately prior to, and during, the meeting; and (3), to the extent possible, on the Public Library Commission webpage: sfpl.org/library-commission/public-notices/agendas. Additional materials not listed as explanatory documents on this agenda, if any, that are distributed to Library Commissioners prior to or during the meeting in connection with any agenda item will be available to the public for inspection and copying in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.1 and Sunshine Ordinance Sections 67.9, 67.28(b), and 67.28(d).