



San Francisco Public Library

**MINUTES**  
**Council of Neighborhood Libraries**  
**March 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), Toni Hines (BAY), Katherine Hsieh, (CHI), Marcia Parrott (EXC), Sonia Moscardon (ING), Deirdre Merrill (MAR), Judy Blanchard (MER), Kathy Mallegni (MER), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR), Peter Linenthal (POT), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Monica Herbert (WSA), Jaena Cabrera (Acting Northwest District Manager), Florinda Battad (Library Technical Assistant II), Michael Roman (Junior Management Assistant)

**Excused:** Lena Yu (CHI), Penni Wisner (EVA), Nora Dowley (GPA), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Marcia Popper (PRE), Joan Walton (SUN)

**Library Administrators:** Michael Lambert (City Librarian), Dolly Goyal (Chief of Public Services), Margot Shaub (Library Commission Affairs Analyst)

**HOUSEKEEPING**

**Upcoming Meetings**

- The next **Library Commission Meetings in April** will be on **Thursday, April 20, 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 April** will be on **Thursday, April 27, 2023**, at 4:00 p.m., *SFPL Virtual Library*

**Branch Open Houses in April**

Branch	Date	Time
Presidio	4/1/2023	1-5 pm
Glen Park	4/8/2023	11-3 pm
Ingleside	4/22/23	10:30 am - 4 pm
Visitacion Valley	4/29/2023	1-5 pm

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We have two new CNL members: Toni Hines representing Bayview, and Monica Herbert representing Western Addition. Welcome!

## UPDATES

### City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

#### **Vice President Kamala Harris**

- Kamala Harris was in San Francisco on March 3<sup>rd</sup> for a [roundtable with Asian American and Pacific Islander small businesses](#). The San Francisco Office of Small Business contacted the Library two days prior and requested to hold the meeting at the Chinatown Branch.
- The Library was asked not to promote the event in advance or spread the news about the Vice President's visit for security reasons.

#### **Q&A**

- **Marcia (EXC) – How many people were in attendance? How did the visit effect library services?**  
Lambert – In attendance were about 15 small business owners, Mayor London Breed, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, California State Assemblymember Phil Ting, and Library Commission President Connie Wolf and Library Commission Vice-President, Pete Huang. We closed the Chinatown branch for the event.
- **Kathy (CHI) – It was a little bit scary suddenly seeing so many police cars and other vehicles in the neighborhood. Did the Library receive any funds or favors for the future?**  
Lambert – The Library wasn't compensated, but I think it will create opportunities to bend some ears when advocating for money for library infrastructure. The \$5 billion Build America's Libraries Act was not included in the 2022 budget resolution and reconciliation instructions.

#### **Book Stop Book Kiosk**

- <https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/02/22/treasure-island-gets-a-new-public-library-in-a-vending-machine/>
- San Francisco's first book kiosk was installed last month at the Island Cove Market on Treasure Island as a pilot program to extend the Library's reach and serves around 600 families who live on the island.
- The Friends of SFPL helped purchase the kiosk. Patrons use their library card to open the kiosk door, and books are automatically checked out and in when books are removed and returned.
- The Library is considering a second kiosk in Hunters View, a public housing project that is being revitalized as part of the HOPE SF initiative to rebuild severely distressed public housing sites. Hunters View is a mile away from the Bayview Branch but is on a steep hill in a neighborhood cut off from the rest of the city.

#### **Q&A**

- **Marcia (EXC) – Has the presence of the kiosk increased library card applications on Treasure Island?**  
Lambert – There were about two dozen new library card applications on the day of the installation.
- **Toni (BAY) – What is the process if a person doesn't have a library card?**  
Lambert – Treasure Island residents can sign up for a library card on our website and a card will be sent to their home. People can also get a library card from the Treasure Island bookmobile, which still provides service to Treasure Island once a week.
- **Diane (PAR) – What is the cost of the kiosk?**  
Lambert – The kiosk costs \$30,000. Down the road, if the pilot program is successful, there are larger, more expensive locker type modules available.
- **Marcia (EXC) – Are there books in different languages?**  
Lambert – The collection will evolve, and eventually be more diverse.

- **Katherine (CHI) – How often is the kiosk serviced and how many books does it hold? Is it outside?**  
Lambert – The kiosk holds 200 books and is refreshed weekly. It is inside the market and patrons have access to it seven days a week.
- **Marcia (EXC) – What is the market owner’s response?**  
Lambert – The owner is pleased to have increased access to books on the island and for the potential to stimulate foot traffic into the market. He has already requested to have books in Arabic in the kiosk.

### **Chief of Public Services, Dolly Goyal**

- The Chief of Public Services is part of the executive leadership team and will oversee the Public Services divisions: Main Library, Branches, Collections and Technical Services, and Community Programs and Partnerships, providing day to day support and thought partnership in the delivery of public service.
- Dolly is a former president of the California Library Association, with over 15 years of experience working in urban libraries including serving as the Library Director for the Town of Los Gatos and most recently as the Assistant City Librarian for the Santa Clara City Library.

### **Q&A**

- **Judy (MER) – Are there any significant differences between the Peninsula and San Francisco Library Systems?**

Lambert – Both systems are well funded, but the Peninsula Library System (PLS) has a different structure. The PLS is a consortium of 35 libraries on the Peninsula, so residents have largely seamless service, whether they live in Daly City, San Bruno, San Mateo or in one of the cities in San Mateo County. The San Mateo County Library System is a member of the PLS and is a Joint Powers Authority aligned with the San Mateo County government.

Goyal – The communities in the PLS are varied. SFPL is in its own city and the system is in place for the libraries here to work together in a more cohesive way.

Alcalá-Veraflor – The San Mateo libraries are in communities with great needs near communities that are resource rich. There is a commitment to outreach and meeting people where they are.

### **Library Commission Report – Margot Shaub**

#### **[Library Commission Agendas, Minutes & Resolutions](#)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfYxHbKSoVY>

### **Highlights from the Library Commission Meeting:**

- Grant funding was approved to include the Civic Center San FranDisco Roller Rink in the Discover & Go program, which offers free and low-cost passes to Bay Area museums and attractions.
- Randy McClure, Chief Analytics Officer, reported on SFPL’s key midyear public service trends. The performance metrics show that progress has been made in restoring library services and programs.
- Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, talked about the installation of the SFPL Book Stop, the City’s first book kiosk.
- Drumbeats, Heartbeats: Communities as One, a program celebrating Lunar New Year and Black History Month presented in partnership with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.
- Night of Ideas report

- Adjournment in memory of Cathy Bremer, retired SFPL program manager and Chief Steward of the Librarians Guild. Cathy was beloved for her activism, dedication, compassion and support for library workers.

**Night of Ideas – Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor**

- Night of Ideas returned this year as an in-person event and despite the rainy weather, 4,345 people attended.
- People came from all over the City to be inspired by more than 100 presenters giving talks, performing, and creating art.
- The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library hosted a lounge and dance party.
- New this year was a local small business marketplace.
- Gensler, the consultants helping SFPL with strategic planning were also there asking attendees what they want to see in their public library.

**Adjournment: 4:45 pm**

**Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad**