



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
April 27, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting
Facilitator: Michael Lambert – City Librarian

Attendees: A.J. Cave (ANZ), Katherine Hsieh, (CHI), Penni Wisner (EVA), Sonia Moscardon (ING), Leonie Vandenberg (GGV), Deirdre Merrill (MAR), Judy Blanchard (MER), Kathy Mallegni (MER), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR), Peter Linenthal (POT), Marcia Popper (PRE), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Ana Elisa de Campos Salles 9Central District Manager), Jaena Cabrera (Acting Northwest District Manager), Florinda Battad (Library Technical Assistant II), Michael Roman (Junior Management Assistant)

Excused: Toni Hines (BAY), Lena Yu (CHI), Marcia Parrott (EXC), Nora Dowley (GPA), Sonia Moscardon (ING), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Joan Walton (SUN), Monica Herbert (WSA)

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 Meeting in May** will be on **Thursday, May 18, 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 May** will be on **Thursday, May 25, 2023**, at 4:00 p.m., *SFPL Virtual Library*

Branch Open Houses in May

Branch	Date	Time
Richmond	5/6/23	1-5 pm
Golden Gate Valley	5/13/23	11am – 3pm
Merced	5/13/23	1-5 pm
North Beach	5/20/23	11am – 3pm
West Portal	5/20/23	1-4 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Michael led a round of introductions to welcome Leonie Vandenberg, the new CNL member representing the Golden Gate Valley Branch.
- The 62nd Annual Potrero Hill Artists' Exhibition at the Potrero Branch will open with a reception on May 20th (6-9pm). It is the oldest running art show in San Francisco.
- Visitacion Valley Branch will have their Open House on Saturday, April 29th from 1-5 pm.

UPDATES

City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

Public Library Association (PLA) Election

- Michael was elected PLA President and will serve a three-year term beginning in June.
- PLA is a national organization representing public libraries and public library workers.
- As president, Michael will act as a spokesperson for public libraries, do media interviews discussing topics such as book banning and intellectual freedom, and showcase the work of public library workers.

Upcoming Events

- Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros is an annual event celebrating the importance of literacy for children with free books, music, and activities. (April 30 in the Mission District)
- Book launch and author talk with Cory Doctrow (April 30 in the Main's Koret Auditorium)
- The West Revisits Harlem is a poetry reading by Black poets, including San Francisco Poet Laureate, Tong Eisen-Martin. (April 30 in the Koret Auditorium)
- Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month. The month of May is overflowing with programs for children and adults such as author talks, book clubs, film screenings, crafts, food programs, and music and dance performances.
- Summer Stride, the Library's annual learning and reading program for all ages kicks off in June and runs through August.

Bay Beats

- SFPL's new streaming service showcasing local musical talent: <https://baybeats.sfpl.org/>
- Submissions for music in all genres opens on May 1st.
- Music will be reviewed by a panel of jurors and a \$250 honorarium will be given to musicians whose work are selected for the site.

Strategic Planning

- The strategic planning process will move into the community engagement phase next month. The Library is working with the consulting firm, Gensler who has assembled a team that includes Contigo, a group that specializes in community engagement especially in underserved populations.
- The CNL group will have a chance to participate in the strategic planning process in an upcoming meeting.
- A user survey has been administered by a survey consultant firm. Their staff will be at all 28 branches on varying days and times from April through June, offering the survey to random patrons. The survey is also available online and anyone can fill it out: <https://sfpl.org/branchsurvey>.
- A strategic plan outlining a bold new vision to meet the ever evolving needs of the community is expected to be developed by the end of the year.

Q&A

- **Diane (PAR) – Can you address the book banning and any specific effects on our libraries?**

Lambert – Monday was “Right to Read” day as part of National Library Week. Fortunately, San Francisco doesn’t experience the threats and attacks that have hit many other municipalities around the country. That being said, we have a different experience with book challenges: <https://sfstandard.com/arts-culture/what-the-only-four-book-ban-requests-in-sf-reveal-about-the-city/> . If you would like to get involved in supporting intellectual freedom efforts, you can find more information at: <https://uniteagainstbookbans.org/>. It’s an important issue – the number of book challenges nationwide nearly doubled in 2022, with most books that are being challenged are by and about LGBTQIA and African American authors and themes.

- **Marcia (PRE) – Can you talk about the complex relationship between the library and the issue of digitizing?**

Lambert – While it is still true that the library is a gate keeper of information, information has increasingly become a cheap commodity because of the internet. The library has changed in the last few decades; access to the physical collection is still a core service, but our mission has expanded. We are moving from a transactional model of service to an experiential one. In addition to providing access to books, we are also providing access to free digital broadband and technology training. Demands on public libraries are multi-faceted and we are fortunate to have the resources to meet the changing needs of the community and provide services that can transform lives.

- **Penni (EVA) – Will it be possible for a social worker to be at each branch? Can the Library loan medical equipment such as a blood pressure cuff?**

Lambert – There are plans to expand the Library’s social worker program to more branches. Regarding medical equipment, if that is an area where you think we should invest our resources, we can consider possible partnerships. Our role is not to be the primary provider of services, rather our role is to be the connector to resources and help carry out the mission of other departments.

- **Leonie (GGV) – I want to commend the Library for having the latest movie titles, but I think there is a need for more copies of DVDs. Our branch has many seniors who don’t stream movies and having more copies would reduce the wait time for popular titles. Also is there away for the libraries to open at noon on Sundays? Lastly, adding an additional catalog computer would be helpful.**

Lambert – It can be a challenge now to acquire more copies of DVDs. The industry is changing and there are sometimes embargos on certain titles. We will do better if we can. We’ll note your other requests in the minutes.

- **Ruth (NVA) – Is there a list of emergencies that have occurred at the Library and if we were prepared for them?**

Lambert – When there is an emergency at the Library, the event is logged with our internal reporting system and we review the information. We have protocols in place, but we are not equipped to handle emergencies and rely on emergency services.

- **Ruth (NVA) – Is Narcan available at the branches?**

Lambert – Narcan is available at the branches. Staff are not required to deploy Narcan since it is not in their job description. Staff can volunteer to take a training to learn how to administer Narcan and respond to an overdose.

Library Commission Report – Margot Shaub
Library Commission Agendas, Minutes & Resolutions

Highlights from the Library Commission Meeting:

- **Jail and Reentry Services (JARS)**
 - Development of an app mapping library services for incarcerated people, which is part of its Mellon grant funded project, Expanding Information Access for Incarcerated People Project
 - Providing library service at the county jails and the Juvenile Justice Center
 - Program offering incarcerated people with free tablets and content

- **SF Recovers Initiative Book Giveaway**
 - Supervisor Matt Dorsey’s initiative [San Francisco Recovers](#) calls on different City Departments to assist with San Francisco’s addiction crisis.
 - Partnering with Supervisor Dorsey’s office, SFPL will give away 12 step and recovery program books to folks who need them free of charge at the Main, Mission Bay and Park Branches.
 - Park Branch Manager, Doreen Horstin initiated SFPL’s involvement and helped launch this program, which if successful, can hopefully expand to all SFPL locations.

- **Creativity Explored Library Card Contest**
 - SFPL held a library card contest with designs created by the artists from Creativity Explored, a San Francisco art studio that partners with adults with developmental disabilities.
 - Thirty designs were exhibited at the Main Library and visitors and staff voted for their favorite works. Five winners were chosen.

- **Facilities and Small Capital Projects Update**
 - Facilities Director, John Cunha gave updates on the different units within Facilities: Custodial, Delivery Services, Engineering, and Security.
 - Active Projects include: Park Branch roof, compact shelving at 750 Brannan, and remodeling the Talking Books and Braille Center.

Next Library Commission meeting

- Thursday, May 18th
- Branch capital projects presentation with updates on the Mission, Chinatown and Ocean View projects

Q&A

- **Katherine (CHI) – Will there be a discussion about temporary locations for the soon to be renovated branches? Is the City College campus on Kearney Street being considered for Chinatown?**

Lambert – We’ve been doing our due diligence in trying to find a temporary space for Chinatown Branch: reached out to the City’s Real Estate Department to find a commercial space to lease, we have gotten some leads from Chinatown community members, and we have contacted City College’s new chancellor to talk about co-locating. Learning from our experience with Mission Branch, we are evaluating any and all opportunities.

Adjournment: 4:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad