



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
June 22, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting
Facilitator: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor

Attendees: A.J. Cave (ANZ), Katherine Hsieh, (CHI), Penni Wisner (EVA), Nora Dowley (GPA), Leonie Vandenberg (GGV), Sonia Moscardon (ING), Deirdre Merrill (MAR), Crystal Le (MBA), Judy Blanchard (MER), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Johanna Lopez Miyaki (OVI), Nicky Trasvina (OVI), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Peter Linenthal (POT), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Monica Herbert (WSA), Denise Sanderson (South West District Manager), Regan Gong (Northwest District Manager), Michael Roman (Junior Management Assistant)

Excused: Toni Hines (BAY), Lena Yu (CHI), Marcia Parrott (EXC), Kathy Mallegni (MER), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Diane Silver (PAR), Marcia Popper (PRE), Heather Gonzalez (RIC), Joan Walton (SUN), Florinda Battad (Library Technical Assistant II)

Library Administrators: Michael Lambert (City Librarian)

HOUSEKEEPING

Upcoming Meetings

- The next **Library Commission Meeting in July** will be on **Thursday, July 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 July** will be on **Thursday, July 27th, 2023**, at 4:00 p.m., *SFPL Virtual Library*

Branch Open Houses in July

Branch	Date	Time
Mission Bay	July 8	10am-2pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Meeting began with round robin introductions since there were some new members present and the council didn't meet in May.

UPDATES

City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

Summer Stride

- Summer Stride is in full effect – our signature summer learning program.
- You likely have seen the banners hanging at your neighborhood branches – artwork is by the amazing Children’s Book author and illustrator – K. Fai Steele.
- If you read and/or participate in 20 hours of library activities this summer you can earn your tote bag featuring K. Fai’s artwork. Going to open houses counts toward the 20 hours.
- There are all kinds of great events happening across our library system this summer, including some branch open houses.
- Excelsior and Mission Branch Libraries’ open house events were this past Saturday, and Michael saw a great turnout recently at the Merced Branch Library.

FY24-25 Budget

- The Library presented our FY24/25 budget to the Board of Supervisors last Thursday and we go back tomorrow morning.
- The budget for FY24 is \$200.1M, the largest budget we’ve ever proposed; and \$186.2M for FY25.
- We’ve included \$19.8M for the Ocean View Branch Library project, with \$15M budgeted for FY24 alone – which is the single largest capital investment this budget cycle.
- We’ve also included \$3M for the Mission Branch Library renovation.
- We are fortunate our Library Preservation Fund was renewed last November and we’re feeling good about the budget

Articles in Media

- Michael addressed recent articles in the media related to the branches.
- There was an article in the Ingleside Light today entitled “New Ocean View Branch Library Stalled”
- Michael reassured everyone the project is on track and remains a top priority for the library as evidenced by the strong investment we’re making this budget cycle.
- There are still some questions regarding the proposed Brotherhood Way site.
- This site remains a viable option, however we are monitoring the outcome of some traffic studies being conducted by the SFMTA and SFCTA which could impact the precise location of any new library that would be built there.
- We’re listening to the community’s concerns regarding pedestrian safety, speed of traffic and accessibility.
- While this work plays out, we’re taking a fresh look at the real estate market and what opportunities might exist elsewhere in the neighborhood that could be more optimal.
- This activity is playing out concurrently and not to the detriment of moving the project forward.
- Michael also addressed some recent articles regarding Wi-Fi access at Eureka Valley.
- The library has turned off Wi-Fi at night based on feedback from the residents in the immediate proximity to the branch.
- Eureka Valley is an outlier in the number of issues and level of severity we’ve faced over the years.
- We’re monitoring the situation and it seems to have improved.

Pride

- Michael wished the members a Happy Pride and reaffirmed SFPL’s commitment to intellectual freedom and being a safe and welcoming space for everyone in our community.

- We were the first library to host a drag queen story hour in 2015 and since that time, these events have become a target for right wing, intolerant, homophobic individuals who want to silence LGBTQIAA+ voices
- We've seen some protesters showing up recently at West Portal and Excelsior.
- We will not tolerate this behavior and we are committed to delivering programming that affirms our diverse community.
- We are the queerest library ever and we will not be influenced by these hateful groups.

Q&A

- **Nora (GPA) – Can you tell us more about the paid intern terms?**
Lambert – Traditionally the library has offered small stipends to volunteers but we wanted to give real wage and work experience to teens. We are contracting with the non-profit Youth Works to provide a robust internship for junior high and high school teens. They work in a cohort to design project.
- **Johanna (OVI) – I have a lot of questions and concerns about the Ocean View library. Is there a way to learn more than what is in the presentation decks?**
Lambert-we can meet separately with Rebecca and answer any questions.
- **Nora (GPA) – Is anything being done to address the myriad issues with Ocean View? Maybe present at next meeting?**
Lambert-The genesis for these projects began in 2017. Chinatown, Mission and Ocean View were left out of BLIP renovations. The logic was that Chinatown and Mission had been renovated in late 90s and the current Ocean View Library opened in 2000. After BLIP we decided to circle back. Initially all three libraries were slated for renovations but Ocean View didn't want a renovation because it was too small. We heeded the feedback and started to pursue new library. A new library is more complicated so Mission and Chinatown are further along. We have to continue building the budget and it will take future budget cycles.
- **Katherine (CHI) Any chance you think the current budget deficit will affect the budgeted amounts for the library set asides for the branches that are going to be undergoing construction?**
Lambert-This budget cycle won't be impacted. The FY24 deficit is 294 million and there is language in preservation fund that the budget will only be impacted if the deficit is more than 300 million. In this case the general fund remains static.

Library Commission Report-Michael Lambert, Rebecca Alcalá- -Veraflor

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

Highlights from the Library Commission Meeting:

- We're at the midpoint of Strategic Planning. The next phase is uncovering themes and developing a new mission and strategic plan.
- We talked about the racial equity plan and the progress we've made. We're pleased we've been able to diversify workforce.
- 57% of executive leadership is now BIPOC which is a 20% improvement over three years ago.
- We've made great strides providing training and tools.
- Presented highlights about tech week that happened in May.

Q&A

- **Nora (GPA) -Did I miss the commission meeting where John presented about maintenance at the branches?**
Lambert-John presents regularly and the last time was in May.
Rebecca-I'll asked him to join one of our CNL meetings so that you can meet him.

Leonie (GGV)-Can we get the minutes sooner so we have a chance to read them before voting on them? At least 3 days prior?

Rebecca-Yes, we can do that.

Leonie (GGV) I've tried calling the Main Library when they open at 9 and they don't pick up phone.

Rebecca- we will look into this.

Leonie (GGV) The barcode in back of book is easier to read, just wanted to bring this to your attention.

Katherine (CHI)-What is library policy about people being recorded? I overheard loud conversation about this when I was at the library.

Lambert-We have public programs all the time and we want members of public to let us know if they're not comfortable being filmed or photographed. Also there is signage in the branch. The reality is that in this day and age there is no way to restrict this behavior among members of the public.

Next Library Commission meeting

- Thursday, July 20th
- Strategic planning initiative update.
- Update on Hormel Center and Pride celebrations.
- IT collaboration with digital equity update
- Update on artists in residence.

SFPL Book Stop - Shellie Cocking

- The SFPL Book Stop provides a place to browse library books in a location outside of a branch.
- We started the first location at Treasure Island since they don't have a branch and we wanted to augment their bookmobile service. This location launched in February.
- Kiosk is easy to use. Scan your library card, enter pin and the door pops open. Close the door, anything new is checked in, anything missing is checked out.
- This allowed us to expand service from one afternoon a week to seven days a week.
- It's inside the glass entryway of the Island Cove Market and includes 200 books for all ages that will be refreshed weekly.
- Adult books are at the top, teen books are in the middle and kids' books are at the bottom.
- It's been successful so far with a 47% increase in circulation compared to the bookmobile.
- It took a village to get set up and running, thanks to:
 - The Book Kiosk Team.
 - CTS-translation, book purchasing.
 - IT -Networking setup.
 - Facilities-Moved kiosk to Treasure Island and set up.
 - Mobile Outreach-service weekly and keep supplied with new books.
 - Public Affairs-Developed promotional materials and hosted launch party.
 - TI Development Agency
 - Friends of SFPL-Provided the funding. Was able to purchase more quickly with Friends funds.
 - Island Cove Market.
- Launching a second kiosk in September at Hunter's View. This neighborhood has limited access to the Bayview branch.
- The kiosk will be located in the neighborhood community center. There is a currently a room that is used as a library.

Q&A

Ruth Maginnis – I was at Carnaval and at the Cherry Blossom festival and there were a lot of city departments represented but not the library. These would have been good opportunities to promote the library because there were so many people. Who takes care of getting a booth?

Rebecca-It depends, sometimes we work with festival organizer. It depends on the logistics and how we are able to join, what we would need to bring, etc. Some are free but some have a cost. We usually participate in the neighborhood ones such as Sunday Streets and have joined Cherry Blossom and Carnaval in the past. Sometimes participating in a festival is branch driven and sometimes it's CPP driven. We do our best to join when we can but there are a lot of festivals and not enough staff to join all of them

Adjournment: 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Michael Roman

Treasure Island Book Kiosk

SFPL Book Stop Pilot

- Located in the Island Cove Market.
- Expands service on the Island to 7 days.
 - Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
 - Saturday – Sunday 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- Books for all ages.
- Holds up to 200 books and will be refreshed weekly.
- Serviced by Bookmobile staff during weekly visits.
- Easy to use:
 - Scan your card.
 - Type in your PIN.
 - Open door.
 - Take your books.
 - Close the door.



Thank You

- Book Kiosk Team
- Collections and Technical Services Division
- IT
- Facilities
- Mobile Outreach Unit
- Public Affairs
- Treasure Island Development Agency
- Friends of the San Francisco Public Library
- Island Cove Market

