



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
October 26, 2023, 4:00 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Facilitator: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor

Attendees: A.J. Cave (ANZ), Toni Hines (BAY), Katherine Hsieh (CHI), Lena Yu (CHI), Penni Wisner (EVA), Marcia Parrott (EXC), Nora Dowley (GPA), Sonia Moscardon (ING), Deirdre Merrill (MAR), Judy Blanchard (MER), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR), Marcia Popper (PRE), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Heather Gonzalez (RIC), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Ana Elisa de Campos Salles (Central District Manager), Florinda Battad (Library Technical Assistant II)

Excused: Leonie Vandenberg (GGV), Kathy Mallegni (MER), Crystal Lê (MBA), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Johanna Lopez Miyaki (OVI), Nicky Trasvina (OVI), Peter Linenthal (POT), Joan Walton (SUN), Monica Herbert (WSA), Genevieve Feldman (Northeast District Manager), Regan Gong (Northwest District Manager), Denise Sanderson (Southwest District Manager), Anne Vannucchi (Southeast District Manager)

Library Administrators: Maureen Singleton (Chief Operating Officer)
Margot Shaub (Library Commission Affairs Analyst)
Christy Estrovitz (Acting Assistant Chief of Branches)

HOUSEKEEPING

Upcoming Meetings

- The next **Library Commission Meeting in November** will be on **Thursday, November 16, 2023**, at 4:30 pm. *Hybrid in-person and virtual*
- **No Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meetings in November and December.**
- The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meeting** will be on **Thursday, January 25, 2024** at 4:00 p.m., *SFPL Virtual Library*

Upcoming Branch Open Houses

Branch	Date	Time
Park	10/28/23	1 - 5 pm
Bernal Heights	12/2/23	12 – 4 pm
Mission	12/9/23	12 - 3 pm
Ingleside	1/20/23	11 am – 2 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Michael and Dolly are attending the Urban Libraries Council’s Annual Forum in Seattle to discuss with other library leaders the future role of the public library in an ever-changing world.
- Rebecca shared a link to a story about a BART station agent: [Agent Of Connection | KQED Truly CA - YouTube](#). She likened him to the many branch staff who are building connections and community.
- The Tricycle Music Festival is the Library’s annual concert series promoting literacy. Live performances by various artists take place every weekend in October at library locations throughout the City. The final weekend will wrap up at the Portola Branch and at the Park Branch Open House.

City Librarian’s Report

Capital Projects – Maureen Singleton

- SFPL was awarded \$6.3 million in grant money from the State Library to repair and refresh the Main’s roof and the seismic moat.
- Library Improvements for Tomorrow (LIFT)
 - Mission – Broke ground and began key internal demolition.
 - Chinatown – Finishing up final design work and final cost estimate; out to bid in 2024; break ground in summer/early fall 2024.
 - Ocean View – Chance to build funding in the next budget cycle.

Q&A

- **Marcia (EXC) – I’m hearing different messages regarding the location of the new Ocean View Branch. Is the location on Brotherhood Way firm?**
Singleton (LIB) – Market conditions have changed and the Library is doing its due diligence by working with the San Francisco Real Estate Department to consider other options. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and the County Transportation Association are looking at traffic and pedestrian safety issues, and their design ideas may have an impact on the sight chosen. Cost estimates will need revising no matter what.
- **A.J. (ANZ) – The Anza Branch needs a place where owners can leave their dogs outside.**
Singleton – That was not a consideration when the branch was renovated. I can talk with my team and follow up.
- **Penny (EVA) – The Mayor is asking all City departments to make cuts of at least 3%. How will this affect the Library?**
Singleton – The Library is a self-funded department, so we do not have to make cuts.
- **Judy (MER) – What sort of information is there on seismic safety of individual branches?**
Singleton – During the Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP) branches were brought up to seismic code.

Strategic Planning Initiative (SPI) - Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor

- Rebecca shared the link to the Strategic Plan presentation from the October Library Commission meeting: <https://sfpl.org/sites/default/files/2023-10/ITEM-3-Library-Commission-Strategic-Planning-FINAL.pdf>
- The strategic plan establishes the Library's vision for the future by re-affirming our mission and values, setting priorities, and ensuring that staff are working towards the goal of providing the community with the services they need most.
- Community and staff input validates the work the Library is already doing while informing its desired future.
- There will not be CNL meetings in November and December. CNL members are encouraged to attend the December Library Commission Meeting. The focus of the meeting will be on the strategic plan.
- CNL members are the liaisons to help move the strategic plan forward. If you have input regarding the SPI, send it to the COB email and we will forward it to the consulting team.

Q&A

- **Marcia (EXC) – Are homework helpers available at the branches?**
Alcalá-Veraflor (LIB) – As we come out of the pandemic, we are focusing on supporting existing programs before taking on anything new. We can act as a connector to services that the community wants that aren't available at the library, such as Brainfuse, an online tutoring program. The Library purchased the platform so our library card holders can use it.
- **Katherine (CHI) – Can the Library extend online tutoring time to late in the evening or provide a list of tutors one can hire? Can online tutors for the Library be hired?**
Alcalá-Veraflor (LIB) – Brainfuse provides tutoring on demand. The tutors are not hired by us but are vetted by Brainfuse. The Library doesn't have a list of tutors for hire because we don't advertise services that are cost based.

Library Commission Report - Margot Shaub

The agenda and minutes from the October 18th Library Commission Meeting can be found here:

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

Highlights from the meeting:

- Strategic Planning update and a robust discussion on its progress. The Library Commissioners expressed their vision for SFPL to be a leader.
- Success in restoring library hours at the branches.
- ¡VIVA! Latinx Heritage Celebration
- Summer Stride overview

Summer Stride Report – Christy Estrovitz

Summer Stride 2023

- Summer Stride is the Library's long standing and largest literacy campaign. Christy, who has been the co-chair for nine years, works with the Summer Stride Committee to keep the annual program fresh.
- This year felt like a real Summer Stride year again. Over twenty-three thousand people participated and logged over twenty-eight million minutes of reading.
- Highlights include:
 - Book giveaways

- STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) learning
- National Park Service (NPS) field trips
- Museum of Craft and Design maker mobile and craft kits
- Eight public programs with Summer Stride illustrator, K-Fai Steele and children's book author, Mac Barnett.
- Workforce development for teens

Q&A

- **Heather (RIC) – Is this an appropriate forum to discuss an innovative partnership that we beta tested at Richmond this summer? (And that we hope to really scale next summer.)**

Alcalá-Veraflor (LIB) – I'd like to hear about it. Please send an email to me regarding the partnership.

- **Katherine (CHI) – Were the NPS field trips open to patrons from other branches?**

Alcalá-Veraflor (LIB) – Each location sponsoring a field trip focused on their community members. The field trips could accommodate thirty-five participants, so the seats filled up quickly.

- **Nora (GPA) – Does the Library hire the teens?**

Estrovitz (LIB) – The Library has a long standing volunteer program for teens aged up to high school. It is unpaid and for many it is their first job. We work with schools to recruit the teens, and we interview them. YELL (Youth Engaged in Library Leadership) is a paid internship for teens in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades who are recruited from equity zones. Nine branches participated in YELL this summer and the Youth Librarians at these locations mentored the interns. The program is in its eighth year and continues to evolve as a meaningful career pathway.

- **Katherine (CHI) – Is there a reason why the Library doesn't provide a stipend for its teen volunteers?**

Estrovitz (LIB) – The Library doesn't have a pay structure to pay for the small amount of time teens spend volunteering. YELL taps into existing resources through our partnership with San Francisco YouthWorks, a high school internship program with San Francisco City Departments. We celebrate our teen volunteers with a party at the end of the summer.

- **Toni (BAY) – Is there an opportunity for the public to be on the Summer Stride Committee?**

Estrovitz (LIB) – I don't know if there is an opportunity for community members to participate on the back end.

- **Ruth (NVA) – How is the Treasure Island kiosk going?**

Alcalá-Veraflor (LIB) – It's going very well, but we don't have the statistics yet. I'll provide them at the next meeting, which will be in January. We won't have an in-person CNL gathering, but you all are invited to the staff holiday get together on December 8th at the Main Library. We'll send you the information soon.

Adjournment: 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad