



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
January 25, 2024 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), Marcia Parrott (EXC), Leonie van den Berg (GGV), Sonia Moscardon (ING), Deirdre Merrill (MAR), Judy Blanchard (MER), Kathy Mallegni (MER), Crystal Lê (MBA), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Nicky Trasvina (OVI), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR), Jessica Hyman (POT), Marcia Popper (PRE), Heather Gonzalez (RIC), Monica Herbert (WSA), Ana Elisa de Campos Salles (Central District Manager), Regan Gong (Northwest District Manager), Michael Roman (Jr. Management Asst.), Florinda Battad (Library Technical Assistant II)

Excused: Lena Yu (CHI), Penni Wisner (EVA), Nora Dowley (GPA), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Johanna Lopez Miyaki (OVI), Peter Linenthal (POT), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN), Joan Walton (SUN), Monica Herbert (WSA), Genevieve Feldman (Northeast District Manager), Denise Sanderson (Southwest District Manager), Anne Vannucchi (Southeast District Manager)

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

HOUSEKEEPING

Upcoming Meetings

➤ There will potentially be two **Library Commission Meetings in February** to discuss the budget. The meetings are on **Thursday, February 1st and Thursday, February 15th** at 4:30 p.m., *Hybrid in-person and virtual.*

If the budget is approved at the February 1st meeting, there will not be a meeting on February 15th.

➤ The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meeting** will be on **Thursday, February 22, 2024** at 4:00 p.m., *SFPL Virtual Library*

Upcoming Branch Open Houses

Branch	Date	Time
Ocean View	1/27/24	11am – 2pm
Western Addition	2/3/24	1-5 pm
Bayview	2/24/24	11am – 2pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- CNL members introduced themselves and welcomed the new representative for Potrero Branch, Jessica Hyman.
- Upcoming Open Houses will include programming for More Than a Month, SFPL's Black History Month Celebration.

City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

Circulation and Visitor Stats Update

- SFPL's recovery continues to trend in the right direction.
- An average of 70,000 – 75,000 patrons per week have visited our libraries this fiscal year. The week of August 20th had the best post pandemic numbers with 80,000 visitors.
- On pace to have 3.8 million visitors this fiscal year, eclipsing the 3.4 million visitors we had last year.
- Circulation is set to reach 13 million this year.
- Physical and electronic materials each make up half of the check-outs

Upcoming Programs

- [One City One Book](#)
 - The title chosen for this year's citywide book club is *The Chinese Groove* and is a fresh take on the Chinese immigrant experience set in San Francisco's Sunset District.
 - A conversation with the author, Kathryn Ma will be held in the Koret Auditorium on May 8 at 6:30pm.
- **Drumbeats, Heartbeats: Communities as One**
 - This is the second year that the Library will partner with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission to host this annual event celebrating Black History Month and the Lunar New Year.
 - The event will be in the Koret Auditorium on February 13 at 5:00pm and will feature music and spoken word performances.
- [More Than a Month](#)
 - During Black History Month in February, the Library recognizes the achievements and struggles of African Americans in the United States. Some of the programs honoring Black history, culture, and heritage include:
 - Author, Margaret Wilkerson Sexton talks to author and celebrated librarian Dorothy Lazard at the African American Art and Culture Complex on February 27 at 7pm. They will discuss Sexton's book, *On the Rooftop*, a family story that takes place in San Francisco's Black Filmore District in the 1950's.

- The exhibit, *Toward a Black Aesthetic*, featuring the photographs of the first Black staff photographer for the Oakland Tribune, Kenneth P. Green, will be on view at the Main Library's Jewett Gallery and the African American Center.
- **Strategic Planning Initiative**
 - Components of the draft of the Strategic Plan were shared at the January 18 Library Commission meeting.
 - The current Strategic Plan, which was created in 1996, emphasizes free and open access. This is still important, however the new vision for the Library is more customer focused and turning outward in order to meet people where they are so that they can be connected to learning, opportunities and to each other.
 - The Library's Strategic Priorities:
 - Literacy champion
 - Celebrate diverse communities
 - Community catalyzer
 - Serve as a guide to needed resources
 - Be a resource provider
- **Ocean View Library Petition**
 - A petition was introduced by the District 11 supervisor to move forward building the Ocean View Branch at the proposed site 100 Orizaba Way on Brotherhood Way.
 - The Library agrees with Supervisor Safai that the OMI neighborhood (Ocean View, Merced, Ingleside) is an underserved community that needs a new library. It does not however, support the petition because of the concerns raised over pedestrian safety and access along Brotherhood Way. The Library wants to follow the recommendations of the traffic studies that were done so that the branch can be built in an optimum location.

Q&A

- **Marcia (EXC) – Can you talk about the Urban Libraries Council's Annual Forum that you attended last October in Seattle?**
Dolly Goyal – It was a positive and uplifting program. What resonated most was the talk given about the crisis of loneliness and the psychological effects from the pandemic. Libraries can combat loneliness by being a space that brings the community together and connecting people to each other.
- **A.J. (ANZ) – What impact will there be on the budget if the site for the Ocean View Branch changes?**
Michael Lambert – The \$47 million cost estimate for 20,000 square feet is from 2019, so we will need to work with Public Works to get an updated cost estimate.
- **Marcia (PRE) –Introducing the petition without the support from the library is disturbing. Did the supervisor talk to anyone at the library?**
Michael Lambert – Our meeting in September with the supervisor was cancelled after learning that the site, which is owned by Public Works, couldn't be transferred to the library.
- **Marcia (PRE) – Space should be made in every library for the materials that are being provided to people dealing with addiction.**
Michael Lambert – The program giving away 12 step and recovery program books is part of the San Francisco Recovers initiative and will expand to Eureka Valley Branch. We hope to have these books available system wide.
- **Sonia (ING) – Are there any updates on when the full-time security guard position will be filled? Recent incidents at the branch are stressful for staff and patrons.**
Michael Lambert – The hiring will take time as it goes through the civil service process, but we are committed to filling the position. Staff safety is in our strategic plan as one of our highest priorities.

Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor – In the meantime, we will support Ingleside by having Security’s mobile unit make frequent stops at the branch.

- **Leonie (GGV) – There is an ongoing problem with a homeless woman at the Marina Branch.**

Michael Lambert – Providing a safe and welcoming space for everyone can be a delicate issue, one that we don’t take lightly. We don’t want to violate anyone’s civil rights. We try to give staff the tools to broach delicate conversations and point people to resources.

- **Leonie (GGV) – The Library only has the 1995 edition of H.W. Janson’s History of Art available for check-out. How can one request the Library have the current edition in its collection?**

Michael Lambert – We can pass along the request to the Collection Development office.

- **A.J. (ANZ) – Can CCTV be available at the branches?**

Michael Lambert – Before we can have security cameras at the branches, we will need approval from the City.

Toni (BAY) – The Black community is already over surveilled. Having security cameras should be a branch by branch decision.

- **Nicky (OVI) – What is holding up the Brotherhood Way traffic studies?**

Michael Lambert – There are two studies. The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) is developing the [Brotherhood/Alemany Safety Improvements Project](#). The San Francisco County Transportation Authority (SFCTA) is developing a separate plan, independent of the Library, called the [Brotherhood Way Safety and Circulation Plan](#). The results of the studies could impact the land that is available and the design of the branch. It’s important that we not rush and try to mitigate any issues, especially with the size of this investment.

Library Commission Report - Margot Shaub

- The agenda and minutes from the January 18 meeting can be found here: <https://sfpl.org/about-us/library-commission/library-commission-agendas-minutes-resolutions>
- The meeting recording can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBuOe-CkDzk>
- Chief Financial Officer, Mike Fernandez, gave a presentation on the FY25-26 budget.
 - No new hires is one of the Mayor’s budget instructions. We can’t grow our staff, but we will be able to fill vacancies for positions that we already have.
- The Library Commission will meet next on February 1st to discuss the budget priorities.

Branch Capital Projects Update – Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor

Mission Branch Renovation

- Current budget is \$34 million
- Work began on August 1, 2023
- 9% of the work has been completed including soft demolition of the staff workroom and children’s room.

Chinatown Branch Renovation

- Current budget is \$37 million
- Design has been finalized
- SF Real Estate Department and the City Attorney’s Office are working on license agreement with neighbors.

Q&A

- **Katherine (CHI) – Can you give us an update on the temporary site search for the Chinatown Branch?**

Michael Lambert – We are still beating the bushes trying to find a temporary site for Chinatown. SF Real Estate is assisting our search and we've been following up on a number of leads.

Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor – So far we have looked at five store fronts, including the Mandarin Theatre. The sites had one or more of these issues: no ADA access, no restrooms, unmaintained spaces that need a lot of work.

- **Katherine (CHI) – I took a tour of the City College campus in Chinatown and was impressed. The dean said that no one from the Library has reached out to them yet. I have her contact information if you need it.**

Michael Lambert – We have had some conversations with City College of San Francisco (CCSF), but as an institution they are facing some financial challenges and potential issues with their accreditation. We attempted to work with CCSF in co-locating a temporary site for the Mission Branch to no avail.

Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor – We have met with them. Co-locating with CCSF is challenging because of the differences in the communities we serve, and in our values and intentions.

- **Marcia (EXC) – Will construction of the Chinatown Branch be delayed as a result of not finding a site yet?**

Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor – We learned from our experience with the Mission Branch renovation and started conversations early, so we are actually ahead of schedule.

Adjournment: 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad