



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of JANUARY 16, 2025

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting JANUARY 16, 2025, at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library and able to view virtually on Zoom.

The SFPL Commission meeting was called to order at **4:30 PM.**

Commissioners Present: Wolf, Huang, Mall, Lopez, and Bolander.

President Wolf presented the ancestral homeland acknowledgement of the Ramaytush Ohlone.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ruben Juarez said on behalf of 1021, they are eager to begin the conversation around the Library Budget.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director of Library Users Association Libraryusers2004@yahoo.com, PO Box 170544, San Francisco California 94117-0544, said the headline in the Mercury News is “Democracy is in Peril,” which underscores the toxicity of social media.

Emily Garvie, Executive Director Friends of the Library, shared updates of Friends activities including their successful Annual Appeal, the Mary Louise Stong Breakfast, Library Laureates, Book Sale Block party and their new Development Manager Chelsea Morrissey.

Chelsea Morrissey, Friends Development Manager introduced herself and her background.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 19, 2024

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said the minutes are an example of the Library silencing people.

Commission Discussion

Motion: Motion by Vice President **Huang** seconded by Commissioner Mall to approve the **December 2024** Commission Minutes.

Action: AYES 5-0 (Wolf, Huang, Mall, Lopez and Bolander)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 FY 26 & 27 Budget Discussion

Mike Fernandez, Chief Financial Officer presented an update on the FY 26 & 27 Budget, sharing the timeline, how the Library is structuring the budget in alignment with SFPL Vision 2030 Strategic Priorities and the projected \$876M budget deficit and impact on the Library Preservation Fund.

Public Comment

Ruben Juarez asked if Fernandez would be sharing any direction the Library received from Mayor Lurie.

Peter Warfield said welcome to the debookification, with spending more on electronic materials than print materials.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Bolander asked about the projected estimate for the Library Preservation Fund for FY 27 if we are anticipating further economic weakening.

Fernandez said they put forward a budget that meets revenues, and have backup plans for any deficits that materialize, what they are seeing so far really is flattening revenues.

Commissioner Mall asked what the amount in the reserve fund was.

Fernandez said \$20 Million.

Commissioner Mall asked for additional information on the deficit.

Fernandez said the Commission had approved the budget that assumed a certain amount of revenue in FYs 25 & 26, now they know more now about what the revenue will look like and given that projection has come down.

Commissioner Lopez asked about what the new initiatives budget will be used for.

Fernandez said the scope of the new initiative spending would be on things like Summer programming, Read to recovery and vision 2030. Certain investments we want to make here physically like the Affinity center and things like that that we can find existing resources that we didn't have to make new investments in.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Rebecca Alcala Veraflor, Chief of Branches presented on the Council of Neighborhood Libraries. She said the threat of branch closures in the late 1980s was a call to action and the CNL was formed.

Naomi Jelks, Acting Main Library Manager, spoke about the events and programming the Library has held all Year Long to celebrate More Than a Month: Black History, Culture & Heritage, which included film screenings, book clubs, workshops, author readings and Black Voices in American Opera.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said he was always glad to hear about some history your discussion but the Library Preservation Fund left something about if there is any money left over there the priority was to spend on books and open hours not capital projects and would like to hear more about the political and social change efforts around.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lopez asked about the structure of CNL organization.

Alcala Veraflor said they strive for 2 members from each branch said she learns something new with each CL report and thanks Mall and Wolf for serving on the OCOB

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 ADJOURNMENT of JANUARY 16, 2025 COMMISSION MEETING in MEMORY of LARRY WARE

City Librarian Lambert asked the Commission to adjourn the meeting in honor of Larry Ware, a former CNL member and active Library supporter.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said he endorsed adjourning in honor of Larry Ware.

True Christopher Ware thanked the Commission for paying tribute to his father.

Rebecca Alcala Veraflor said she has many fond memories of Mr. Ware and happy to honor him, he was a good and gentle soul.

Commission Discussion

Motion: Motion by Commissioner **Mall** seconded by Commissioner **Lopez** to adjourn the December 19, 2024 Commission Meeting in memory of Larry Ware.

Action: AYES 5-0 (Wolf, Huang, Mall, Lopez and Bolander)

The meeting adjourned at **5:55 PM**
Margot Shaub, Commission Affairs Analyst

To access **Commission Meeting recordings** please visit: [Library Commission Meeting Recording](#)

Please note: These are draft minutes subject to revision by the San Francisco Public Library Commission. Copies of the minutes and handouts are available in the office of the Library Commission Affairs Analyst, 6th floor, Main Library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4733.

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the Commission Liaison Affairs Analyst/Custodian of Records, 6th floor, Main Library; (2) in the rear of Koret Auditorium immediately prior to, and during, the meeting; and (3), to the extent possible, on the Public Library Commission webpage: sfpl.org/library-commission/public-notice/agendas. Additional materials not listed as explanatory documents on this agenda, if any, that are distributed to Library Commissioners prior to or during the meeting in connection with any agenda item will be available to the public for inspection and copying in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.1 and Sunshine Ordinance Sections 67.9, 67.28(b), and 67.28(d).