



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of FEBRUARY 6, 2025

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting **FEBRUARY 6, 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: Huang, Ono, Lomax Ghirarduzzi, Lopez, and Bolander.

Vice President Huang presented the ancestral homeland acknowledgement of the Ramaytush Ohlone.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Anonymous Citizen said don't give money to the Friends and the Library Commission has been on a progressive decline of disrepute and depravity, there used to be a Main Library meeting and six subcommittees that got reduced to just one.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director of Library Users Association Libraryusers2004@yahoo.com, PO Box 170544, San Francisco California 94117-0544, said the Commission has taken the antidemocratic and participation squelching new public comment time limited to two minutes starting last meeting and continuing today, which he takes a compliment to the value impact that public comments has made, in this library.

Michael Vincent, Friends of the Library, shared updates of Friends activities including the upcoming Annual Mary Louise Stong legacy Breakfast, Library Laureates, and their e-commerce store is a great success.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 16, 2025

Public Comment

Anonymous citizen said it does not say on here that the public was limited to two minutes, it doesn't say how they arrived at that and there was no mention in the December minutes which there would have to be.

Peter Warfield said his comments on the toxicity of social media are systematically excluded and the Library touting the use of the Internet and social media uncritically which has had alarms raised by our Surgeon General.

Ruben Juarez said he really appreciated Commissioner Mall asking questions, because when she did that about the reserve fund, it provides the audience, access to information they might otherwise not have and thought it was a missed opportunity that safety was not strategic priority.

Commission Discussion

Motion: Motion by Commissioner **Lomax Ghirarduzzi** seconded by Commissioner **Lopez** to approve the **January 16, 2025**, Commission Minutes.

Action: AYES 5-0 (Huang, Ono, Lomax Ghirarduzzi, Lopez, and Bolander)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 FY 26 & 27 BUDGET DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Mike Fernandez, Chief Financial Officer presented a revised update on the FY 26 & 27 Budget, sharing the budget environment deficit, the Library Preservation Fund estimates, the Mayor's Budget Instructions and how the Library is structuring the budget in alignment with SFPL Vision 2030 Strategic Priorities. Fernandez asked the Commission to approve the proposed budget, which they will submit to the Controller and Mayor on February 21, 2025.

Public Comment

Anonymous citizen asked how the budget conforms to new strategic plan, which should be implemented by policies and priorities in the budget itself. There is a large drop in collections, there is something called collections efficiencies and asked for an explanation of what it means.

Peter Warfield asked what collection efficiencies are and what do realign collection budget, community catalyzer, culture amplifier and digital strategies mean. He said he would like equal or more access between print and electronic.

Ruben Juarez said labor would like to know if they have taken into consideration other locations, it says Main Library but asked if other locations have been considered, they will want a meaningful dialogue on that.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono asked about the proposed investment summary that ties to the new strategic plan, she did not see literacy champion, but it's all together within it.

Fernandez said the summary is only the new investments and safety investments are \$2.5 million.

Commissioner Lomax Ghirarduzzi said she appreciated keeping fidelity in trying to be in alignment with the priorities set forth by the Mayor's office and asked about the resource provider and what is realigned in the collection budget.

Fernandez said the realignment in the budget is with collections. They looked at where they could be more efficient while preserving service levels, the Team looked for opportunities to where they could

be more efficient.

Vice President Huang said the macro climate is harder but the silver lining in all this is that it gives the Library the opportunity to find and continue to challenge the organization to do things more efficiently, do more with less and asked if they will continue to look for ways to find similar efficiencies.

Fernandez said they continue to look through the entire operation to see where they can find further efficiencies.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Operating officer, said they are taking a deep look at all the software they have for efficiency options.

Commissioner Lopez asked for examples of Library capital improvement projects.

Fernandez said this funding is what they spend each year on keeping the capital up to date.

Commissioner Bolander asked about the Library Preservation Fund projected increasing in 2027.

Fernandez said he believes it is flat and what they are seeing from early property tax returns the 2027 number seems reasonable.

Huang asked if they don't believe the controllers office numbers what should they be doing now in the case that it comes in lower than expected.

Fernandez said they are keeping close to \$3 million in reserve for the outer year.

Commission Discussion

Motion: Motion by Commissioner **Bolander** seconded by Commissioner **Ono** to approve the proposed FY 26 & 27 Budget.

Action: AYES 5-0 (Huang, Ono, Lomax Ghirarduzzi, Lopez, and Bolander)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Jess Ouyang, Acting Youth Development Coordinator, CPP presented the 2024-2025 T(w)een Winter Read, a program for ages 10-18 that overlaps with SFUSD winter break. They experienced significant increase across all measures, and signups were up 56.9%.

Amanda Limcaco, Presidio Branch Library gave an overview of the screening of the Free for All: The Public Library documentary on Saturday January 18, 2025. The film was about how public libraries have shaped democracies and will air on PBS on April 25, 2025.

Megan Merritt, CPP, presented on the Skateboarding San Francisco: Concrete, Community, Continuity Exhibit, which runs in the Jewett Gallery from February 13 through July 6, 2025, it will contain archival photos, original paintings skate decks and trucks and skateboarding videos.

Maureen Singleton announced the appointment of Jason Blandon as the new library CIO, overseeing cybersecurity, desktop help, network servers' storage, audiovisual services, and web services.

Jason Blandon said he is honored to serve as the Chief Information Officer and will focus on leveraging technology to enhance access, innovation, equity and inclusion.

Public Comment

Anonymous citizen said he was very impressed by the report, presumably since it's a City Librarians report, and was entranced by the documentary about the libraries Being Free for All.

Peter Warfield said he was troubled by the Free-for-All in several ways with respect to access and the content. Tickets were required and controlled by KQED, and you had to provide an email address and additional demographics that they wanted.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lomax Ghirarduzzi said the report was lovely and the increase in participants for the T(w)een program is wonderful.

Lopez congratulated Jason on his appointment, thanked staff for the presentations and said she appreciates the report is very diverse in themes and ages.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 ADJOURNMENT of FEBRUARY 6, 2025 COMMISSION MEETING in MEMORY of ELAINE CAHN

City Librarian Lambert asked the Commission to adjourn the meeting in Memory of Elaine Cahn, a CNL member and dedicated Library supporter.

Public Comment

Tara Cahn said her mother, Elaine was modest about her many accomplishments and talents, she used a few words to convey much and often proclaimed the library was her favorite destination. She used to say with fervor, the public library is the greatest public institution ever invented and thanked the Library for honoring her.

Rebecca Alcalá- Veraflor, Chief of Branches said she is proud of the sense of community they build in the branches and Elaine's presence with the Library is a testament to just how strong those communities are. Her contribution to the Library will be remembered as someone who is an advocate of libraries, specifically the Richmond branch.

Anonymous citizen said he was gratified and thankful for this Agenda item both specifically, and in general. Her career intersected with his and he was gratified for her love of words. That is what it's about, after all. Not just books.

Peter Warfield said he agrees with adjourning in honor of Elaine Cahn and did not know her

personally or her work.

Commission Discussion

Motion: Motion by Commissioner **Lomax Ghirarduzzi** seconded by Commissioner **Ono** to adjourn the February 6, 2025 Commission Meeting in memory of Elaine Cahn.

Action: AYES 5-0 (Huang, Ono, Lomax Ghirarduzzi, Lopez, and Bolander)

The meeting adjourned at **6:09 PM**
Margot Shaub, Commission Affairs Analyst

To access **Commission Meeting recordings** please visit:

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).