



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of APRIL 17, 2025

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting APRIL 17, 2025, at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library and virtually on Zoom.

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

Commissioners Present: Wolf, Huang, Lomax Ghirarduzzi, Lopez, Bolander and Calhoun.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Wolf gave remarks honoring the service of Commissioner Susan Mall and Commissioner Teresa Ono, who served on the San Francisco Library Commission with distinction for twelve and sixteen years, respectively, and welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Shawn Calhoun and Commissioner Whitney Jones.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director of Library Users Association Libraryusers2004@yahoo.com, PO Box 170544, San Francisco California 94117-0544, said Commissioners Mall and Ono paid attention and hoped the new Commissioners would be concerned with democracy.

Emily Garvie, Executive Director, Friends of the Library, welcomed the new Commissioners and said the Friends have served as advocates of the Library since 1961.

Stacy Smith said he was told twice that he would receive some information about an administrative hearing. Before coming into the meeting, he checked with security, and they did not have a date for a hearing.

Ruben Juarez, circulation supervisor at the Ocean View Branch since 2014, welcomed Vice President Huang back and extended the Union's welcome to the new Commissioners.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lomax Ghirarduzzi welcomed Commissioner Calhoun.

Vice President Pete Huang welcomed the new Commissioners and said he looked forward to learning from them and gave a personal thank you to Commissioner Ono and Commissioner Mall for all they did to welcome and mentor him.

Commissioner Lopez said Commissioner Ono was the first person to reach out to her, when she was

appointed, and offered to meet with her during Covid and Commissioner Mall always asked great questions and was thankful Pete Huang was reappointed.

Commissioner Calhoun said he had large shoes to fill and thanked staff for welcoming him and helping him prepare to serve.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Walt Bilofsky, SF Bay Chapter Freedom From Religion asked the Library to join in the fight against book bans.

Peter Warfield, said access to libraries, which are vital cultural and community institutions, is important.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MARCH 20 2025

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said the minutes are pitiful and paltry compared to the 2016 minutes and are lacking any kind of detail.

Ruben Juarez requested an addition to the Minutes.

Commission Discussion

Motion: Motion by Commissioner **LOMAX GHIRARDUZZI** seconded by Commissioner **LOPEZ** to approve the **MARCH 20, 2025** Commission Minutes with one edit.

Action: AYES 6-0 (Wolf, Huang, Lomax Ghirarduzzi, Lopez, Bolander and Calhoun)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT

Randle McClure, Chief Research Strategy & Analytics (CRSA) gave an update on Public Services Performance Measures and highlighted that 100% of the Strategic Plan FY25 priority projects are meeting monthly expectations, and patron satisfaction is consistently very strong, library cardholders have increased by 7.7% from last year and library visits and programs have increased since FY24.

Public Comment

Ruben Juarez said Labor is proud of library workers' achievements.

Peter Warfield said San Francisco has a great treasure in its staff, but the survey shows that satisfaction with hours is at the bottom.

Commission Discussion

President Wolf thanked staff for the informative data driven report.

Commissioner Bolander said the report was fantastic with patron satisfaction at 8.5% and circulation looked solid, everything in the survey is generally above eight which is stellar for any organization he asked if there were any improvement plans for the lowest ranked.

City Librarian Lambert said regarding the hours of operation the Library has a charter mandate to revisit that every five years.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Operating Officer, said her IT team is having regular meetings with the communications team to improve the library website and the CIO has been looking at other systems and how to make it more user-friendly, the last updated the website was pre-pandemic.

President Wolf asked if, when they do the survey of hours, do they analyze how people currently use the library at different hours.

McClure said the Library currently does that.

Wolf said It may not be that more programs are needed, and maybe the Library needs to hone in on programs and look at what the participation of these programs is, the experience and instead of saying we need more.

Commissioner Lopez asked about the safety and security data.

McClure said safety and security have consistently fallen in the middle of the rankings.

Lambert said the Library has effectively decreased security incidents by approximately 15% over 11 years, and invests more in safety and security, approximately \$8 million a year.

Commissioner Lomax Ghirarduzzi said the RSA work has changed how the Library looks at information and makes decisions based on the data, which shows a level of accountability.

VP Huang asked if the Library understands what the cardholder base wants from the library system. Cardholders are growing by 7.7% in the last year, but circulation is 3.1%, this cohort of people are possibly engaging with circulation less.

Lambert said with the implementation of Vision 2030 Strategic Plan, the Library aspires to have everybody in the community dialed into library programs and services.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Jen Woo, Family Engagement Coordinator, and Lori Talarico, Acting Community Engagement Coordinator gave highlights of the Southwest Asian and Northern Africa programming and events, including reading list recommendations, and youth and adult activities.

Naomi Jelks presented the 5th annual 2025 Night of Ideas, NOI, event, which is an evening of arts and cultural events, in which 190 cities around the world participate. SFPL had more than 8,000 that night.

City Librarian Michael Lambert gave highlights of the Library Night with the San Francisco Giants, which was developed by Chief of Partnerships and Programs Michelle Jeffers and 21 Bay Area libraries were invited.

Maureen Singleton, COO thanked Chief of Facilities, John Cunha for all he did to make NOI fun and successful and bringing the lightshow to Fulton Plaza.

Public Comment

Stacy Smith said he traveled around the middle east.

Peter Warfield said it was a pleasure to hear about Library programs and activities, although it seemed thin on books, he attended NOI KQED panel, but thought access to the programs was limited because of the registration process

Commission Discussion

President Wolf thanked staff for the presentations, which show how embedded the Library is with numerous city partners.

Commissioner Calhoun asked how the SWANA program builds community

Woo responded that community members who see themselves in the programs helps build trust within the community.

PRESIDENT WOLF ADJOURNED THE MEETING at 6:10 PM

Margot Shaub, Commission Affairs Analyst

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