



San Francisco Public Library

**MINUTES**  
**Council of Neighborhood Libraries,**  
**September 25, 2025 4:00 p.m.**  
**CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Facilitator: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor**

CNL Members			
Tom Gorrebeeck (ANZ)	x	Helen Land (NBE)	
Toni Hines (BAY)		Nicky Trasvina (OVI)	x
Katherine Hsieh (CHI)	x	Johanna Lopez Miyaki (OVI)	
Marcia Parrot (EXC)	x	Edna James (OVI)	
Nora Dowley (GPA)	x	Chuck Moody (ORT)	
Lindy Chris (GPA)	x	Marcia Erlich (PAR)	
Chloe Rounsley (GGV)		Diane Silver (PAR)	x
Leonie van den Berg (GGV)	x	Sherine Ta (PSI)	
Sonia Moscardon (ING)	x	Lily Li (PSI)	x
Ed Connor (ING)	x	Jon Logan (POR)	x
Deirdre Merrill (MAR)	x	Peter Linenthal (POT)	
Phil Lesure (MAR)	x	Jessica Hyman (POT)	x
Judy Blanchard (MER)	x	Julia Anaya (RIC)	x
Kathy Mallegni (MER)		Tara Cahn (RIC)	x
Sharon Chien (MBA)		Deborah Oppenheim (SUN)	x
Janie Alcindor (MBA)		Julia Gitis (WPO)	x
Ruth Maginnis (NVA)	x	Monica Herbert (WSA)	
Rasa Gustaitis (NVA)		Crystal Lê (WSA)	x

JOB Office			
Christy Estrovitz	x	Anne Vannucchi	
Ana Elisa de Campos Salles		Denise Sanderson	x
Genevieve Feldman	x	Florinda Battad	x
Regan Gong	x	Michael Roman	x

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

**Guests:** Jessica Parker (Friends of SFPL)

## **Housekeeping**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- The next **Library Commission meeting in October** will be on **Thursday, October 17, 2025, 4:30 p.m., Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)**.
- The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meeting in October** will be on **Thursday, October 23, 2025, 4:00 p.m., Virtual**

## **Minutes**

- The August meeting minutes were approved with suggested changes.

## **City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert**

### **Commission Reforms**

- Prop. D and E were competing San Francisco ballot measures in the November 2024 election, aimed at reforming the City's system of boards and commissions.
- Prop. E won, creating the [Commission Streamlining Task Force](#), which uses a set of criteria to evaluate boards and commissions to be modified, eliminated or combined.
- The [Commission Streamlining Task Force will meet on October 1st](#) to consider recommendations on arts and culture bodies, including the Library Commission. Here are the explanatory documents:  
[Housing and Economic Development Bodies Memo v3 \(2025-09-26\)](#)  
[Housing and Economic Development Bodies Presentation \(2025-09-26\)](#)
- A possible outcome would be for the Library Commission to be downgraded to a citizens advisory group, but this doesn't seem likely since it meets the Task Force's criteria.

### **Programs**

- [¡VIVA!](#) celebrates Latinx cultures and traditions. Programs for all ages includes Spanish/bilingual storytimes, author talks, arts and crafts, music, and cultural presentations.
- [80<sup>th</sup> WWII Anniversary: Remember "Comfort Women"](#) exhibit honors the history and legacy of the "comfort women", the hundreds of thousands of women and girls who were sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Army during the Pacific War.

### **Personnel Update**

- The Library's Chief Information Officer, Jason Blandon has accepted a position with Redwood City to be their Chief Information Security Officer. Recruitment will begin to fill his position.

### **Capital Projects Updates**

- The Mission Branch is expected to be completed in May 2026, and re-opening in the summer.

- The bid package for the Chinatown Branch has gone out. The process to identify a construction company to do the work will take about six months. The branch is expected to close and open the temporary location in spring 2026.
- The Library is working with the City's Real Estate Department to secure an appraisal of the property that is catty-corner to the Ocean View Branch.

#### SFPUC Balboa Reservoir Project

- The Library will review the SFPUC's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the work at the Balboa Reservoir to see what impact, if any, there will be on the outdoor space at the Ingleside Branch.

#### Q&A

- **Leonie (GGV) – What is the address of the Chinatown temporary branch?** Lambert – The address of the temporary branch is 950 Grant Avenue.
- **Marcia (EXC) – Excelsior was the first branch to be renovated as part of the Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP). Are there plans to begin the cycle of renovations again? Are the Mission and Chinatown projects causing a delay to these plans?** Lambert – Yes, branch improvements are an ongoing necessity. BLIP ran from 2005 through 2014. Mission, Chinatown and Ocean View Branches currently have our attention, but BLIP 2.0 is a priority. For the project to be successful, we will need to be strategic in building a business case. It will be important to work with a consultant and engage the community to develop a vision for the Library so that a measure can be put on the ballot.
- **Judy (MER) – Does the current City budget impact facility maintenance?** Lambert – The money used for the upkeep of our facilities comes from the Library Preservation Fund. A second round of BLIP would require broader investment.
- **Katherine (CHI) – How can CNL members be notified about the fundraising efforts by the Friends?** Lambert – Information about the Friends' fundraising campaigns can found on their website: [What we Fund](#), [Mission Branch Renovation](#), [Chinatown Branch Renovation](#). Alcalá-Veraflor - We'll ask the Communications Team to make sure that the capital campaign information is included in our renovation updates emails.

#### **Library Commission Report – Margot Shaub**

- The agenda and minutes from previous meetings can be found here: <https://sfpl.org/about-us/library-commission/library-commission-agendas-minutes-resolutions>
- The recording of the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IoSWeYE9OQ>
- Presentation highlights include:
  - Library Social Media Policy
  - Human Resources Talent Acquisition
  - Jail and Reentry Services (JARS)
  - VIVA! Latinx Heritage Month
  - Claude the Alligator Library Card
- Next meeting on October 16:
  - Summer Stride 2025 Update
  - One City One Book

- Program and Exhibition Highlights

### **Friends of SFPL Updates – Jessica Parker** Capital

#### Campaigns

- Simultaneous fundraising for the Mission and Chinatown Branches, with Mission being more urgent.
- Funds will go towards buying furniture, fixtures, and equipment that will make the spaces dynamic and inviting.
- Naming opportunities are available for both branches.

#### Q&A

- **Lindy (GPA) – Is there more that CNL members can do, should do?**

Parker – Private support is appreciated, but just as important is keeping the library on top of mind. Attending library events and talking about the importance of libraries with others is very helpful. Feel free to contact me and we can figure out ways to support the Friends.

Lambert – We want to harness the CNL's passion for libraries. One of the best ways to help is to be present at library events and connect the library to the broader community by inviting your neighbors, friends, and family.

### **CNL and Supporting the Branches – Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor**

CNL members talked about possible roles and opportunities in advocating for their branch libraries.

The following ideas and questions will be presented at the next Branch Managers meetings in October:

- Introducing the branch manager to neighborhood movers and shakers.
- Volunteering in the library through FOG or other programs
- Table at Friends events for the branches like Open Houses and outreach events
- [Good Neighbor Week](#) at West Portal ○ September 28 is National Good Neighbor Day. First proclaimed by Jimmy Carter in 1978, the holiday celebrates residents who improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.
  - Julia worked with the West Portal Branch Manager to have the branch participate with a puzzle swap and a neighborhood game day. ○ Contact Julia if you need help getting your branch involved with Good Neighbor Week next year (September 28 – October 4, 2026).
- Sharing the news about library services ○ Nicky spreads information about [Community Rooms](#) and [Study Rooms](#) through her involvement with the Community Living Campaign.
  - Katherine shared information about [free SAT prep classes](#) at her Parent Teacher Student Association meeting.
- Connect with the Community Corridor Manager, Community Business District ○ Jon meets with the Portola Branch Manager for coffee and has introduced her to the Portola Neighborhood Association's Corridor Manager. Together they brainstorm to find ways to connect the library and the small business community with each other.
- Involve the local high school ○ Marcia used her connections at Balboa High School and worked with the Excelsior Branch Manager to have Balboa High School students get their community service hours at the library.
- [Community organized block parties](#)
- What can we do with events and programs at the library?
- What can we do that would not step into staff territory? Can we host a workshop?

## Timeline

- October 2 and 16 - Branch Manager Meetings ○ Discuss with Branch Managers the role of CNL with new Strategic Plan
- October 23- CNL Meeting ○ Provide CNL with information from October Branch Managers Meeting
- November 6 and 20- Branch Manager and Branch Circulation Supervisors Meetings ○ Professional Development for supervisors
- November- no CNL meeting
- December - Working meeting and Holiday gathering- Date is TBD

**Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad**