

## SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

### Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 16, 2026

**Location:** Main Library, Koret Auditorium; public access via Zoom

webinar.

**Call to Order:** Approximately 4:30PM.

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### CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Commission Affairs Analyst **Margot Shaub** opened the meeting, explained Zoom and public comment procedures, and the Commission delivered the **Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement**.

### ROLL CALL

Present: **President Calhoun; Vice President Jones; Commissioners Lopez, Bolander, Kenaston, and Menon** (quorum established).

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### 1. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

**Anonymous Citizen** — Criticized perceived Commission elitism and disengagement, referencing a prior meeting joke about adjournment; argued Commissioners should welcome engagement; used a racial epithet, and the chair halted the comment.

**Allison Fong, Friends of the Library Board**, — Praised Night of Ideas as dynamic and joyful; announced June 6 Block Party Book Sale; promoted the Friends' new Hammer Guides collaboration hoodie via the SFPL store.

**Jason Gibbs, Retired Librarian** — Commended Mission Branch renovation and restoration of Leo Lentelli's sculpture; described historic significance of Lentelli's works removed from the old Main; urged retention of valuable collections (e.g., LPs) that might otherwise be lost.

**Peter Warfield, Executive Director Library Users Association**, [Libraryusers2004@protonmail.com](mailto:Libraryusers2004@protonmail.com), PO Box 170544 SF, CA 94117-0544 — Requested fairer handling of relevancy during public

comment (allowing clarification if time is stopped); criticized SFPL’s promotion of social media citing court rulings and youth harm; urged reconsideration of publicity practices, especially for minors.

**Ruben Jaurez, Circulation Supervisor; Union Officer**— Thanked speakers for supporting consistent three-minute comment time; recounted essential service roles Library staff took during COVID-19 (food banks, testing sites, hotels, contact tracing); urged alternatives to layoffs for public sector workers.

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## **ITEM 2 — Approval of February 12, 2026 Minutes**

### **Public Comment**

- **Anonymous Citizen** — Said the February minutes were redrafted but failed to incorporate corrections raised in March; cited omissions (commissioner qualifications, labor emphasis, privacy concerns, staff reporting context); urged inclusion of full public testimony consistent with a data-driven organization.
- **Peter Warfield** — Asserted misrepresentation or reversal of his comments’ intent; emphasized respect for Commissioners but reiterated concerns about harmful technologies and patron privacy; asked for corrections to prevent mischaracterization.

**Commission Discussion/Action** : Motion from Commissioner Lopez second from Commissioner Bolander to approve the February 12, 2026 Minutes.

**Action: Approved unanimously.** Roll-call ayes: Calhoun, Jones, Lopez, Bolander, Menon, Kenaston

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## **ITEM 3 — Approval of March 19, 2026 Minutes**

### **Public Comment**

- **Anonymous Citizen** — Argued the ordinance allowing a 150-word speaker summary was misinterpreted; described difficulties submitting the summary (documentation and “include vs. attach” dispute); alleged evasive handling of public submittals.

- **Jason Gibbs** — Requested replacing “another speaker” with his name; cited Sunshine Ordinance placement (summary belongs within public comment section, not addendum); asked to avoid further Task Force appeals by correctly acknowledging testimony.
- **Peter Warfield** — Said addenda disconnect public remarks from agenda items; argued minutes lack item linkage for commenters; reiterated concerns about social media promotion and prior inaccuracies/omissions.

**Commission Discussion:** Commissioners confirmed the requested correction (naming Jason Gibbs) and proceeded to vote.

**Commission Discussion/Action:** Motion from Commissioner Kenaston and second from Commission Jones to approve the March 19, 2026 Minutes with one edit to include Jason Gibbs name.

**Action: Approved unanimously with correction**

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#### **ITEM 4— 2025 Media Analysis Report**

**Staff Presentation** — Public Information Officer **Pocheolo Carsi-Cruz** analyzed 2025 media coverage (paid/owned/earned); highlighted three themes (library love spectrum, diversity champion, city pride) with examples and early 2026 uptick.

#### **Public Comment**

- **Anonymous Citizen** — Praised the presentation but urged a national shift back to literacy-focused missions; criticized visible disengagement by some Commissioners; requested a stronger emphasis on books, history, and core literacy.
- **Jason Gibbs** — Commended analysis yet cautioned about PR growth versus frontline service; emphasized libraries as refuge for patrons needing quiet and help; urged balancing “bright, shiny” programming with core service.
- **Peter Warfield** — Reported packet collation issues (upside-down pages, no page numbers); argued SFPL’s media narrative under-represents books/newspapers/periodicals; urged stronger reporting on collections amid declining traditional media.

## Commission Discussion

- **Lopez** — Expressed pride in media attention, commended diverse programming and outreach success.
- **Menon** — Asked whether coverage correlates with program attendance or materials use; supported next-phase tracking of user pathways.
- **Jones** — Praised balancing positive/challenging coverage; recommended adding **impression metrics** and using owned/paid channels to support literacy priority.
- **Bolander** — Suggested earned-media dollar valuation and sentiment analysis; recommended tracking pitch success.
- Kenaston — Encouraged benchmarking SFPL against major systems (e.g., **DC Public Library**).

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## ITEM 5 — Branch Division Report

**Staff Presentation** — Chief of Branches **Rebecca Alcala Veraflor** reviewed branch history/renovations (**BLIP, LIFT**), district organization, multilingual services, and community partnerships; systemwide visits recovered to **~87%** of pre-COVID levels with local variation (construction, demographics, staffing).

### Public Comment

- **Ruben** — Spoke to the rewarding nature of branch work and patron relationships; noted safety importance and lack of on-site security at some branches; highlighted staffing challenges for seven-day service.
- **Peter Warfield** — Warned against “de-bookification”; urged capacity and visibility for book collections; criticized temporary renovation sites for limited use

## Commission Discussion

- Kenaston — Praised service excellence based on multiple branch visits, clean facilities, organized stacks, positive interactions.

- **Menon** — Highlighted libraries as teen third spaces amid rising loneliness; asked about low-hanging-fruit improvements, site-specific solutions described.
- **Lopez** — Commended Council of Neighborhood Libraries and language support; affirmed value of community-led input.
- **Jones** — Requested future district-level trend reporting and insights to address “stagnant 80” recovery cluster.

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## ITEM 6 — City Librarian’s Report

**Night of Ideas, Michelle Jeffers, Chief Programs and Partnerships** — Largest in the U.S.; **7,100** attendees at Main and ~**2,500** at Asian Art Museum; **300+** presenters/performers/vendors; extensive staff support.

**Main Library 30th Anniversary, Naomi Jelks, Chief of Main** — Reviewed 1996 opening and affinity-center history; programming included “Librarians on Film,” Hormel Center celebration, Civic Center cemetery-history talk, and in-library wedding ceremonies.

### Public Comment

- **Peter Warfield** — Noted discrepancies between versions of anniversary materials; recounted controversy about book reductions and space reallocation; criticized Night of Ideas for limited discussion of AI downsides.

**Commission Discussion:** Commissioners praised creativity, scale, and resilience of programming (e.g., astronomy session pivot due to rain); commended leadership and public service.

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Meeting adjourned by President Calhoun. At 6:41 PM

To access Commission recording please visit: [SFPL Commission Meeting](#)