



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
February 26, 2026, 4:00 p.m.
CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Facilitator: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor

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

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

Library Administrators: Margot Shaub (Library Commission Analyst)

Guests: Emily Garvie and Jessica Parker (Friends of SFPL)

Housekeeping

Upcoming Meetings

- The next **Library Commission meeting** will be on **Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., Hybrid (In-person and Virtual).**

- The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meeting** will be on **Thursday, March 26, 2026, 4:00 p.m., Virtual**

Announcements

City Librarian's Report – Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor

San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) Teachers Strike

- For families that are unhoused or in poverty, the teachers strike would affect their access to meals, computers, and/or a place to go.
- SFPL, the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), and SF Rec and Park coordinated their efforts to provide children with free meals.
 - Based on student profiles from DCYF, it was decided that these six libraries would provide meals: Main, Bernal Heights, Ingleside, Portola, Potrero, and Visitacion Valley.
- Students were able to print SFUSD learning packets at the Library
 - Waived the \$2 free printing limit
 - All locations opened at 10am
- Visits increased 22.6% - an increase of 11% per hour

Q&A

- Helen (NBE) - Was there any discussion in the media about how SFPL and the various organizations came together to support those most in need? Just wondering if that was communicated to the general public?
Garvie – This is a great TV segment: <https://www.ktvu.com/video/fmc-0wr4vy5hlpd1tu6h>
- Diane (PAR) – Do you have the number of students who came for lunches?
- Katherine (CHI) – Were there any special childcare/cohort type of services/groups for parents similar to what was offered during the pandemic?
Alcalá-Veraflor – No, we didn't have coordinated programs. We opened the libraries early and offered them as places for students to go to and use.

Library Commission Report – Margot Shaub

February 19

- The FY27-28 budget was approved by the Library Commission. It will next go to the Mayor's Office for approval.
- Dr. Shawn Calhoun was elected as the Library Commission's President, and Whitney Jones as its Vice President.

March 19

- Public Services Progress Report
- Lunar New Year Presentation
- Event celebrating Kazakhstan culture by the Consulate General of Kazakhstan
- Consulate General of Japan's screening of *Paper Lanterns*, a documentary about a Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor who dedicates his life to identifying American POWs killed in the bombing.

Friends Update – Emily Garvie

City Charter Reform

- The Library Preservation Fund (LPF), approved by voters 1994, is SFPL's dedicated charter-mandated funding source. In 2022, the LPF was extended for another 25 years by voters.
- The LPF is 95% of the Library's budget.
- An effort to reform the City Charter could place proposals on the November ballot which could remove protection for the Library Preservation Fund (LPF).

- The Friends are meeting with supervisors to explain the history and importance of the LPF.

Q&A

- John (POR) – What is the argument for reforming the City Charter?
Garvie – Proposed changes to the City Charter are very broad, and include streamlining contracts, creating more accountability, and focusing on City-wide priorities, such as public health, safety and education. The argument that the Library will not be affected by the reforms and therefore, shouldn't worry, is short-sighted. Despite being a critical part of the community, the Library, prior to the creation of the LPF, was always underfunded during the annual budgeting process.
- Lindy (GPA) – Will there be a Big Book Sale this year?
Garvie – Unfortunately no. The Big Book Sale at Aquatic Park became cost prohibitive.

Library By Mail – Alex Bergman, Kevin Carpenter

- A volunteer outreach program was proposed in 1991. In 2002, Books by Mail is launched as a concierge type of service.
- Qualifications:
 - San Francisco resident
 - Have a permanent disability that prevents them from leaving home
 - Requires signature certified authority
- Patrons with a short term disability can call to discuss qualifying for the service.
- <https://sfpl.org/services/accessibility-services/library-mail>

Q&A

- Marcia (EXC) – How do patrons place holds?
Bergman – If patrons know what book they want, they can call us or go online to place a hold. We also do readers' advisory. They can call us and we will help them figure out what to read next. Due to the cost of postage, we have a two-item minimum.
- Helen (NBE) – About how many clients of this service are being utilized here in San Francisco these days? Is the funding a part of the annual budgeting process or a grant program?
Alcalá-Veraflor – Yes, funding for Library by Mail is part of the Library's budget.

Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad