



San Francisco Public Library

**MINUTES**  
**Council of Neighborhood Libraries**  
**April 23, 2026, 4:00 p.m.**  
**CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting**  
**Facilitator: Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor**

CNL Members			
Tom Gorrebeeck (ANZ)		Rasa Gustaitis (NVA)	x
Toni Hines (BAY)	x	Helen Land (NBE)	x
Katherine Hsieh (CHI)	x	Nicky Trasvina (OVI)	x
Henry Roark (EVA)	x	Johanna Lopez Miyaki (OVI)	
Marcia Parrot (EXC)		Edna James (OVI)	
Nora Dowley (GPA)		Chuck Moody (ORT)	x
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)	x	Peter Linenthal (POT)	
Deirdre Merrill (MAR)	x	Jessica Hyman (POT)	
Phil Lesure (MAR)		Julia Anaya (RIC)	
Judy Blanchard (MER)	x	Tara Cahn (RIC)	x
Kathy Mallegni (MER)	x	Deborah Oppenheim (SUN)	x
Sharon Chien (MBA)		Julia Gitis (WPO)	x
Janie Alcindor (MBA)		Monica Herbert (WSA)	
Ruth Maginnis (NVA)	x	Crystal Lê (WSA)	x

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

**Library Administrators:** Michael Lambert (City Librarian), Dolly Goyal (Chief of Public Services)  
**Guests:** Jessica Parker (Friends of SFPL)

## **Housekeeping**

### **Upcoming Meetings**

- The next **Library Commission meeting** will be on **Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)**.
- The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meeting** will be on **Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 4:00 p.m., Virtual**

## **Announcements**

### **Upcoming Open Houses**

- May 2 – Western Addition is also celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- May 2 – Merced
- May 9 – Potrero Open House and Art Show
- May 16 - Eureka Valley

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

### **The Continuing Story of Life on Earth: 25 Years of Hamburger Eyes**

- A retrospective exhibition of the photography collective, Hamburger Eyes, in the Main's lower-level Jewett Gallery.
- The photos capture vignettes of everyday life in a candid, gritty, black-and-white style.

## **Capital Projects**

- Mission
  - August 13 – job is complete
  - October 12 – final project completion
  - Mid-October – branch re-opens
- Chinatown
  - Evaluating bids from interested contractors
  - Notice to Proceed (NTP) in August, with construction beginning in late summer
  - Two-year project to be completed at the end of 2028
- Ocean View
  - No new updates - still looking to acquire the Pilgrim Community Church property

## **One Book, One Coast: They Called Us Enemy**

- Multi-state community reading initiative
- A livestream conversation with author, George Takei, takes place on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 2pm in the Main Library's Chinese Center.

## **Bruce Lee Day at SFPL - May 13th**

- Assemblymember, [Matt Haney](#), will be at the Main Library from 2-3pm in the Atrium to recognize May 17<sup>th</sup> as Bruce Lee Day.
- [Shannon Lee](#), author and Bruce Lee's daughter, will also be at the Main to promote her young adult novel, *Breath of the Dragon*. An author talk program for teens will be at the Mix from 3-7pm.
- Release of the new Bruce Lee library card!

## **Q&A**

- **Diane (Park) – Is the threat to the Library Preservation Fund (LPF) over?**

Lambert – There won't be a ballot measure this year to reform set-asides in the City Charter, however, we can't take the LPF for granted and need to stay vigilant in protecting it. I was on a panel with a few former library commissioners, who recounted when the Library's budget was cut every year, leaving zero dollars for books. We had one of the worst budgets of all urban libraries until the Friends and the Council of Neighborhood Libraries helped to get the LPF passed in 1994.

- **Kathy (Chinatown) – Is the Library able to fill its vacancies?**

Lambert – Requests to fill vacancies face more scrutiny these days, but compared to other departments, we are in a better position. The Library recently requested filling twenty-five positions and twenty-two were approved. Filling open positions at the branches is a priority.

- **Jon (Portola) – Movie palaces are being revitalized. Is there a type of library program that can be done at these theaters?**

Alcalá-Veraflor – The Roxie Theater had a screening of the movie *The Librarians*, and two Eureka Valley Branch librarians were among the special guests who spoke after the screening. We have a history of hosting programs outside of the library, like our Storytimes in parks and our Bay Beats concerts at the Golden Gate Park Bandshell, with the intention of reaching folks who are not coming to a library. We are open to having conversations about different programming ideas.

- **Diane (Park) – Park Branch Manager, Doreen, submitted a program proposal for the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference and it was accepted. She will co-present at the ALA Conference in Chicago in June to talk about the Read to Recovery program. <https://cdmcd.co/LEybgG>**

### **Library Commission Report – Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor**

- [Archived Library Commission Meetings](#)
- The upcoming May 21st meeting will include presentations on:
  - San Francisco Giants Library Day
  - Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros
  - Staff Excellence Awards
  - Programs and Exhibitions Highlights
  - Asian America, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month
  - Branch Capital Projects Update

### **Friends Update – Jess Parker**

#### **Book Sale Block Party**

- June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Friends Donation Center in Potrero Hill
- SFPL Bookmobile will be a part of the activities
- Special mural unveiling

#### **Merch**

- SFPL and Friends branded merchandise is available on the [Friends](#) website
- Sweatshirts commemorating the Hamburger Eyes exhibit are also available
- Mission Branch merchandise will launch soon!

### **Branched Division Report – Rebecca Alcalá-Veraflor**

#### **Branches Division Report Presentation**

- Rebecca shared the presentation that was given at the Library Commission Meeting on April 16.
- The branches provide a weekly total of 1,400 hours of service, with 260 full-time equivalent staff (about 400 people).
- Some branch libraries started as book stations and were later established as a library. Park Branch was established in 1909, and is the oldest branch.
- The Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP) renovated or rebuilt twenty-four of the twenty-seven branch libraries.
- The three branches that weren't a part of BLIP, Mission, Chinatown and Ocean View, are currently a part of Library Improvements for Tomorrow (LIFT).
- Important to consider context when looking at the SFPL Visits Recovery numbers.
- Patrons responding to a patron satisfaction survey gave SFPL services a rating of 8.59 or higher. Staff assistance rated highest and hours of operation rated the lowest.
- The Branch Managers will receive an Employee Excellence award for Community Catalyzer at the Library's Annual Employee Excellence Awards event.

## **Q&A**

- **Julia (West Portal) – Have the hours of operation gone back to pre-pandemic levels?**  
Alcalá-Veraflor – Yes, public service hours have been restored to either fifty or fifty-five hours per week, depending on the size and location of the branch.
- **Lindy (Glen Park) – Are all staff librarians?**  
Alcalá-Veraflor – Not all staff are librarians, but all are trained to work in the library.

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

**Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad**