



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
May 28, 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)	x	Chuck Moody (ORT)	x
Lindy Chris (GPA)	x	Marcia Erlich (PAR)	
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)	x
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)	x
Ruth Maginnis (NVA)	x	Crystal Lê (WSA)	x

COB Office			
Christy Estrovitz	x	Anne Vannucchi	
Ana Elisa de Campos Salles		Denise Sanderson	x
Genevieve Feldman		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), Michelle Jeffers (Chief of Community Programs & Partnerships), Ileana Pulu (Youth Services Manager), Alejandro Gallegos (Community Engagement Manager)

Housekeeping

Upcoming Meetings

- The next **Library Commission meeting** will be on **Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 4:30 p.m., Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)**.

- The next **Council of Neighborhood Libraries Meeting** will be on **Thursday, June 25, 2026**, at **4:00 p.m., Virtual**

Announcements

Upcoming Open Houses

- June 6 – Portola Branch
- June 6 – Richmond Branch
- June 13 – Chinatown Branch

San Francisco Pride Parade

- SFPL will participate in the SF Pride Parade on Sunday, June 28.
- CNL members are welcome to be a part of the SFPL contingent. Reach out to the COB office if you are interested.

65th Annual Potrero Hill Artist Exhibition

- Open now and runs through August at the Potrero Branch
- Our own Bayview representative, Toni Hines, has a portrait hanging in the show!

City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

SFPL Budget Hearings

- Chief Operating Officer, Maureen Singleton, and Chief Financial Officer, Mike Fernandez, did a stellar job presenting the budget to the Board of Supervisors.
- Despite the Board's attempt to eliminate the Library's Information Officer position, they were able to retain this key position, and recruitment will follow in the weeks ahead.

AANHPI Heritage Month

- Bruce Lee Celebrations
 - Assemblymember Matt Haney's announcement of California Bill that honors Bruce Lee
 - Author talk with Shannon Lee, Bruce Lee's daughter
 - Crafts, film screenings, martial arts demos
- Author, Dion Lim discusses her book, [*Amplify! My Fight for Asian America*](#)
- Livestreamed conversation with author, George Takai about his graphic memoir, [*They Called Us Enemy*](#)

Capital Projects

- Mission Branch - renovation will be 94% completed in August and fully completed in October.
- Chinatown Branch - the bid process for is complete and the Notice to Proceed (NTP) will come at the end of the summer. The branch is expected to close on September 21st with the temporary site opening in early fall.
- Ocean View Branch – interest in acquiring the Pilgrim Community Church and working with Public Works to do a massing and a feasibility study.

Q&A

- **Lindy (GPA) – Has SFPL been affected by the movement to remove books from public library shelves?**
Lambert (LIB) – The Library has something to offend everyone and will always protect the right to read. We are lucky that we have not had to defend ourselves against attempts to ban books. I highly recommend the documentary, [*The Librarians*](#), found on Kanopy, to learn more about how librarians are responding to censorship and book bans.

Library Commission Report – Margot Shuab

- [Archived Library Commission Meetings](#)
- The May 21st meeting included presentations on:
 - San Francisco Giants Library Day
 - Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros
 - SFPL Employee Excellence Awards
 - Programs and Exhibitions Highlights
 - Branch Capital Projects Update
- The upcoming June 18 meeting will include presentations on:
 - Bruce Lee Day
 - Summer Stride
 - Tech Week
 - Annual Pride and Hormel Center Updates

Q&A

- **Toni (BAY) – Very little has been mentioned about Black History Month during the Library Commission meetings.**

Lambert (LIB) – The Main Library’s Open House is on June 13th. We are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Main and the African American Center and will be in conversation with the pioneering scholar of intersectionality and critical race theory, [Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw](#). We strive to celebrate Black History and will continue to try to do better.

Friends Update – Jessica Parker

Stong Legacy Breakfast

- The event, named in honor of ardent SFPL supporter, Mary Louise Stong, takes place on Friday, June 5th at the Eureka Valley Branch from 9-11am.
- Purpose is to connect with library supporters and share the Friends Strategic Plan and its vision for supporting SFPL.

Book Sale Block Party

- The fourth annual event is on Saturday, June 6th from 12-5pm at the Friends Donation Center (1630 – 17th Street)
- Author talks and readings, crafts, and the SFPL Bookmobile

Q&A

- **Katherine (CHI) – How is it going with the sale of Mission Branch merch to help raise funds?**

Jessica (Friends) – We are still working out the logistics of having items in stock for orders. We plan to have images of the new public art piece at the branch on the merch and hope to have it available for our end of year campaign.

Alcalá-Veraflor – If you have more questions for Jessica, feel free to contact her at Jessica.Parker@friendssfpl.org.

One City Day – Michelle Jeffers

- Citywide day of volunteer service on July 11, 2026
- Volunteer opportunities to help clean up the outdoor and storytime spaces at seven branch libraries
- Branches participating in One City Day are Merced, North Beach, Ortega, Portola, Presidio, Richmond, and Western Addition

- Kickoff rally on July 11th with First Lady Becca Prowda at McCoppin Square Park next to the Parkside Branch.

National Good Neighbor Day – Julia Gitis

- Celebrated every year on September 28th, National Good Neighbor Day was first proclaimed in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter as a day to build connections with our neighbors.
- Libraries play a role in our communities as places where neighbors can get together and get to know each other.
- Nominate your neighbor for an [SF Good Neighbor Award](#).
- Check to see if your neighborhood association is participating
- [Good Neighbor Day Library Resource Guide](#)

Summer Stride – Ileana Pulu and Alejandro Gallegos

- SFPL's major literacy event from June through August.
- Author and illustrator, Nidhi Chanani is the 2026 Summer Stride artist
- San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) Recommended Summer Reading lists for students in Pre-K to Grade 12.
- Free book giveaways for youth
- Over 500 programs for all ages
- [Media mention in the Examiner](#)

Q&A

- **Marcia (EXC) – Are you planning to have extra copies of the books on the reading list?**
Ileana (LIB) – Yes, the Collection Development Team anticipates the increased need and orders more copies. If all copies are checked out, we have a list of similar titles.
- **Nicky (OVI) – Will there be park shuttles this year?**
Alejandro (LIB) – Yes, there will be ten trips from various branches.
Estrovitz (LIB) - This marks the 10th year of partnership and free shuttles from libraries to parks!
- **Nicky (OVI) – How are you able to get such great prizes for the monthly raffles?**
Alejandro – We have good partnerships with other organizations. We just approach them and ask and they donate. Prizes are available at all locations.
- **Helen (NBE) - Is the Library able to quantify how active and successful the reading program using the Summer Reading promotion worked?**
Alejandro - We had over 30,000 participants last year, and over 20,000 who finished. Not quite sure how to measure how the art/promotion/etc. drove that number. I think it reminds people, draws in new people, but the bulk of our participation, I believe, is our staff engaging people using these materials.
Alcalá-Veraflor – CNL members can also help spread the word about Summer Stride. If you would like some promotional materials, ask for them at your branch or contact the COB office (cob@sfpl.org).

Adjournment: 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad