

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.

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).

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, 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.

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

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

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**).

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.

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.

Meeting adjourned by President Calhoun. At 6:41 PM

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

ADDENDUM

Under Administrative Code section 67.16 of the Sunshine Ordinance, any person who spoke during public comment at a meeting of a Charter board or commission may supply a brief written summary of the comments to be included in the minutes if it is 150 words or less. The summary is not part of the Commission's official minutes, and the Commission does not vouch for its accuracy.

General Public Comment Submitted

Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance. Don't give, don't accept money from the Friends of the Library." Has that comment ever been more justified?

This building was promoted with the slogan "Building the House of the Book." People valued libraries because books and words promote connection to our heritage and each other. You now promote the principle that words mean nothing. Deaccessioning books became a national scandal. Dysfunctional nature of this building became a national scandal. You surrendered your accreditation to prevent a national scandal.

This month you violated your bylaws to amend your bylaws and ignored Library Users Association because you can defeat the truth by sticking together.

Your Strategic Plan abandons the nobility of "Marian the Librarian" in favor of pooltables.

Citizens protesting that libraries are poisonous and oppressive are the "Librarians."

You should apologize to those who warned you "the lies cost more than the money."