



San Francisco Public Library

**MINUTES**  
**Council of Neighborhood Libraries**  
**March 28, 2019**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting Location:** Latino Hispanic Room

**Facilitator:** Cathy Delneo, Chief of Branches

**Attendees:** AJ Cave (ANZ), Larry Ware (BAY) Excused, Lena Yu (CHI) Excused, Penni Wisner (EVA), Marcia Parrott (EXC), Ruth Grabowski (EXC) Excused, Nora Dowley (GPA) Excused, Jules Older (GGV), Gail Seagraves (Main), Susan Leurey (MER), Judy Blanchard (MER), Mailine Chew (MBA), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Kathleen McClay (NBE), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE) Excused, Pinkie Bolden (OVI) Excused, Edna James (OVI), Bessie Hahn (ORT), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR) Excused, Michael Leahy (PSI) Excused, Don Thielges (POR) Excused, Marcia Popper (PRE), Kaitlyn Tran (PRE), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Joan Walton (SUN) Excused, Deborah Oppenheim (SUN) Excused, Rochelle Fort (VVA) Excused, Maryam Roberts (WPO) Excused, Callen Taylor (WSA) Excused

**Library Administrators:** Michael Lambert (City Librarian), Michelle Jeffers (Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships), Tom Fortin (Chief of Main), Sue Blackman (Library Commission Secretary)

**HOUSEKEEPING**

- The next **CNL Meeting** will be on **Thursday April 25, 2019, 4:00 p.m. in the Latino Hispanic Meeting Room, Main Library.**
- The next **Library Commission Meeting** will be on **Thursday, April 18, 2019, 4:30 p.m. in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.**

CNL Members to attend the upcoming Library Commission Meeting:

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Please contact the Chief of Branches Office if you would like to volunteer to attend the meeting

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming Branch Open Houses**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 20</b>	<b>Mission Bay</b>	<b>10 am – 4 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 20</b>	<b>Sunset</b>	<b>1-5 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 27</b>	<b>Portola</b>	<b>1 – 5 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 27</b>	<b>Golden Gate Valley</b>	<b>11 am – 3 Pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b>West Portal</b>	<b>11 am – 4 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 4</b>	<b>Potrero</b>	<b>5 – 8 pm</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>May 8</b>	<b>Merced</b>	<b>5 – 8:30 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b>Mission</b>	<b>11 am – 3 pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 11</b>	<b>North Beach</b>	<b>12 – 4 pm</b>

- Gail Seagraves, our newest CNL member representing the Main Library, was introduced. Gail has lived in the Tenderloin for 10 years and serves on the board of directors for the Tenderloin Housing Clinic, is a tour guide at the Tenderloin Museum, and was a volunteer for Matt Haney’s campaign for District 6 Supervisor. She is an avid user of the Main Library.

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- The meeting minutes for March 28, 2019 were approved without a quorum.

## UPDATES

### City Librarian’s Report – Michael Lambert

- City Librarian Recruitment Update
  - Michael Lambert was appointed as the new City Librarian, and is the first Asian-American in San Francisco to hold this position. He has most recently served as the Deputy City Librarian since 2014 and Acting City Librarian for the past year. Michael says that he feels privileged to have been appointed! He shared his plans to meet with staff at all the branches and the Main to ask how they want to contribute in continuing to make SFPL a premier urban library.
  - Laura Lay, a librarian working at the Bridge at the Main, was named one of Library Journal’s Movers and Shakers. Laura pioneered the innovative Free Orton Gillingham (FOG) Readers Program, which pairs volunteer tutors with students. After the first three

months of tutoring the reading level of once-struggling readers improves exponentially. This program is in place at the Main Library and 22 branch libraries currently

### **Library Commission Report – Sue Blackman, Tom Fortin**

- **Outstanding Overdue Fines**
  - In January the Library Commission approved going fine free in order to improve access to library services to folks who are disproportionately affected by overdue fines: low-income populations, racial minority communities and those without college degrees.
  - At the most recent Library Commission Meeting, the Library Commission voted in favor of forgiving all outstanding overdue fine debt if the resolution to go fine free is approved by the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor. This will help to restore library access to patrons whose borrowing privileges have been blocked solely due to overdue fines.
- **Biodiversity Initiatives**
  - Kelley Trahan, the librarian at the Wallace Stegner Environmental Center, shared a presentation about the work the Library has undertaken along with with other City departments to support San Francisco's Biodiversity Policy. This policy focuses on conservation and connection to nature within San Francisco's urban environment.
  - Kelley worked with the Department of the Environment to produce a survey of the Library's programs and initiatives that support biodiversity:  
[Baseline Biodiversity Survey: SFPL](#)
  - Marcia (PRE) reported that the rain garden at the Presidio Branch, completed in 2018 and is included in the biodiversity survey, has helped to eliminate the flooding in the park surrounding the branch.

### **Night of Ideas – Michelle Jeffers**

- SFPL collaborated with the San Francisco French Consulate, and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art to present [Night of Ideas](#), a free seven-hour marathon event of music and dance performances, art, yoga, and talks relating to the theme, City of the Future. KQED was the media partner for the event.
- The event was held in the Main Library on February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m.
- Despite the very rainy weather, over 6,000 people attended the Night of Ideas!
- Two sessions held that night were hosted by hosted by KQED's Michael Krasny and were broadcast live on KQED's *Forum*. Those programs can be heard here: [Night of Ideas | KQED Forum | KQED Public Media for Northern CA](#)
- The Library hopes to get feedback from its curator partners to distill and present the ideas shared during the evening.

### **Neighborhood Sharing**

- *The Public*
  - Along with GLIDE's Center for Social Justice and the Coalition on Homelessness, the Library co-sponsored a free screening of the movie *The Public* was held at GLIDE on March 10, 2018.

- A panel discussion hosted by Bevan Duffy followed the movie. The panel featured Emilio Estevez (the movie's writer, director, and star), Library Social Worker Leah Esguerra, the Coalition on Homelessness's Kelly Cutler, and community member Cooper Orona.
- The movie takes place in a public library, and addresses the issues of homelessness.
- Mr. Estevez indicated during the panel discussion that the inspiration for the movie was an essay ([Spreading Enlightenment](#)) written by former City Librarian Luis Herrera in the book **The Public Library: A photographic essay** by Robert Dawson (Princeton Architectural Press, 2014). The essay includes a narrative about Leon Veal, a retired SFPL employee who had been homeless and unable to read, but ultimately had a fulfilling career after learning to read through Project Read then joining the staff of the San Francisco Public Library.
- Capital Projects Community Engagement Meetings
  - Mission Branch has had a second round of community meetings earlier this year.
  - Ocean View Branch had two well attended meetings in March. In addition to continuing to explore test fits to maximize public space at the existing Ocean View Library location, the Library is exploring the possibility of building a new library on another site and is working with Supervisor Safaii's Office, Real Estate, and Public Works on that possibility.
  - Chinatown Community Engagement meetings are scheduled for June 2019.
- Edna (OVI) – The Ocean View neighborhood held its first Mardi Gras parade this year! Residents marched down a block of Randolph Street with a band, and had food afterwards at the community center. It was fun event that they hope to do again next year.
- Take Part Program / SF Model
  - Viewing the model at the library has been extended through April 28, 2019.
  - The model has been well received, and there has been a good turnout for model-related programs.
  - The artists who created the Take Part project, Bik Van der Pol, aimed to have the model create city wide engagement.
  - Marcia (PRE) commented that the SF Model sparked conversations between the people viewing it.
  - A.J. (ANZ) suggested that the model should be digitized using 3D scanners.
- HERstory
  - [HERStory](#) is SFPL's celebration of Women's History month featuring a variety of lectures, films, performances, and programs throughout the branches.
  - An event at the Main Library on March 5<sup>th</sup>, International Women's Day, was sponsored by the Friends of the Commission on the Status of Women, and featured guest speaker Rosie Rios, the 43<sup>rd</sup> Treasurer of the United States. The event also featured the art exhibits at the Main Library that are on display for Women's History Month.

**Adjournment: 5:30 pm**

**Respectfully Submitted by Florinda Battad**