



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
May 23, 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), Jules Older (GGV), Gail Seagraves (Main), Susan Leurey (MER), Judy Blanchard (MER), Mailine Chew (MBA), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Kathleen McClay (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Diane Silver (PAR), Kaitlyn Tran (PRE)
Larry Ware (BAY) Excused, Lena Yu (CHI) Excused, Penni Wisner (EVA) Excused, Marcia Parrott (EXC) Excused, Ruth Grabowski (EXC) Excused, Nora Dowley (GPA) Excused, Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE) Excused, Pinkie Bolden (OVI) Excused, Bessie Hahn (ORT) Excused, Michael Leahy (PSI) Excused, Don Thielges (POR) Excused, Marcia Popper (PRE) Excused, Elaine Cahn (RIC) Excused, 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), Tom Fortin (Chief of Main), Sue Blackman (Library Commission Secretary)

Guests: Jeanie Austin (Jail and Reentry Services - JARS)

HOUSEKEEPING

- The next **CNL Meeting** will be on **Thursday June 27, 2019, 4:00 p.m. in the Latino Hispanic Meeting Room, Main Library.**
- The next **Library Commission Meeting** will be on **Thursday, June 20, 2019, 4:30 p.m. in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.**

CNL Members to attend the upcoming Library Commission Meeting:

_____ & _____

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming Branch Open Houses**

Saturday	June 8	Chinatown	2 – 5 pm
Saturday	June 8	Western Addition	1-5 pm
Saturday	June 15	Eureka Valley	12 – 4 pm
Saturday	June 15	Anza	1-4 pm

- Three Chinatown Community Engagement Meetings to discuss the renovation of the Chinatown Branch are scheduled in June:
 - Storytime Meeting on Saturday, June 15 (11 am)
 - Weekend Meeting on Saturday, June 15 (1 pm)
 - Evening Meeting on Tuesday, June 18 (7 pm)

UPDATES

City Librarian’s Report – Michael Lambert

- **Management Team Retreat**

The SFPL Management Team had a retreat at the California Academy of Sciences. The team was given a special tour of the Academy Library, a research library devoted to natural history and the natural sciences. The opportunity to see rare books by James Audubon was one of the highlights of the tour.
- **2019 City Survey**

The City Survey is the biennial survey of San Francisco residents assessing their use of and satisfaction with various city services. The Library continues to improve and earn the highest ratings among City services, receiving an “A-”. The Library received four of the five highest ratings on the survey, including quality of assistance from library staff. 93% of respondents gave staff an “A” or “B”.
- **2019 Staff Recognition Awards**

Each year, staff nominate and award their fellow employees who have exhibited outstanding work and dedication to the San Francisco Public Library. The awards breakfast and ceremony are supported by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, and takes place on May 31st.
- **Budget FY20-21**

The Library budget will go before the Board of Supervisors in June. One of the resolutions seeking approval is the elimination of all overdue fines.

- **SFPL Volunteer Appreciation Event**

Library volunteers help out in the branches in a variety of ways, from gardening, to tutoring, to assisting with programs. A breakfast honoring them will take place on June 2nd. CNL reps are invited to attend!

- **West Portal Open House and 80th Anniversary of the WPA building**

One of the highlights of the West Portal Open House was an open mic for community members to share anecdotes and their love for the library. Among those sharing stories was retired San Mateo County Judge Quentin Kopp, and former San Francisco Supervisor representing the West Portal neighborhood. He spoke eloquently about the value of public libraries.

- **Exploratorium Public Spaces Exhibit**

An exhibit exploring social psychology will be installed in Larkin Plaza, between the Main Library and the Asian Art Museum. The public can interact with the installation, and get a sense of where they are on the empathy spectrum.

Library Commission Report – Sue Blackman,

- **Maya Angelou Public Art Project**

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution that urged City departments to recognize the contribution that women have made to San Francisco and the world.

- With input from the Library Commission and the City Librarian, the San Francisco Arts Commission will erect a work of art at the Main Library depicting Dr. Maya Angelou.
- Three artists have been selected to present their ideas, with the work of one of the artists to be chosen in September, and installed before 2020.

- [Maya Angelou Public Art Project](#)

- [May Angelou Public Art Memo: May 13, 2019](#)

- Edna (OVI) – *How was Maya Angelou chosen?*

Maya Angelou was selected, not only for her notoriety as a poet and activist, but she was also San Francisco's first African American female cable car conductor

- **Trends in Library Collections**

The Library's Chief of Collections and Technical Services, Shellie Cocking gave a presentation on how the collections at SFPL are changing in response to the changing needs of our patrons. Shellie will come to a CNL meeting to share in the near future.

- [Trends in Library Collections](#)

- **Summer Stride 2019**

The Library's annual summer reading and learning program begins June 1st through August 18th. Once again the Library is partnering with Chronicle Books, and is featuring artwork by Zachariah OHora, the illustrator of the book, *Bikes for Sale* by Carter Higgins. The Library is partnering with the National Park Service again this year, and offering free shuttle trips to national park sites from some SFPL locations.

- [Summer Stride 2019](#)

- CNL members are encouraged to attend the Library Commission meetings. Everyone who attends the meeting Commission Meetings is welcome to speak. Feedback from the community helps to inform the decisions of the commissioners. Public Comment periods follow each agenda item that is presented. Public Comment at Library Commission Meetings is typically limited to 3 minutes. This ensures everyone has a chance to share their feedback and that the meeting runs smoothly, is a reasonable length, and that people can anticipate the time specific topics on the agenda will begin.
 - A.J (ANZ) - *The three minutes that are allotted for each speaker to comment is not always enough time.*
Sue Blackman shared that in addition to your three minute public comment time, community members can submit a 150 word statement to the Commission.
- The group thought it would be a good idea to invite the president of the Library Commission to speak at a future CNL Meeting.

Jail and Reentry Services (JARS) – Jeanie Austin

- The Jail and Reentry Services (JARS) program is a part of the Library’s Community Programs and Partnerships Division, and provides books and reference services to people inside San Francisco’s county jails, as well as reentry support for people who have recently experienced incarceration.
- Internet access for those in jail is limited and expensive. The JARS program helps connect inmates with information covering a broad spectrum of topics.
- Prior to incarceration, many inmates were library users. Incarceration impacts not only the individual, but their families, kids and their community as well.
- Direct Service
 - The JARS librarians visit the jails once a week with a cartful of new, donated and redistributed SFPL books that can be borrowed.
 - They serve up to 1400 adults in three county jails, and up to 60 youth in the Juvenile Justice Center, prioritizing visits to inmates in administrative segregation, and to those in psychiatric and medical isolation.
- Reference by Mail
 - Modeled on NYPL’s 30-year-old service
 - Over 1500 letters were answered in the first year of the program
- Reentry Support
 - Existing library services at [The Bridge at Main](#) are available for folks who are getting out of jail. Storytimes and special events at neighborhood branches are available for their families.
 - Improvements have been made to circulation procedures that enable staff to better serve inmates with reentry.
- Programs and Events
 - Author visits and screenings of the documentaries *Life After Life* and *The Feminist on Cellblock Y*.
 - In August there will be a free guided tour of Alcatraz for JARS staff and people who have been incarcerated.
- Ruth (NVA) – *What kind of books are needed? What is acceptable?*
All types of books are needed and requested, from African-American literature, to San Francisco history, to starting a small business. The program partners with the Sheriff’s

Department, and they haven't voiced any complaints about the materials that are brought in by JARS staff.

- Edna (OVI) – *Do you have any special needs clients?*

There is an inmate who is deaf, and another who is blind. JARS was able to work with the Library's Access Services to provide Talking Books (audiobooks played on special devices provided by the library). The inmate who is blind is in administrative segregation, and says that the having books available has changed his life.

Adjournment: 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad