



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
June 27, 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), Penni Wisner (EVA), 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), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Joan Walton (SUN), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN)
Larry Ware (BAY) Excused, Lena Yu (CHI) Excused, Marcia Parrott (EXC) Excused, Ruth Grabowski (EXC) Excused, Nora Dowley (GPA) Excused, Jules Older (GGV) Excused, Gail Seagraves (Main) Excused, Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE) Excused, Pinkie Bolden (OVI) Excused, Bessie Hahn (ORT) Excused, Marcia Ehrlich (PAR) Excused, Michael Leahy (PSI) Excused, Don Thielges (POR) Excused, Marcia Popper (PRE) Excused, Rochelle Fort (VVA) Excused, Maryam Roberts (WPO) Excused, Callen Taylor (WSA) Excused

Library Administrators: Michael Lambert (City Librarian), Sue Blackman (Library Commission Secretary), Tom Fortin (Chief of Main),

Guests: Michael-Vincent D'Anella-Mercanti (Friends), Kayla Velloso (Friends)

HOUSEKEEPING

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

CNL Members to attend the upcoming Library Commission Meeting:

_____ & _____

Updates on the Branch Capital Projects will be discussed at the next Library Commission Meeting. Please contact the Chief of Branches Office if you would like to volunteer to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The new Branch Open House schedule is being finalized. The COB office will send it out to the CNL members once it is ready.
- Mailine Chew is resigning as the representative for Mission Bay Branch to become one of the representatives for the Main Library.
- The Friends of SFPL
 - The summer edition of Books and Brews, a fun event where folks can buy books while drinking beer, was held at Anchor Public Taps on June 23rd. The money raised from the sale of every book goes towards the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.
 - There will be a Friends Member appreciation party in July.
 - The Annual Friends Big Book Sale will be held on September 18 -22, with the Member Preview Sale and Reception on September 17.

UPDATES

City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

- Michael introduced Youth Works Intern, Mike Carriere.
- Michael attended a meeting of the Civic Design Review Committee of the San Francisco Arts Commission, where the first phase of the Mission Branch Library Renovation was approved.
- Michael also attended two Board of Supervisors budget hearings. The Library received praise for its decision to go fine free.
- The Library has a healthy budget - \$173.8M for fiscal year 2020 and \$169.3M for fiscal year 2021, with the collections budget being the largest per capita in the country. The Library is also receiving a grant of \$800,000 from the Friends for fiscal year 2020.
- Branch Capital Project Updates

Chinatown Branch Renovation Community Meetings

- \$29.4M has been allocated for a renovation of the Chinatown / Him Mark Lai Branch Library.
- The first round of community meetings related to the upcoming renovation were held at Chinatown Branch. These meetings were facilitated by Terry Carlson, the District Manager currently overseeing Chinatown Branch, and Cathy Delneo.
- Two of the meetings were conducted in Cantonese and one was conducted in English.
- Each of the meetings drew 15-18 engaged participants who provided input on ways to improve the branch. The success of the meetings can be attributed to the fact that two of

the meetings were entirely in Cantonese, and that Cantonese and Mandarin interpretation was available for the meeting entirely in English.

- The issue that was raised most was that the branch currently doesn't have enough seating.
- Community members would also like to have sound insulated rooms where patrons can meet and speak at full voice.
- Based on community feedback and questions, in the coming months, Chinatown staff will be arranging for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Chinatown Branch as well as an armchair tour of libraries in other communities. These will be presented as library programs.

Mission Branch Renovation

- \$19.6M is allocated for a renovation of the Mission Branch Library.
- On June 17, the Civic Design Review Committee of the San Francisco Arts Commission approved plans to build a modest expansion on the Orange Alley side of the branch, to restore the 16th Street entrance, and to restore a central staircase at the Mission Branch.
- Public Works will further refine the plans based on feedback from the Civic Design Review Committee, before going before the Historic Preservation Commission. Eventually, an updated plan that will be brought back to the Library Commission and the community for feedback.

Ocean View Branch Renovation

- \$10.5M has been earmarked for the renovation of the Ocean View Branch at its current location. The cost of an entirely new facility has not yet been determined.
- Responding to the Ocean View community's interest in having a new building, Supervisor Safai's Office identified a mini park on Brotherhood Way and Head Street as a possible site.
- The Library has asked Public Works to produce a feasibility report related to that proposed site, which they aim to bring to the Library Commission in September 2019.

- Eureka Valley Branch Landscape Improvement Project

The landscaping project works not only to improve safety and security in the area around the branch and in the parking lot, but to create grounds that are welcoming and attractive. To this end, boulders have been installed as an aesthetic element.

- Facilities Master Plan

The Library's Facilities team is working with Public Works to create a data driven, detailed audit of our City's 27 branches.

- The Branch Library Improvement Program began almost fourteen years ago; it is time to think about what improvements may be needed in existing branches.
- The Facilities Master Plan will help systematically identify the needs of the branches.
- The Facilities Master Plan will also be used to determine what needs, if any, there are for additional branch libraries – or new non-branch library service points - in San Francisco.
- Ruth (NVA) – *Where are new branches needed?*
There may be a need in the southeast corridor of the city, as that area is planned to rapidly grow in coming years. For example, the Hunters View community has requested

on-site library service. The Library has to be creative in how it can provide services since no new positions can be created. At Hunters View, library service could be provided at an outlet where community members have access to kiosks, book delivery lockers, and WiFi. The community room already in use at that location could be leveraged for library programs using our existing outreach model.

- A.J. (ANZ) suggested having pop-up libraries and temporarily operate in an existing business or space.
- Diane (PAR) – *Does the need come from the Supervisor or library users?*
The Library has heard from both the Supervisor and library users in some parts of the city.

Library Commission Report – Michael Lambert

- **Exploratorium Exhibit**

Middle Ground is the name of the Exploratorium exhibit that explores social psychology, and will be on display as part of the Civic Center Commons Initiative.

- **One City One Book**

The book selected for the 15th Annual citywide reading program is *There There* by Tommy Orange, which tells the story of urban Native Americans living in Oakland. The program coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the American Indian occupation of Alcatraz. There will be a lot of great programming celebrating native indigenous cultures throughout October and November.

American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference – Cathy Delneo

At the ALA Annual Conference held in Washington D.C., attendees had an opportunity to tour four libraries in the area. Cathy created a google photo album, and engaged CNL reps on an armchair tour of the libraries she visited. The album is available here:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/91Rn7akJHebnFENb8>

- **Laurel Branch**

- Located in suburban Maryland, this modern branch features courtesy charging stations, a print center, multiple large community rooms, and a number of quiet study rooms for small group use and a larger “whisper room” for individuals to use together.
- The branch features an open floorplan that allows visitors to see across the room, large windows that brings the park surrounding the library indoors, and a model dinosaur skeleton that can be seen through the floor in the Children’s room.
- The sheer space they had for this branch is enviable for us here in SF!
- Outside the building there is a huge parking lot with permeable pavers, a water park for kid, a kids play zone, and some very large rain gardens for plantings and storm drainage.

- **Woodridge Branch**

- The Woodridge Branch is an urban library in Washington, DC, located in an underserved community.

- Attendance doubled after the branch was renovated.
- Some noteworthy features include a rooftop garden, and an unattended space on the third floor, stadium seating adjacent to the primary staircase, and outdoor porches that take advantage of the branch's adjacency to the park.
- **Cleveland Park Branch**
 - The Cleveland Park Branch is in a historic district of Washington, DC. While the building isn't a landmark, it did need to fit within the context of that established historic business district.
 - The community was very engaged and particular about what they wanted in their branch!
 - The result of which is a library with the latest design trends and a very stylish and modern feel.
 - Edna (OVI) – *What is the capacity?*
27,000 square feet
- **West End Branch**
 - Also in Washington, DC, the West End Branch is collocated with a condominium complex. The library is on the first floor adjacent to a café.
 - The modern interior is light-filled with ample seating.
 - Large scale artworks adorn the walls of the adult and children's rooms.

Questions

- Marcia (EXC) – *Did the libraries have creative ways for storage? Did they have laptop kiosks?*
The Laurel Branch had a large, well-organized closet. The Woodridge Branch served a community that needed access to technology and decided to prioritize desktop computers.
- Susan (MER) – *Did the branches have security issues?*
Security wasn't discussed during the visit. It seems noteworthy that we observed very little behavior that would violate our Code of Conduct at SFPL.
- Marcia (EXC) – *What were some of the lessons learned in visiting these libraries?*
The libraries seem to be getting a good return on their investment. Library use has increased after the renovations. Ample seating and multiple study rooms make the libraries feel like community living rooms. The spaces seem to encourage patrons to stay and use the library.
- Penni (EVA) – *What are your thoughts about the drive up window and the permeable pavers at the Laurel Branch Library in Maryland?*
Staff at the Laurel Branch actually commented that the drive-up window does not get used very frequently as most people opt to come into the building when they visit. It was good to see green design elements like the rain gardens and the permeable pavers. Penni (EVA) - *The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission has a \$6M fund to support permeable paving projects.*

Branch Sharing – All

- CNL members are encouraged to share with the Chief of Branches office any topics they would like to discuss at future meetings!
- Penni (EVA) – *Is the Library recruiting a new Head of Security?*
Yes, SFPL is recruiting a new head of Security, and is moving into the interview phase of that recruitment soon. The Library's former Security Chief, Omar Castillo, left for another opportunity with the City and County of San Francisco back in December 2018.

Adjournment: 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad