



San Francisco Public Library

MINUTES
Council of Neighborhood Libraries
July 25, 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), Marcia Parrot (EXC), Jules Older (GGV), Gail Seagraves (Main), Mailine Chew (Main), Susan Leurey (MER), Judy Blanchard (MER), Kathleen McClay (NBE), Edna James (OVI), Diane Silver (PAR), Kaitlyn Tran (PRE), Deborah Oppenheim (SUN)

Excused:

Larry Ware (BAY), Lena Yu (CHI), Ruth Grabowski (EXC), Nora Dowley (GPA), Ruth Maginnis (NVA), Tyrone (Ty) Robinson (NBE), Bessie Hahn (ORT), Marcia Ehrlich (PAR), Michael Leahy (PSI), Don Thielges (POR), Marcia Popper (PRE), Elaine Cahn (RIC), Joan Walton (SUN), Rochelle Fort (VVA), Maryam Roberts (WPO), Callen Taylor (WSA)

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

Guests: Michael-Vincent D'Anella-Mercanti (Friends), Philip Gray (OVI community member)

HOUSEKEEPING

- The next **CNL Meeting** will be on **Thursday, August 22, 2019, 4:00 p.m. in the Latino Hispanic Meeting Room, Main Library.**
- The next **Library Commission Meeting** will be on **Thursday, August 15, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Cathy introduce Philip Gray, who is considering becoming the CNL representative for the Ocean View Branch.
- The Ocean View Branch will have an Open House on Saturday, August 3rd from 12 – 3 pm. There are a lot of fun activities planned, so it will be a great time to visit the branch!
- Kaitlyn Tran will attend the University of San Francisco to study kinesiology in the fall - congratulations Kaitlyn! Even with college beginning in the fall, Kaitlyn will continue to serve as one of the representatives for the Presidio Branch.
- Branch staffing updates:
 - Ana Elisa de Campos Salles is the new Branch Manager of the Parkside Branch.
 - Melanie McCallum reassigned from her position as the Adult Services Manger Richmond Branch to Branch Manager position at the Mission Bay Branch.
 - Valerie Reichert retired as the Bernal Heights Branch Manager.
 - Recruitment has begun for four District Manager positions in the Chief of Branches Office.
- The Friends of SFPL will hold their Annual Friends Big Book Sale on September 18 – 22, with the Member Preview Sale and Reception on September 17. CNL representatives were asked to spread the word that once again there will be an opportunity to sponsor a table stand at the book sale. The stands are positioned in the middle of the tables with the sponsor's name or business and a personal message.

UPDATES

City Librarian's Report – Michael Lambert

- Michael thanked Jules (GGV) for his interview in San Francisco Magazine: <https://sanfran.com/a-conversation-with-san-francisco-city-librarian-michael-lambert>.
- Michael served as the Master of Ceremonies at the Community Tech Network's Digital Leader Awards. SFPL's Kate Eppler, Program Manager at The Bridge at Main, won the Digital Champion Award for her work to increase access to technology in communities that need it the most.
- SFPL welcomed 30 librarians from China. While SFPL can take note of China's approach to innovation (such as 24 hour libraries), the visiting librarians noticed how in the US, libraries are more engaged with and focused on the community.
- The Annual Service Pins Presentation will take place on July 26th. Four staff members will receive pins recognizing their 40 years of service at SFPL, exemplifying the staying power and commitment of staff. Noe Valley Branch Manager, Denise Sanderson will receive her 20 year pin at the ceremony.

Library Commission Report – Sue Blackman

- **Branch Capital Projects**

- **Mission Branch**

- The San Francisco Arts Commission’s Civic Design Review Committee approved the schematic plans to build an expansion on the branch.
- Next steps:
 - Historic planning approvals Fall 2019
 - Community engagement November 2019
 - Design completion Spring 2020
 - Bidding Fall 2020
 - Construction start Winter 2020
 - Library temporary location 2 years
 - Library reopening Fall 2022

- **Ocean View Branch**

- The Ocean View community does not feel that renovating the branch will be adequate to meet their needs, and with support from Supervisor Ahsha Safai, have expressed their interest in building a larger library.
- The Library has asked Public Works to conduct a Feasibility Study of a potential site identified by Supervisor Safai. The site is a mini-park located on Head Street and Brotherhood Way.
- Edna (OVI) supports building a new branch and noted accessibility issues at the proposed site.
- Philip (OVI) shared his suggestion that the vacant lot across the street from the current branch would be an ideal location to build a new branch, as it would encourage development along the Randolph Street corridor, is friendly to pedestrians and adjacent to public transportation, and would allow the youth in the neighborhood to continue to utilize the mini-park as they do now.
- Outdoor play elements have been included as part of the library at the Richmond Branch. The Library will factor in the youth who use the park when exploring what will be possible at this location. All ideas will be exhausted before pivoting back to renovating the branch.
- Next steps:
 - Site studies July – August
 - Feasibility Study complete September 2019
 - Library Commission report October 17, 2019
 - Community meetings November 2019

- **Chinatown Branch**

- There were three well attended community engagement meetings in June where the public were able to voice their suggestions and opinions on the upcoming renovation. Two meetings were conducted in Cantonese with English and Mandarin translation and one meeting was conducted in English with Cantonese and Mandarin translation.
- Next steps:
 - Programming Fall 2019
 - Concept designs Winter 2020
 - Community engagement Spring 2020
 - Design documentation Spring 2020 – Spring 2021

- Bidding Summer 2021 (pending funding availability)
- Construction start Fall 2021
- Library temporary location 2 years
- Library reopening Summer 2023

- **Fuhrman Bequest Property Dispositions - [Fuhrman Bequest Properties](#)**

In 1941, as part of the estate bequest of Alfred Fuhrman, cash, stocks and land were distributed to the San Francisco Public Libraries and Golden Gate Park. Approximately 1500 acres in Kern and Fresno County remain in the portfolio.

- The Department of Real Estate is recommending that the Library Commission adopt a resolution that recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve the sale of the 40 acres of Fresno County property for \$170,000.
- Chevron leases 800 acres of the 1400 acres in Kern County. The City’s “Keep it in the Ground” ordinance prohibits the leasing of City property for fossil fuel extraction, so the lease will not be renewed upon expiration on March 31, 2020.
- The Department of Real Estate will also facilitate the sale of the property in Kern County.
- Edna (OVI) – *Will the building of the California bullet train increase the value of the properties?* No. The properties are not along the planned route of the bullet train.
- Deb (SUN) – *Will potential buyers of the land in Kern County be allowed to drill for oil?* No, the land will have a prohibition on drilling for oil, and will be monitored by a non-profit.

- **Living Library: Voices of Western Addition - [Living Library: Voices of Western Addition](#)**

In the Living Library, books are real people who are “checked out” by the public to share their life stories in one-on-one conversations. The Living Library aims to foster dialogue and understanding between members of the community.

- Susanne Sakai, a former Western Addition librarian, who now works at the SFPL History Center, had the idea for the project, which was chosen to receive a Friends Innovation Grant in 2018.
- Inspired by an existing program called the Human Library, the Living Library differs in that it focuses on the community and the people in it.
- ACTION – Invite Susanne to a future CNL meeting to talk about the project.

- **LGBTQIA Pride 2019 - [LGBTQIA Pride 2019](#)**

Pride Month at the Library was capped off with the Library winning the Best Contingent Award at the Pride Parade!

Exploratorium Exhibit: Middle Ground – Tom Fortin

Middle Ground is a temporary interactive installation designed by the Exploratorium, exploring social psychology – the study of how people affect and are affected by other people and by their social physical environments.

- The Open Ceremony will be on August 13th, and the installation will be up through June 2020.
- The exhibit is part of the Civic Center Commons initiative to revitalize the Civic Center area and make it a more inviting place for the public.

- Fourteen yellow columns, each about 12 feet high, with a different style of chair at the top of each column will be located on the Larkin Street side of the Library. At each column the public are able to engage with the exhibit and explore how we interact with each other subconsciously in our daily lives, shedding a light on our biases and stereotypes, our capacity for empathy and generosity, and how we work as a team or pull apart into tribes.
- The nonprofit organization Urban Alchemy, which serves formerly incarcerated individuals, will work as stewards to answer questions about the exhibit and to help maintain it.
- AJ (ANZ) – *What is the cost?*
The installation was made possible by a \$1.5M grant from the National Science Foundation, and is part of a research project studying informal learning spaces in public environments measuring how people engage and learn when a steward is available
- Jules (GGV) – *Chairs on pillars is not my idea of art.*
- [M 7.25.19 SFPL Exploratorium Middle Ground.aCNL.pptx](#)

Adjournment: 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Florinda Battad