



**MINUTES OF THE
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Sara Strickler, President
Thushan Amarasiriwardena, Vice President
Anita Battle, Board Member
Debbie Gibbons, Board Member
Dimple Kanji, Board Member

Absent: None.

Staff: Marlon Romero, Acting Library Director
Lori Amaya, Recording Secretary

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

An asterisk indicates items so enacted or approved on the Consent Calendar

- *A. Report from the Acting Library Director Highlighting Activities for the Months of July and August, 2023.
- *B. Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of July 12, 2023.
- *C. Modified Library Services Report for the Months of June and July, 2023.
- *D. Financial Report Reflecting FY23/24 Expenditures by Fund for July and August, 2023.
- *E. Bills for Ratification for the Months of July and August, 2023.

Acting Director Romero reported on library activities during July and August, 2023. September is National Library Card Sign-Up month and the library's goal is 1,230 new cards. There are two new library card designs which are very popular. The Library Board unanimously voted on terminating the library's fee collection service. Acting Director Romero invited the board to attend the library's all staff meeting on October 9. President Strickler and Vice President Amarasiriwardena expressed interest in attending the morning session and Board Member Gibbons expressed interest in attending the afternoon session. The library will survey the

community on expansion of hours. Board Members Battle and Kanji volunteered to be on the subcommittee to review the current library card policy for children under the age of 5. There were no changes to the Draft Minutes of the July 12, 2023 Library Board Meeting.

Board Member Kanji moved to accept the Consent Calendar. Board Member Battle seconded the motion, which passed with a 5-0 vote.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. Current and On-Going Library Activities (M. Romero)

Acting Director Romero shared the current and on-going activities during Consent Calendar.

B. Seed & Tool Library (T. Amarasiriwardena)

Vice President Amarasiriwardena presented possible design concepts for the Seed & Tool Library and shared the current status of the project. Next steps include forming a subcommittee and a survey will be done.

C. Friends of the Library (M. Romero)

The Friends are working on changing the name of the Café. They had a retreat last month which generated a renewed energy.

D. Patron Suggestions/Comments (Speak-Outs) and Library Director's Response

A patron complained about a staff member's shirt being offensive. Acting Director Romero responded that the library does have an informal dress code and plans to start enforcing it. The staff member was unaware that the text on their shirt was offensive.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Battle introduced herself and the board welcomed her.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlon Romero, Acting Library Director and
Secretary to the Alameda Free Library Board