



**MINUTES OF THE
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024**

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

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Sara Strickler, President

Staff: Mike Eitner, Library Director
Marlon Romero, Tech Services Supervisor
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 Supervisor Romero Highlighting Activities for the Months of March and April, 2024.
- *B. Draft Minutes of the Special and Regular Library Board Meetings of March 13, 2024.
- *C. Modified Library Services Report for the Months of February and March, 2024.
- *D. Financial Report Reflecting FY23/24 Expenditures by Fund for March and April, 2024.
- *E. Bills for Ratification for the Months of March and April, 2024.

Supervisor Romero reported on library activities during March and April, 2024.

Board Member Battle moved to accept the Consent Calendar. Board Member Gibbons seconded the motion, which passed with a 4-0 vote.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. Introduction of New Library Director, Mike Eitner

Director Eitner started with the Library on April 30, 2024. He introduced himself to the Board and the Board welcomed him.

B. Introduction of Community Outreach Specialist, Connie Dixon, and Development Manager of Housing and Human Services (HHS), Marcie Johnson

Development Manager Johnson gave an overview of the HHS department which is under the City Manager's Office. Community Outreach Specialist Dixon introduced herself to the Board and shared the various services provided to community members and library patrons that are in need of certain resources. She also works with library patrons that have been suspended for violating the Library's Behavior Policy, to ensure they understand why they were suspended and when they are allowed to return. Development Manager Johnson told the Board they can advocate for the continuation of funding for the Community Outreach Specialist position.

C. Current and On-Going Library Activities

Supervisor Romero updated the Board on the current and ongoing library activities since the last board meeting.

D. California Freedom to Read Act (AB 1825 Muratsuchi)

Director Eitner provided background of Assembly Bill 1825. In July, there may be an update for the Board to determine if they want to take a position.

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

None.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Vice President Amarasiriwardena asked Director Eitner to reevaluate the need to keep the sneeze guards up at the public service desks. Director Eitner will look into it. Board Member Kanji is in favor of keeping them up.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Romero thanked the Board for their support over the last 11 months.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Eitner, Library Director and
Secretary to the Alameda Free Library Board