



**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE  
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 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  
Debbie Gibbons, Board Member  
Dimple Kanji, Board Member

Absent: Anita Battle, Board Member

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 May and June, 2023.
- \*B. Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of May 10, 2023.
- \*C. Modified Library Services Report for the Months of April and May, 2023.
- \*D. Financial Report Reflecting FY22/23 Expenditures by Fund for May and June, 2023.
- \*E. Bills for Ratification for the Months of May and June, 2023.

Acting Director Romero reported on library activities during May and June, 2023. Highlights include the approval of the library budget for the next two years. This includes a new full-time librarian position to staff the Information Desk, expanding the Wireless Hotspot program from 30 to 60 devices, and the Laptop Lending program at the Main Library in the first year, and expanding to the branch libraries in the second year.

There were no changes to the Draft Minutes of the May 10, 2023 Library Board Meeting.

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

### REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

#### A. Introduction of New Library Board Members

Board Member Gibbons introduced herself to the board. The board introduced themselves and welcomed Debbie.

#### B. Library Board Elections

Board Member Kanji nominated Vice President Strickler for President and Board Member Amarasiriwardena for Vice President. Both Nominees accepted their nominations. Vice President Strickler moved to approve the slate of nominees. Board Member Kanji seconded the motion, which passed with a 4-0 vote.

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

Acting Director Romero shared that the library is upgrading to Microsoft 365 in the next few weeks and will begin using Teams, OneDrive, and SharePoint. Today's Business Solution (TBS) is the new public scanning/copying/printing service which should be rolled out at all locations by the end of September.

#### D. Seed & Tool Library

Vice President Amarasiriwardena gave an update on the Seed & Tool Library project. It was suggested to begin project at the same time as the Aquatic Center, but the Aquatic Center is now multiple years out, so discussions have begun to find temporary alternatives to complete the project sooner. Acting Director Romero will get names of consultants from Pacific Library Partnership for this project and will set up interviews.

#### E. Friends of the Library (M. Romero)

President Strickler gave an update on the Café and shared that she has transitioned off the Café Committee and is now on the Oversight Board. The new Square reader has been successful. The Café is planning on changing the name, but it's a long process so for now they will call themselves the Library Café. The Café is also planning to expand hours.

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

None.

### BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Kanji attended AAPI Festival and will try to attend another event in August. Vice President Amarasiriwardena suggested the board attend a staff meeting to introduce themselves. Another suggestion was for the library have a float in the parade next year. Acting Director Romero mentioned that the library has participated in the past and will mention to staff.

### STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Acting Director Romero shared that Vice President Amarasiriwardena's Seed & Tool Lending Library document will be included in the next packet. An option for library expansion is a retail space in the Aero Building at Alameda Point. Acting Director Romero will update the board when more information is available.

### NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Elizabeth Tuckwell asked Acting Director Romero if there is a definite commitment for a new library at Alameda Point. Acting Director Romero responded that there is no definite commitment, but the conversation has begun. The City is currently developing a Strategic Plan and will push that out to the community for feedback. Two of the most popular aspects of the Strategic Plan relating to the library are the expansion at Alameda Point and the Seed and Tool Library.

### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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