



**MINUTES OF THE
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021**

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Cynthia Silva, President
Dorothy Wismar, Vice President
Amber Bales, Board Member
Kathleen Kearney, Board Member
Joyce McConeghey Board Member

Absent: None

Staff: Jane Chisaki, Library Director
Lori Amaya, Recording Secretary

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA (Public Comment)

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- *A. Report from the Library Director Highlighting Activities for the Months of January and February, 2021.
- *B. Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of January 13, 2021.
- *C. Modified Library Services Report for the Month of January, 2021.
- *D. Financial Report Reflecting FY20/21 Expenditures by Fund for January and February, 2021.
- *E. Bills for Ratification for the Months of January and February, 2021.

Director Chisaki reported Library Takeout is going well. Phases 2.5 and 3.0 limited reopening plans have been completed. The West End branch's landscaping project has been completed and looks great. The Red Cross Blood Drive was held yesterday and they exceeded their goal and expressed their appreciation for the library continuing to host the quarterly drives. The Containment Site Grant through the National Park Service is moving forward. A temporary website has been created to display some of the work that has been collected, and for people to

help identify the individuals in the photographs and show camp artifacts. The Japantown Historical Marker project is moving forward and expected to be completed by September. The next meeting will be held in person so the team can review and discuss the draft logos. The Friends' programs are going well. Almost 3000 people have attended their virtual programs since the beginning of the year, and they have received approximately \$300-\$500 per month by asking for donations during the programs. The Friends received a check from the American Association of University Women to buy materials about women and girls. Alameda Reads is still doing distance tutoring, learning, and book club. It's still unknown when the building will reopen for them. Board Member Kearny asked if she could ask her friend that grew up in Oakland if her family can identify anyone in the photos for the Containment Site project. Director Chisaki suggested sending her the link to the website.

There are no changes to the Draft Minutes of the January 13, 2021 Library Board meeting.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Current and On-Going Library Activities (J. Chisaki)

Director Chisaki mentioned the Library will reopen soon to a limited number of people.

B. Seed & Tool Library @ Jean Sweeney Open Space (J. Chisaki)

Alameda Recreation and Parks Department (ARPD) Director, Amy Wooldridge, is applying for a state grant to develop the western portion of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. The community was surveyed to see if there should be any changes to the original plan for the space. The Seed & Tool Library is ranked as one of the top items to include in the plan. ARPD plans on providing the space and the shell of the building. The Library is responsible for the buildout such as buying shelving and tools. The Friends have agreed to pledge \$75,000 for the buildout. Director Chisaki asked the board if there is anything specific they would like to see in the Seed & Tool Library. President Silva asked if there is an opportunity to include historical pictures of Bay Farm farming. Director Chisaki said it's possible if there is enough funding to do so.

C. Friends of the Library (J. Chisaki)

The Friends are doing a quarterly newsletter, and now a monthly news release of their upcoming programs as a reminder for people to register for them. They are looking for people to join their board.

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

None.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Kearney attended several Friends' events, including two African American Art Docent Talks, which she thought were fabulous. She attended an author group, which she thought was interesting. She recommended the Friends' programs, particularly the art shows, to her colleagues in the art department at the Oakland Museum. Board Member McConeghey also attended the African American Art Docent Talks and was impressed. President Silva registered for many programs and learned a lot. Vice President Wismar hasn't attended many programs, but is a beneficiary of not being fined for overdue books. Board Member Bales also attended the African American Art Docent Talk. President Silva asked Director Chisaki if the Library has taken action on the Library's Dr. Seuss collection as some titles are now valuable now that they've gotten a lot of attention. Director Chisaki responded that the library stopped ordering the six titles years ago and only have two of the titles still in the collection. When they are weeded out they are not replaced.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA GENERAL

Kristina Moody introduced herself to the board and shared that she wants to be more civically involved and was interested in attending this meeting. She enjoyed hearing the reopening plans and appreciates the Library balancing demands of the patrons that are ready to come back and those that are not.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Chisaki, Library Director and
Secretary to the Alameda Free Library Board