



**MINUTES OF THE  
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Present:

Amber Bales, Board Member  
Kathleen Kearney, Board Member  
Joyce McConeghey Board Member

Absent:

Cynthia Silva, President  
Dorothy Wismar, Vice President

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 May and June, 2021.
- \*B. Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of May 12, 2021.
- \*C. Modified Library Services Report for the Month of April and May, 2021.
- \*D. Financial Report Reflecting FY20/21 Expenditures by Fund for May and June, 2021.
- \*E. Bills for Ratification for the Months of May and June, 2021.

Director Chisaki updated the Board on the Library's reopening plan. The next phase of reopening is August 16 with limited hours at Main and the branches. On September 7, the Library will restore pre-COVID hours at all locations. The Dewey Café will not open until the end of the year. Masks will be required in all City facilities. Staff now have key cards instead of using the key pad to go through doors. The LED lighting project is nearing completion and the first floor of the Library is already much brighter. WEB is getting a new AC unit, furnace, and water heater. With the new

AC unit, WEB can be a clean air/cooling center. A new drainage system has been installed at BFI, so there should be no more flooding when it rains. The Containment Site Grant is moving slowly, and an extension can be requested if needed. The Japantown Historical Marker project is moving forward and completion is expected in September. Since the beginning of the calendar year, the Friends have hosted over 4,000 people at their various programs. They are looking to do hybrid of virtual and in-person programs once in person programs are allowed because virtual programs are so well attended. Book sale dates have been reserved for October 2022.

There are no changes to the Draft Minutes of the May 12, 2021 Library Board meeting.

Board Member Kearney moved to accept the Consent Calendar. Board Member Bales seconded the motion, which passed with a 3-0 vote.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Director Chisaki shared updates earlier in the meeting.

B. American Rescue Plan Funding – Hotspot Lending Program (J. Chisaki)

On July 20, the City Manager is taking a recommendation to City Council to fund \$50,000 for a Hotspot Lending Program for the Library over the next four years. The State Library has received funding to do hotspot and laptop lending programs. The Library may qualify for this and will be able to offer laptops as well as hotspots. This would also allow the City to keep the American Rescue Plan Funding's \$50,000 for other city projects.

#### NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of Library Board President for FY 2021-22 (C. Silva)

Director Chisaki informed the Board that in-person meetings will resume in October, so the next in-person Library Board meeting will be in November. Board Member Kearney nominated Board Member Bales as President and Board Member McConeghey as Vice President. Board Members Bales and McConeghey accepted their nominations. Board Member McConeghey called for a vote to approve the slate, which passed with a 3-0 vote.

B. Friends of the Library (J. Chisaki)

The Friends are working on strategic goals and would like to improve diversity, inclusion and equity. Despite a dip in donations, they are able to contribute to the Library using their investment account to make up the difference. Overall, they are doing well.

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

None.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Kearney asked if the Library will be able to handle if there is a need for a cooling/clean air center. Director Chisaki explained that Main will be open on weekends so it will not be a problem. WEB can be a small cooling/clean air center once the new AC unit is installed. President Bales mentioned that she found the Friend's You Tube channel and can watch programs that were missed.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA GENERAL

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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