



**MINUTES OF THE
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 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
Amber Bales, Board Member
Kathleen Kearney, Board Member
Joyce McConeghey Board Member

Absent: 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 March and April, 2021.
- *B. Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of March 10, 2021.
- *C. Modified Library Services Report for the Month of February and March, 2021.
- *D. Financial Report Reflecting FY20/21 Expenditures by Fund for March and April, 2021.
- *E. Bills for Ratification for the Months of March and April, 2021.

Director Chisaki updated the Board on staffing changes, and the library's upcoming reopening phases. There have been positive comments on social media about the limited reopening. The LED lighting project is moving forward and is expected to be completed by the end of the fiscal year. It will have paid for itself in four years, so the library will be saving money after that. A portion of the project is being paid for by a grant from Alameda Municipal Power. The Containment Site Grant and the Japantown Historical Marker project are both moving forward and on a parallel timeline. Alameda Reads are still working remotely, but they come in the office when the can.

They have virtual book groups and mail out materials to the learners, so they are still able to teach the learners.

There are no changes to the Draft Minutes of the March 10, 2021 Library Board meeting.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

The grant may be delayed to the end of summer so the library will have to wait to see if they will be awarded any funding. The Friends have pledged \$75,000 toward the project, and if it is not in the spring campaign, it will be the fall campaign.

NEW BUSINESS

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

There are free grab and go seed bags for planting season. Adult Services has brought back one part-time employee to help with limited reopening. All other part-time employees were contacted and given new expectations for when they return.

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

The City is slated to receive approximately \$18 million over the course of two years and various departments have put in their requests for their portion. The Library requested \$50,000 to offer 50 hotspots to library patrons.

C. Friends of the Library (J. Chisaki)

The Friends have been working on their strategic plan and strategic goals. They will continue to hold programs virtually once things reopen because they have a further reach with authors and attendees. Publishers are offering authors for author talks. The Friends haven't had three book sales and they are overstocked with boxes of books. They are not taking any book donations at this time. The Friends bought an appreciation lunch for the library staff. The next meeting is on 5/24/21.

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

None.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Kearney shared that the Library is the favorite spot for the Oakland Museum Docents to watch all the programming and they are excited about it. Board Member McConeghey shared that Kenny the Clown came has written a children's book and left her a copy to give to the Library. Director Chisaki explained that the book will go to the Children's supervising librarian to determine if it can be added to the collection. President Silva attended the communication meeting and they discussed virtual programs and decided to continue with it because of the great attendance.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA GENERAL

Mari asked if the café will open again and Director Chisaki responded that it is expected to open, but there is not date set. Kristina Moody has a child that attends Child Unique and they are good about wearing masks and it's surprising how children under five can keep compliant. Director Chisaki mentioned that this is the last board meeting for two of our members and if anyone is interested, to put in an application at the City Clerk's office.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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