



**MINUTES OF THE  
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

Absent: None.

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 September and October, 2023.
- \*B. Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of September 13, 2023.
- \*C. Modified Library Services Report for the Months of August and September, 2023.
- \*D. Financial Report Reflecting FY23/24 Expenditures by Fund for September and October, 2023.
- \*E. Bills for Ratification for the Months of September and October, 2023.

Acting Director Romero reported on library activities during September and October, 2023.

Vice President Amarasiriwardena moved to accept the Consent Calendar. Board Member Battle seconded the motion, which passed with a 5-0 vote.

### REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. Social Service Human Relations Board Presentation on Community Needs Assessment

Social Service Human Relations Board (SSHRB) President, Scott Means, and Vice President, Samantha Green, presented the 2023 Community Needs Assessment for the City of Alameda to the Library Board.

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

Rebuilding the Existing Supportive Housing at Alameda Point (RESHAP) is interested in adding a space for the library in their site plan and more information will be brought to the Board after the next meeting with RESHAP. Acting Director Romero will work with Board Member Battle and Board Member Kanji on the Suspension Policy in addition to the Library Card Policy. Acting Director Romero shared the process and approximate timeline for the Café Renaming, which is expected to go to City Council on December 5, 2023. The National Library Card Sign Up drive was successful with over 1,200 new cards. President Strickler and Vice President Amarasiriwardena expressed interest in the designing process of library merchandise.

C. Seed & Tool Library (T. Amarasiriwardena & S. Strickler)

Vice President Amarasiriwardena shared the Tool Lending Library Survey that will be released before the end of the year. There is currently no end date for the survey.

D. Friends of the Library (M. Romero)

The Friends had their book sale at the end of October and made approximately \$7,000.

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

None.

### BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Acting Director Romero commented on that the payment process and explained that the patron is selects the payment process by either depositing cash into the terminal or tapping a credit/debit card. President Strickler asked how expired library cards that are renewed are counted in the statistics. Board Member Gibbons recommended that the library have books to give away to children at future outreach events. First Book Marketplace is a resource the library could use to purchase inexpensive books in bulk.

### STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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