



**MINUTES OF THE
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022**

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Joyce McConeghey Vice President
Dimple Kanji, Board Member
Kathleen Kearney, Board Member
Sara Strickler, Board Member

Absent: Amber Bales, 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 January and February, 2022.
- *B. Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of January 12, 2022.
- *C. Modified Library Services Report for the Months of December, 2021 and January, 2022.
- *D. Financial Report Reflecting FY21/22 Expenditures by Fund for January and February, 2022.
- *E. Bills for Ratification for the Months of January and February, 2022.

Director Chisaki reported that the City's mask mandate will end on Monday, March 14, 2022. Face masks will be strongly encouraged within city buildings. The Dewey's Friends Café opened on February 14, 2022. Eating is allowed outside in the courtyard only. In-person Children's programming will begin the week of April 4. Ticketing system may be used to control the number of people attending. The Grogue Library Card campaign is going well. The water bottle fill stations

have been installed at the Main Library. The branches will have their installation completed within the next week. The Red Cross Blood Drive was held yesterday in the Stafford Room, and it went smoothly. The next drive will be on May 10, 2022. The Hotspot lending program is moving forward. The contract was signed yesterday and the program is expected to launch in mid-April. The internment camp grant and the Japantown marker project are slowly moving forward.

There are no changes to the Draft Minutes of the January 12, 2022 Library Board Meeting.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Adult Services book clubs have been virtual, and it has not been decided when they will return to in-person programming. Teen programs have been in-person since there have been no more than 15 attendees and they can be spread out. Tech. Services Supervisor, Marlon Romero, welcomes input from the board members on changes to the Library's webpage. Staff is discussing changing library hours. Any changes wouldn't start until the new fiscal year. Board Member Strickler asked if the change to the hours would be extending or limiting hours. Director Chisaki responded that it would be a reshuffling of the existing number of hours. The City has hired a firm to help organize its Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) program. Employees will be pulled for interest groups, focus groups, and steering committees. Director Chisaki is pushing to include part-time staff for more diversity.

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

The Hotspot contract has been signed. Next steps include receiving the equipment, creating policies and procedures, and obtaining packaging. The launch is expected in April.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Friends of the Library (J. Chisaki)

The Café has opened. The bookstore has opened and is named Books for Friends (BFF). There will be a pop-up book sale on Saturday, March 12, 2022 in the Stafford room. The bookstore will open Thursday, March 17, 2022. It will be open Thursday – Saturday from 12:00 – 4:00 pm. The Friends are continuing with virtual docent tours and author talks. They have hybrid programs in the future.

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

None.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Kearney is working at the Friends pop-up book sale and at the new bookstore. Board Member Kanji asked if the Friends are doing set up for the book sale on Friday or if they are doing a soft run. Director Chisaki responded that they are setting up on Friday. They will be bringing boxes over from storage, unboxing books, and arranging the tables.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

None.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA GENERAL

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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