



**MINUTES OF THE
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

Amber Bales, President
Joyce McConeghey Vice President
Dimple Kanji, Board Member
Kathleen Kearney, Board Member
Sara Strickler, 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 November and December, 2021.
- *B. Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of November 10, 2021.
- *C. Modified Library Services Report for the Month of October and November, 2021.
- *D. Financial Report Reflecting FY21/22 Expenditures by Fund for November and December, 2021.
- *E. Bills for Ratification for the Months of November and December, 2021.

The Library is not yet fully open, but continues to offer programs. The door counts are still down, but staff are brainstorming ideas to bring patrons in. Grogu Library Cards have arrived and they are very popular. Patrons can come in and apply for a new card or purchase a replacement card. The Lucky Day Collection has launched and is considered a success. The funding for hotspots

was approved and Director Chisaki and Library supervisors will be meeting with Verizon to discuss their program. The grant project had to reschedule interviews due to the COVID surge. Board Member Strickler asked how the Library's website changes are prioritized. Director Chisaki explained that most changes are on the back end to make it more seamless and user friendly. Director Chisaki welcomed any comments for the team to incorporate.

There are no changes to the Draft Minutes of the November 10, 2021 Library Board Meeting.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

The Board letter includes the link to the Sunshine Ordinance training video. Vice President McConeghey asked if there is a way for the Board to certify that the training has been completed, and Director Chisaki responded that nothing has been sent out at this time. The Form 700 request will be coming soon. Volunteers are still on hold, but when they come back, vaccination verification will be required. Board Member Kanji asked if the courtyard area behind the Café could be used. Director Chisaki responded that it will be open and patrons are welcome to sit outside.

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

The update was given during the Director's Report under the Consent Calendar.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Friends of the Library (J. Chisaki)

The Friends have concert dates reserved in March – May, but it's highly unlikely they will be held that soon. The concerts may happen in the fall. The Café is opening February 7, 2022, and the new bookstore is opening the first week of February. The bookstore will be open Thursday – Saturday from noon until 4:00 p.m. There will be genre book sales to reduce their inventory. The Friends Author and Docent programs continue online and have great attendance. Attendees are from across the country and from other countries as far away as England and Australia. Board Member Strickler asked if the Friends know where that traffic is coming from and if they post in places that would reach that far. Director Chisaki responded that the Friends have a newsletter, Facebook page and a webpage, but it's mostly word of mouth and from Docent associations. With Zoom, presenters may be from anywhere. The Friends are interested in the Seed and Tool Library and are willing to match the \$300,000 that Director Chisaki requested from unspent Library Bond funds.

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

A patron complained that the Teen Reading Room has tables with bad words/pictures on them and requested they be covered up. Supervising Librarian Sierra Campagna responded that funding was just approved to refinish the table tops and in the meantime, the tables will be covered with paper and plexiglass.

A patron requested more books on Sikhism and more books in Punjabi language for both adults and children. Supervising Librarian Sierra Campagna responded that additional books were ordered for the adult collection, and the request was forwarded to the Supervising Librarian in the Children's department to investigate possible additions to the Children's collection. The Library also offers a service that provides a great deal of Punjabi language materials. It's the Library's Link + service which is an interlibrary loan service and provides access to materials from over 60 public and academic libraries in California and Nevada, in many languages. The library is currently in the process of analyzing the foreign language collections.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Kanji used Link+ and it's awesome. Board Member Stickler saw the Lucky Day books, but decided to leave them for patrons to check out. Board Member Kearney signed up to be a book seller at the Friends' new bookstore. Vice President McConeghey has succeeded at getting the Alameda Sun newspaper delivered to the Main branch and the West End branch. The Bay Farm branch is being worked on.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Chisaki reported that the Library is doing an ILS update, but there shouldn't be any interruption to services.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA GENERAL

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

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