



## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** 11/25/2024  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Locations:** Teleconference and  
Menlo Park Library  
800 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

### A. Call To Order

Chair Orton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### B. Roll Call

**Present:** Herrick, Orton, Pollack, Shafer, Westcott, Wise  
**Absent:** Crockett  
**Staff:** Library and Community Services Director Sean Reinhart, Assistant Library and Community Services Director Nick Szegda, Library and Community Services Supervisor Rose Waldman, Senior Program Assistant John Weaver, Librarian Ella Hadrovic

### C. Presentations and Proclamations

#### C1. Library programs: Enrichment through experiences (Attachment)

Supervisor Waldman, Librarian Hadrovic and Senior Program Assistant Weaver made the presentation.

### D. Regular Business

#### D1. Approve the meeting minutes from the October 21, 2024 meeting (Attachment)

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Wise/ Westcott), to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2024 meeting, passed 6-0-1 (Crockett absent).

#### D2. Recommend updates to the library collection development policy (Staff Report LC-2024-036)

Assistant Director Szegda introduced the item.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Shafer/ Pollack) to recommend the updates to the library collection development policy, passed 6-0-1 (Crockett absent).

#### D3. Approve the 2025 Library Commission meeting calendar (Staff Report LC-2024-037)

Assistant Director Szegda introduced the item.

The Commission discussed the potential of adding a special joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission, tentatively to be held at the Belle Haven Community Campus.

**ACTION:** Motion and second (Wescott/ Pollack) to approve the 2025 Library Commission meeting calendar as amended, passed 6-0-1 (Crockett absent).

D4. Ad-hoc subcommittee update (Staff Report LC-2024-038)

The Ad-hoc Subcommittee provided an update on their activities, including a planned visit to the Hayward Library on Dec. 11 that will require special event noticing by staff.

**ACTION:** No action taken.

**E. Informational Items**

E1. Library and community services department statistics and recent activities (Staff Report LC-2024-039)

Assistant Director Szegda introduced the item.

E2. Library Commission tentative agenda calendar (Attachment)

**ACTION:** By acclamation, the Commission added the following items to the tentative agenda calendar:

- Dec. 18 joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission at Belle Haven Community Campus
- Ad-hoc subcommittee report out and list of libraries to visit – December

**F. Commissioner Reports**

F1. Individual Commissioner reports

None.

**G. Adjournment**

Chair Orton adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Assistant Library and Community Services Director Nick Szegda



# LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

Library Commission – Nov. 18, 2024



# LIBRARY PRESENTATION SERIES

Staff is preparing a series of presentations to the Library Commission. All dates and topic are tentative and are subject to change:

Library Overview:  
Who We Are and What We Do  
September 2024

Library Outreach:  
Bringing the Library to the Community  
March 2025

Library Programming:  
Enrichment through Experience  
November 2024

Library of the Future:  
What's next for Libraries and for MPL  
May 2025

Library Statistics:  
What Does the Data Tell Us?  
January 2025

Library Budget:  
Collection Development and Operations  
July 2025

## OUR FOCUS TODAY

Above and beyond the books on the shelves, libraries engage with and cultivate community. Programming is critical to this interpersonal approach. Today, we are talking about:

- What program engagement looks like at our libraries
- Making the library welcoming for teenagers
- How and why we train staff to provide storytimes
- Other programs we offer, and some attendance statistics

“Bad libraries build collections. Good libraries build services (of which a collection is only one). Great libraries build communities.”

– R. David Lenkes,  
@rdlanke

# WHY LIBRARY PROGRAMS?

## Libraries are books. And people. And connections.

People have different learning styles, and we try to satisfy their need for information, and their curiosity—and even spark further curiosity—in different ways.

The experiences we offer can add depth, texture, and context to book learning, as they lead participants to our other resources to learn more.

Our youth and family programs bring school assembly-style programs to the entire community, in a time when fewer schools are able to share these learning resources.

Program attendees learn about our other available resources, as they get to know the library environment and staff.





# ENGAGEMENT WITH THE LIBRARY

## Building Community Connections

Listening to our current patrons: we learn more about them, and they about us, when we share experiences. Both parties benefit.

Seed Library: When we wanted to launch a Seed Library, one mention at a library program led to an attendee stepping forward. Our thriving program (including monthly Garden Talks) is led by this volunteer and another she brought in.

A 20-something man in tech attended a beading workshop, and expressed gratitude for something to do with his hands that did not involve a keyboard. He provided insight as to the best timing for events for people in his field.

Cultural programming often brings in first-time users of our library, introducing them to our offerings, and allowing them to share their cultures with us, and our presenters, and each other, providing ideas for further opportunities.



# TEEN PROGRAMMING

- Purpose of teen programming:
  - Shows teens how to interact with the library space and library staff
  - Provide important social experiences to the public
- Offering a mix of programming:
  - Passive programming: D&D sheets, coloring, and themed posters
  - Active programming: teen films, video game sessions, Teen Book Group, and volunteer opportunities





# STORYTIME

“Baby’s first book group,” and consistently our most popular program! Storytime introduces early literacy concepts and a group experience for the children, and modeling prompts for reading at home for the caregivers, setting the stage for a lifelong relationship with the library.

## Successful in-house training program

- Born of necessity in the early pandemic
- Emphasis on intentionality, all-are-welcome inclusivity, cleaving to the purpose of the activity
  - Early literacy
  - Anti-bias
- 5 “graduated classes” since 2020
- Allows for interchangeability of storytimers with internal consistency of quality, message, and format
- Positive feedback from trainees

## Our Storytimes

### Belle Haven Library:

- Tuesdays at 7:15pm
- Fridays at 5:15pm
- Saturdays at 10:15am

### Menlo Park Library:

- Thursdays at 10:15am
- Fridays at 10:15
- Saturdays at 11:15am

### City Child Development Facilities

- Menlo Children’s Center (MCC): Tuesdays at 9:30am
- Belle Haven Youth Center (BHYC): Tuesdays at 4:15pm
- Belle Haven Child Development Center (BHCDC):  
Wednesdays at 9:30am



# STATISTICS AND STAFFING

- Emphasis on expertise – both from staff and outside presenters
- Average attendance across events:
  - Storytimes at Alma St: 47
  - Book Groups: 17
  - Monthly event attendance: 1,006
- Library Adventure:
  - July 18, 2023: 200
  - February 2, 2024: 278
  - July 24, 2024: 212
- Summer Lawn Events: 221 average attendance
- BHCC weekend events since opening: average 65 per event



## JUST A FEW MORE OF OUR PROGRAMS

Weekly	Monthly	Recurring	A few times a year	Once a year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Storytime (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday)</li> <li>• Teen Media Days (Wednesdays and Friday)</li> <li>• English Conversation Club (Tuesdays and Saturdays)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Book Groups:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiction</li> <li>• Sci-Fi/Fantasy</li> <li>• Mystery</li> <li>• Melanated Women Read</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Youth Book Groups:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Middle Grade Book Group</li> <li>• Teen Book Group</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Garden Talks</li> <li>• Global Language Storytime</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informational Lectures and Workshops</li> <li>• Hands-on programs mixing learning with creation</li> <li>• Virtual Museum Visits</li> <li>• Cooking Lessons</li> <li>• Live music, in both performances for all ages and First Concert Series for children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Library Adventure (at the Menlo Park Library in July and at the Belle Haven Library in February)</li> <li>• Bookish Trivia</li> <li>• Raise a Glass</li> <li>• Stuffed Animal Sleepover</li> <li>• Author visits</li> <li>• Special exhibitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health Month (collaborative with San Mateo County Health)</li> <li>• Summer Reading Game</li> <li>• Puppetry Festival</li> <li>• Storytelling Festival</li> <li>• Library Reads Banned Books (in October for Banned Books Week)</li> <li>• E-Resource Night</li> </ul>



**THANK YOU**