



## *San Francisco Public Library*

### **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION**

#### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 1, 2012**

(Approved as amended at the May 3, 2012 regular Commission meeting).

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 1, 2012, in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 pm.

Commissioners present: Breyer, Gomez, Munson, and Ono

Commissioner Kane arrived at 4:41 pm.

Commissioners Nguyen and Randlett were excused.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 PUBLIC COMMENT**

An anonymous citizen said the person you have elected as your President, Jewelle Gomez, was found to be below the standard of decency, good faith, and right action. He said the Ethics Commission recommended unanimously that she be terminated from her position. He said Commissioner Munson tried to excuse this as a human outburst. He said this violation was a flagrant violation of the law in which the perpetrator has not acknowledged the premise of the violation much less any responsibility. He said Mr. Munson has the gall to state that he does not understand it so he is entitled to ignore it. He said a member of the public drew an analogy to the Ancient Roman Emperors, but the better analogy is the French Revolution. He said it is not a good idea to mock people's powerlessness. He said it is beyond telling another lie and hiring another guard. He said people are going to cut all your throats and when I say the lies cost more than the money that is what I mean. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the agenda has over the years gotten better in respect to identifying and listing explanatory documents that you have received prior to the meeting. He said that makes it all the more troubling when there is something complex on the agenda and there is no explanatory document that you or

the public can study prior to the meeting. He said it has the potential to debilitate your ability to consider the item. He said everything on the agenda should have an explanatory document so that people can understand what is going on. He said with respect to the Bernal Heights Branch Library mural demolition and replacement, he said there have been many changes to the plans and he would like to ask with 20 seconds remaining, what is the schedule to get rid of the existing mural.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he has given a lot of thought to this and he wonders what you actually think of the people who come before you. He said it is interesting to see that intelligent people, instead of making an honest attempt to deal with issues that someone raises, will simply evade and avoid and simply with a smug look say we don't have to answer anything you raise. He said his two primary reasons for being here were to insure that members of the public would have an opportunity to speak including those with dissenting opinions, he said secondly it is important that members of the public who want access to public records because it is lawful for them to have them under the California Public Records Act and the Sunshine Ordinance should be allowed access to these records. He said the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF) has ruled unanimously that you have abridged his first amendment rights and the rights of others by not including his comments in the minutes of the meeting. He said the SOTF has also ruled against the City Librarian and stated that he has withheld public records and he has concrete proof now that records have been withheld.

Richard Chapman, client of the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, said he uses the second floor library for the blind and print disabled. He said last Sunday there was a break in and a fire set by a vandal. He said he has gone to the police department and is going to be collecting a reward for the arrest of the person responsible and asked the Commissioners if they would like to contribute.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT**

Deborah Doyle, Co-Interim Executive Director of the Friends of the Library, said there were several members of the staff and Board present for the meeting. She said this is the 51<sup>st</sup> year of the Friends existence. She said much of the first years involved advocacy and book sales and they are continuing to do those things. She gave a presentation and said the Friends is a member supported, non-profit organization that fundraises, advocates, and provides financial support for the San Francisco Public Library. She said they have two major book sales a year and a small book store upstairs and one at Fort Mason. She said we have a development department that raises money for programs, activities, special grants and programs. She said they run on volunteers. She said the Friends act as a fiscal agent for the library as needed.

Marcia Schneider, Co-Interim Executive Director of the Friends, explained the revenue sources for the Friends. She said the revenues listed are

pledges that are expected to be received in the next three years. She explained the annual support to the library, and contributions to the Branch Library Improvement Program.

Deborah Doyle explained the Friends' role in advocacy in action. She said they were active in the successful 1988 Prop A Main Library Campaign, the 1994 Prop E Library Preservations Fund campaign, the 2000 Prop A Branch Library Improvement Program Campaign and the 2007 Prop D Renewal of the Set Aside Campaign. She said this Library is a role model across the nation and the Friends are a role model as well and the partnership is a looked up to all over the country. She said they look forward to continuing the partnership.

Kim Drew, Friends Board Co-Chair said looking ahead there are several priorities including completing the remaining commitment to BLIP, continuing annual programmatic support to SFPL in line with the Library's strategic priorities; providing advocacy and engaging with the community to support SFPL, maintaining a high Charity Navigator rating, continuing to improve operations and fundraising to support SFPL, to hire new leadership and to continue the great partnership with SFPL.

Explanatory Document: [Friends of the Library](#) report

#### Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said he wonders how you can consider saying that an outside non-profit can continue to use the graphic display but it is impossible for critics of that non-profit to use it. He said if he had access to the graphics, he would show most of the commissioners being photographed with a check dated 2010-2011 for over \$4 Million. He said the amount was specific, creating an illusion of reality a common propaganda trick. He said the Friends are grateful to give this report because it should be given by your City Librarian, your financial officer and the Controller, who are responsible and could be fired when it, inevitably, turns out to be wrong. He said he has the report that the Friends make to the Department of Justice, the Registry of Charitable Trusts, which shows many things including their total donation. He said there is also a disclosure that shows their support and direct support and he said those figures do not match these figures. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said this is a long overdue presentation. He said the year he first looked at the Friends donations they had given the library less than 10% of what they brought in. He said in this report the revenue is \$3,750,000 and the support to the library for program support is \$750,000, which is 1/5 of the amount raised. He said it would be interesting to see the percentages that go to the Library. He said the fundraising costs seem to be counted as the donations to the library for the BLIP program. He said there is no mention in this report of the Friends' assets. He said the last time he checked it was around 14 or 15 million. He said the Friends have advocated a number of things that

have not been successful in passage including support for RFID. He said his group was active in preventing the funding for RFID. He said the Friends' support of the Bernal Heights Branch Library destruction of the mural is one of the worst examples and apparently the Friends are the fiscal agent for that.

Charles Moody said he is a patron of the Ortega Branch and he and his wife participated in the fundraising for the Ortega Branch and are also members and contributors to the Friends. He said he wanted to let the Commission know how much they appreciate their efforts in getting this new library and how much the community appreciates it. He said the Friends have left a legacy beyond fundraising. He said he marvels at what a wonderful library system we have and how strong the public-private partnership is with the Friends.

Ellen Egbert, Bernal Heights, said she supports the Bernal Library but she supports the system as well. She said she is a proud supporter of the Friends and she is happy to make her donations to the BLIP campaign and is happy to continue to make contributions to the public comment fund. She said advocates for Friends are all over the library and San Francisco. She said the 180 participants in Project Read get a \$20 gift certificate on their birthday for the Friends bookstore. She said she hopes the Commissioners are all members of the Friends. She said we are so lucky in San Francisco to have our Friends organization.

Clarice Moody said she is a Friends supporter. She said across the country others have not figured out how to do this kind of public private partnership but we have a good thing going here.

Laura Bernebei, representing the Council of Neighborhood Libraries (CNL), said the CNL supports the Friends. She said it is amazing how the Friends make everything work so well.

President Gomez left the meeting at 5:36 pm.

#### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Munson said he has been to almost all of the openings of the branches and the people at the Friends have been very supportive. He said the Friends came up with the Library Preservation Fund. He said this is a very effective group of Commissioners.

Commissioner Ono said they appreciate everything that has been done for the library by the Friends. She said FY 11 -12 corporate funding has increased by a tremendous amount and she wondered where that funding is coming from. She also asked about sponsorships.

Marcia Schneider, Friends of the Library, said corporate giving is one area they focus on but they also see a growing presence in the City of the technology industry. She said sponsorships would be for special programs or events.

Commissioner Ono said she is very impressed that 61% of the funds are coming from individuals and book sales.

Commissioner Breyer said it is tremendous work the Friends do. He said it looks like you have done a tremendous job in engaging the community in participating with the new branches. He asked if there are ideas on how to continue that engagement.

Deborah Doyle, Friends of the Library, said they are already looking at the renewal of the Library Preservation Fund in about eight years. She said there will be anniversaries, events and special projects that will help keep the community engaged. She said they would love to come back to the Commission to talk more about that. She said getting those last two branches open is a priority right now.

Commissioner Breyer said the transparency of the fund raising totals are important and as much information as you can provide will be helpful.

Commissioner Kane said the goal is to make San Francisco libraries the greatest in America and we can't get there without groups like the Friends and citizens who support you. He said this report was 100% better than last year's report and much more transparent than in the past. He said it is important for the public to see what you are doing. He said for next year it would be helpful to see your endowment reserve. He said it would be helpful to see your operating expenses. He said that number would be informative. He said on the program support, he wonders how the programs are chosen.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said there is a formal process. She said staff makes proposals which are evaluated internally and then submitted to the Friends. She said the Friends award us the grant and then we go through an evaluation process to look at every project the following year. She said we have an ongoing dialogue with the Friends on what types of programs we are recommending.

Commissioner Kane said he appreciates all the hard work and fundraising by the Friends on the BLIP. He said at the last report we were short a little bit on Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (FF&E).

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said they have been working with the Friends and their commitment to complete the BLIP.

Commissioner Kane asked the Friends what more the library could do to support the partnership.

Marcia Schneider, Friends of the Library, said they love it when the Commissioners attend the events and support their activities.

Deborah Doyle, Friends of the Library, said she would like to encourage the Commission to think big. She said this library is one of the best in the country and is excited about what are we going to do for an encore.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said other library systems have different kinds of relationships with their Friends groups and she said we are the envy of every other system for the relationship we have.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said she is sitting in for Luis Herrera tonight. She said on Sunday, February 26 there was a break in and small fire behind the reference desk at the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled. She said the Main Library was evacuated for approximately 90 minutes. She said staff did a commendable job and the library is working with both the Fire and Police Departments on the investigation. She said on Monday, February 27, the Bayview Temporary branch was closed due to repair work at the facility in which it is housed. She said the bookmobile was able to provide service on that day. She said four of our branch libraries have been selected for the American Libraries Design Showcase to be released this month. She said the Park and Presidio branches were selected in the categories of reuse and restoration, the Golden Gate Valley Branch was selected for building for accessibility and the Visitacion Valley Branch was selected in two categories: building for accessibility and the shape of things, which is a design excellence category. She said we will bring you more information on these in the future. She said she is pleased to report that the Ethics Commission approved a revised version of the Library's Statement of Incompatible Activities on Monday, February 27. She said the revision was made on the recommendations made by the Library Commission on October 6, 2011. She said once this is finalized we will bring it back to the Commission for full review. She said the Library began the Green Stacks initiative in 2008 with the Department of the Environment and the Friends of the Library. She said the Library Commission had decided to build the last 10 libraries in the BLIP program to LEED Silver or higher. She said the Parkside Branch has been awarded LEED Silver. She said the Presidio and Anza Branches have achieved LEED Gold. She said the library has incorporated many other green practices.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, gave a presentation on the San Francisco Public Library Department Climate Action Plan. He said this is a partnership with the Department of the Environment. He said the departmental carbon footprint section includes energy and water usage for the entire Library system, and described energy efficiency and conservation strategies, feature of the BLIP LEED branches, and solar generation installations. He said in the purchasing area, last year the library won an award for our green purchasing practices.

Explanatory Documents: [Green Stacks Program](#) presentation; and [Climate Action Plan](#) presentation.

### **Public Comment**

An anonymous citizen said it is true that you can visit the Statue of Liberty, get your pocket picked and just be grateful to have seen the Statue of Liberty. He said other people take responsibility and think it shouldn't be the price of visiting the Statue of Liberty. He said sometimes he goes to a branch like the Potrero Branch and enjoy the view it does not mean that he does not find it also important to have a responsible government that is democratic and open to everyone. He said he is gratified to hear the report that the library is making efforts to be responsible to the environment and climate. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Melissa Riley, Librarians Guild, said thanks for including the mention of the materials the library has on the environment.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he is glad the library recovered promptly from some of its setbacks. He said the library as a concept is one of the original concepts in the green movement because of its use and reuse of books and materials. He said he would like to see a comparison or study of books versus technology as to which is greener. He said he did not agree with the comments by the Vice-Chair on a previous matter where he basically hammered the public who have criticisms to make especially when many of the criticisms are suggestions for improvements and similar to some of the Commission's own criticisms.

Edmund Juicy said thank you to the library for black history month.

#### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Breyer said he would like to commend the library on having the environment a priority. He asked about the fire.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Library, said the Library for the Blind and Disabled was closed and someone broke in and the engineers physically put the fire out, which was fortunate because the sprinklers did not go off. She said the fire itself did very little damage but there was some damage from the fire extinguisher.

Commissioner Ono said she is so happy that the library is just as fanatic as she is about saving the environment.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES JANUARY 19, 2012**

An anonymous citizen said these minutes are a little better but sometimes things are not understandable without context. He said on page 1, he starts to talk about this Commission preventing dialogue. He said part of that premise is that one of the Commissioners stated that if we got answers there would be dialogue, so his comments are out of context. He said on page 4 the phrase "back to reality" was because of the nice distraction honoring Mindy Linetzky but there is no reference to that. He

said on page 9, he mentioned Luis Herrera's joyous spirit and infectious optimism and that statement is not noted in his comments. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said that gracious comments or praise are frequently left out of the minutes. He said these minutes could use some improvements. He said the praise for Mindy Linetzky is there so thank you. He said under the Bond Program Manager's Report the latter portion of his comments do not reflect the point that he was making. He said his point was that the expenditures that were being made from the Library Preservation Fund going to the BLIP could have been used for books, hours and operations. He said on agenda item number 4 page 6, he said books and materials are not as clearly set forth in the library's priorities as they were last year.

Motion: By Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Ono, to approve the [Minutes of January 19, 2012](#).

Action: AYES 4-0: (Breyer, Kane, Munson, and Ono).

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5. ADJOURNMENT**

### **Public Comment**

Algernon Theodore May wanted to know about the Bayview facility. He said there are no African indigenous languages on DVDs in the library. He asked if the library could expose San Franciscans to the language and the culture of the African nations.

An anonymous citizen suggested that the Commission adjourn in the honor of Nancy Musser, who was a retired Chief Technical Services Librarian for the Library. He said she passed away on February 11. He said she was an advocate for greater respect for the technical division and there are many legendary stories about her dedication to the job. He said she was a bit of a fireball, who was a rebel during her early days and always dedicated. He said we should adjourn in her honor. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, agreed with the previous speaker to adjourn in honor of Nancy Musser. He said Nancy Musser's career overlapped with his interests especially with weaknesses of the catalog.

Commissioner Kane asked that a report be brought back to the Commission on the African collection.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Kane to adjourn the regular meeting of March 1, 2012 in honor of Nancy Musser former director of Technical Services.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Breyer, Kane, Munson, and Ono).

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Sue Blackman  
Commission Secretary

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the commission secretary/custodian of records, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Main Library; (2) in the rear of Koret Auditorium immediately prior to, and during, the meeting; and (3), to the extent possible, on the Public Library's website <http://sfpl.org>. Additional materials not listed as explanatory documents on this agenda, if any, that are distributed to library commissioners prior to or during the meeting in connection with any agenda item will be available to the public for inspection and copying in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.1 and Sunshine Ordinance Sections 67.9, 67.28(b), and 67.28(d).

#### ADDENDUM

**These summary statements are provided by the speaker: Their contents are neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by, the San Francisco Public Library Commission.**

Item 1: General Public Comment

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate & Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

Your elected president, Jewelle Gomez, was found to be “below the standard of decency, good faith and right action.”

Commissioner Munson justified this as a “human outburst.” This fails to intersect the reality in which we live. It was a flagrant violation of the law with an aggravating factor being the perpetrator's absolute refusal to acknowledge any responsibility.

Mr. Munson ignores the violation and resolutely supports the aggravating factor.

You feel no obligation to reason with the outside society.

Rather than Ancient Roman Emperors, the better analogy is the French Revolution. It is not a good idea to mock people's powerlessness.

Denial of access to the truth is metaphorical violence, and your metaphorical castle of privilege is protected by walls of denial. It is beyond telling another lie and hiring another guard, people are going to cut all your throats.

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## Item 2: Friends of the Library Report

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

How is it possible that an outside non-profit can use the graphic display, but it is impossible for critics of that non-profit?

If I had access to the graphics, I would show most of the commissioners being photographed with a check dated 2010-2011 for over \$4 Million. The amount was specific, creating an illusion of reality – a common propaganda trick.

The Friends are grateful to give this report because it should be given by your City Librarian, your financial officer and the Controller, who are responsible and can be fired when it, inevitably, turns out to be wrong.

The report in my hand is required by the State Attorney General and a required report under the Sunshine Ordinance, do not match what you heard. There is no chance that you would be embarrassed.

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## Item 3: City Librarian's Report

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate & Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

It is true that you can visit the Statute of Liberty, get your pocket picked and just be grateful to have seen the Statute of Liberty. There are others who take responsibility and don't think getting your pocket picked should be the price of visiting the Statute of Liberty.

I can visit the Potrero Branch and enjoy the view, but that does not mean that it is not important to have a government that is democratic and open to everyone.

I am gratified that the administration is making efforts to be responsible to the environment and climate. So thank you.

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Item 5: Approval of the Minutes (January 19, 2012)

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate & Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

These minutes are better, but sometimes things are not understandable without context.

On page 1, the comments about preventing dialogue is in response to a Commissioner's suggestion that there could be dialogue. I also mention private interests expecting status and exclusivity, but that is not understandable without the "because" establishing the causal relationship to preventing dialogue.

Similarly, on page 4, the phrase "back to reality" has no meaning without a reference to the interlude with Mindy Linetsky that preceded it.

Page 9, I mentioned Mr. Herrera's "joyous spirit and infectious optimism" and I sometimes like to be reflected in the minutes as having made a gracious comment.

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Item 6: Adjournment

Anonymous Citizen: We have lost one of our most distinguished staff members and I suggest that we adjourn in her honor. Nancy Musser was a retired Chief of Technical Services who served in that capacity for over two decades and her entire tenure must have been 35 or 40 years.

She was responsible for ground level windows on the Larkin Street side because that was designated for technical services and she was adamant that Technical Services should not be in windowless rooms.

She was an advocate for greater respect for the technical division. There are many legendary stories about her dedication to the job including supposedly fishing photographs out of a dumpster when a newspaper morgue was being discarded.

She was a bit of a fireball, who was a rebel during her early days and always dedicated.

She was one of our legendary staff members and we should adjourn in her honor.