



San Francisco Public Library

REVISED DRAFT

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 19, 2014

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2014 in the Koret Auditorium Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:39 pm.

Sue Blackman, Library Commission Secretary, introduced our new Commissioner Dr. Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, who is the Vice-Provost at the University of San Francisco and is in charge of Diversity and Community Engagement. She said Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi has a wealth of experience and we welcome her and we are very pleased to have her with us today.

Commissioners present: Lee, Mall, Ono and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi.

President Ono said because of the length of the agenda and the anticipation of a lot of speakers we are going to limit public comment today to two minutes.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said welcome to the new Commissioner. He said you are in on the first illegality of the library which is to ignore the Sunshine Ordinance which requires three minutes on public comment on each agenda item. He said earlier this year there was an acquittal of the man who was accused of the so-called chair attack at the library. He said a February 21 Press Release by the Public Defender's Office gave some information about what had happened. He said the acquittal occurred because there were witness statements that were widely disparate as to the description of "**who done it**". He said the security folks and the police allowed the witnesses to join forces and come up with new statements that were more consistent. He said the library has a long record of falsely accusing people including the chair attacker and the former President of the Commission who called the police on a member of the public because of

comments he made here and the police came to his house and nothing had happened. He said there is a whole range of unlawful actions determined by the Sunshine Task Force and the FPPC against the City Librarian.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said welcome to the new Commissioner. He said he would like to reaffirm the comments of the previous speaker. He said the Sunshine Ordinance says specifically that members of the public should be allowed to speak up to three minutes. He said this is a First Amendment Free Speech right and it is not the Commission's choice to limit the time it is the public's choice to limit its time. He said Luis Herrera has for many years filed false statements of economic interest on which he lied about gifts received from the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. He said subsequently this Commission engaged in illegal discussions and action in an attempt to cover up his illegal actions and the Commission's failure to hold him accountable. He said given these facts is it reasonable for members of the public to assume that you no longer support Luis Herrera's flagrant violations of the law and his failure to carry out his fiduciary responsibilities as relates to public monies raised and expended by the Friends. He said we are talking \$60 Million between 2000 and 2013 and the Commission has nothing to show where that money went except a bunch of post produced documents. He said no member of the public, member of the Commission or SFPL employee should have any doubt about the fact that Mr. Herrera is basically a dishonest person. He asked when the Commission will place on the agenda an opportunity for full public discussion of the issue. He said there is no question about whether Mr. Herrera is honest, the only issue that remains is whether the Commission is.

The following written summary was provided by the speaker, Ray Hartz. The content is neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by the Library Commission.

Luis Herrera has for years filed false SEIs on which he lied about gifts received from "The Friends." Subsequently, this commission engaged in illegal discussions and actions in an attempt to "cover-up his illegal actions and the commission's failure to hold him to assume that you no longer support Luis Herrera's flagrant violations of law and his failure to carry out his fiduciary responsibilities as relate to public monies raised and expended by "The Friends?" No member of the public, member of this commission, or SFPL employee should have any doubt about the fact that Mr. Herrera is basically a dishonest person! When will this commission place on the agenda an opportunity for full public discussion of this issue? There is no question about whether Mr. Herrera is honest, the only issue that remains is whether you are?

Bert Paradise said he has been before the Commission before speaking about the computers in the library that are not being used after 7:00 pm. He said last night there were 5 available on the fifth floor, 6 available on the fourth floor, 5 available on the third floor and he did not count the available computers on the first floor. He said when he asked for additional time on the computer on the fifth floor he was refused and on the fourth floor he was refused. He said on the third floor he found someone who was willing to give him extra time to use the computer. He said his understanding is that not quite 50% of the time slots available are being used, which means that 50% are available. He said he does not understand why people are not allowed to use the computers that are available after 7:00 pm for 45 minutes. He said under Patron Code of Conduct number 2 people who bring guns into the library are only going to be kept out of the library for a year the first time and he thinks that is way too lenient.

AGENDA ITEM 2 BAYVIEW BRANCH LIBRARY RENAMING

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this item is a discussion regarding the possible renaming of the Bayview Branch Library in honor of Linda Brooks-Burton. He said the Commission did receive a document from a community committee requesting that the new branch be named the Bayview Linda Brooks-Burton Branch Library in honor of a local hero who passed away on September 20, 2013. He said Linda was a loved and revered librarian in the San Francisco Public Library system. He said she was the Managing Librarian of the Bayview Branch for 15 years and was the Southeast District Manager. He said in your packet is the letter that formally requests the beginning of the process of the renaming and a draft resolution. He said you also have the San Francisco Public Library Commission Naming Policy. He said the policy of the Library is to name branches of the library for the geographic location of the library. He said the policy requires that a branch library may not be named after a living person or any person deceased less than one year. He said the policy lists a number of criteria including a consensus from the community of library users and residents to name and add the name of the proposed honoree to the building. He explained the procedure for the renaming. He said it does require that a Commission meeting be held at the library or in the community for consideration of the renaming
Explanatory document: [Policy 601 – Library Facilities Naming Policy; draft resolution](#) and [Letter requesting renaming](#).

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he strongly supports this motion to name the Bayview Branch in honor of Linda Brooks-Burton. He said for all the reasons listed in the memorandum she is fully deserving of this honor and he only regrets that this was not started in time for her to appreciate this accolade. He said it is particularly appropriate given the fact that the Bayview Branch was one of the last to be started and completed. He said even though we know historically in this city the Bayview Hunters Point is one of the most underserved communities as part of city services go and you waited until almost the

very last to do anything with the Bayview Hunters Point Branch Library. He said he believes she deserves an acknowledgment of her efforts which goes beyond what is listed in the resolution. He said it needs to be publicly stated that she achieved all of the things listed, and more, in the face of all the obstacles placed in the way by both the library and this Library Commission. He said without her efforts he seriously doubts that Bayview would have its long-deserved and well-deserved branch. He said every citizen of San Francisco is indebted to Linda Brooks-Burton. He said we have had the discussion about how Bayview Hunters Point has been under-served by this city in so many ways. He said this Library Commission just put the icing on the cake by deciding it was going to do this branch second to last. He said the Commission did a bunch of dishonorable things by trying to not hire local contractors. He said this lady probably had to go through Hell and back to get this branch open. He said this is the first time that you have given credit to anyone other than taking it all for yourselves.

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I strongly support this motion to name the Bayview branch in honor of Linda Brooks-Burton! For all of the reasons listed in the memorandum, she is fully deserving of this honor and I only regret this was not done in time for her to appreciate this accolade. It is particularly appropriate given the fact that the Bayview branch was one of the last to be started and completed. I believe she deserves an acknowledgment of her efforts which goes beyond what is listed in the resolution. It needs to be stated publicly that she achieved all of the things listed, and more, in the face of all the obstacles placed in the way by both the library and this library commission. Without her efforts I seriously doubt the Bayview would have its long-deserved and well-deserved branch of the SFPL. Every citizen of San Francisco is indebted to Linda Brooks Burton.

Jarod Templeton, a former Board member of the Friends of the Library, said he last spoke to the Commission when he made the request to add an additional \$1 Million for the Bayview Library. He said the person who commanded his attendance was Linda Brooks-Burton. He said it goes without saying there is no other name that should be attached to this building, in that place in that community that she gave so much too. He said he encourages you to waive whatever time requirements that are in your policy and to respect the strong and fervent desire of everybody in the Bayview Hunters Point community to have her name on that library.

Lydia Benson White said she is a long time resident of Bayview and an avid public library supporter. She said if you look in the audience you will see some buttons with Linda's picture on it. She said we are formally requesting that the Bayview Branch be renamed in honor of a woman who embodied the heart and soul of promoting free education for all. She

said as part of our request we are submitting 2,981 signatures and comments from some of the people who signed up on line, additional surveys and letters and some background on Linda. She said we urge you to move forward.

Kevin Epps said he is an activist and filmmaker who hails from Hunters Point and he wanted to give his strong support in naming the Bayview Branch in the name of Linda Brooks-Burton. He said she was a person who engaged and reached out to the community and allowed for the community and the library to come together. He said he had the privilege as a filmmaker to work with her on a number of occasions and he had his film entitled Straight Out of Hunters Point shown at libraries throughout the city. He said Linda is sorely missed and her untimely death has left a void in our community. He said a great way to honor her would be to name that facility after her because of her relentless efforts to make sure that our community had a place of learning that could be recognized and respected.

Melissa Ryan said she was speaking for the Librarians Guild and the Librarian's Chapter. She said it is thrilling to hear and see the strong support of the community coming out to rename the branch for Linda Brooks-Burton. She said she does not know how many libraries have ever been named or renamed for a librarian but she knows there aren't very many. She said we are all entirely in favor of this. She said she was a wonderful colleague and we need to meet this demand.

Oscar James said he is a resident and activist in Bayview Hunters Bay Point and he is a trustee at St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church and a Deacon. He said we have full support from our church to support the library being renamed after Linda. He said he is also a member of HP Unity, a group of African Native Americans born and raised in Hunters Point who try to make changes to the young men and women in our community. He said one of the things that helps that mission is having things named after African Americans who have done things that are beneficial to the whole community. He said he begs and pleads that you will change the name and put her picture up so that when the young people go they can see something positive that African Americans have done in the community.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he **certainly** agrees with the previous speaker however he does agree the time constraints should be followed. He said one of the things that he particularly appreciated was that Linda had a tremendous amount of energy and a positive outlook that was quite charming. She didn't seem to be somebody who made enemies and was a **tremendously** welcoming personality. He said he concurs with the honor that is on the way.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall asked about the name of the film that was referred to in public comment.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the name of the film is Straight Out of Hunters Point. He said there is another documentary that will be premiering next week called the Point of Pride the People's View of the Bayview Hunters Point and it is about civil rights in that area. He said Linda Brooks-Burton was instrumental in securing the grant for the film. He said this item is a discussion item today to begin the process. He said the next step is to have a hearing in the community at the Bayview Library.

Commissioner Mall said she wanted to thank all of the people who made public comment and she said she wishes that she had had a chance to meet her. She said she is sort of jealous that people were inspired by her and she is sorry that she personally did not have a chance to know her.

Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said thank you to the people who attended today and made comments about Linda Brooks-Burton life and her contributions.

Commissioner Lee said it is very inspiring and he thinks that the process will go well.

President Ono thanked everyone for coming today along with gathering all the signatures, online comments and letters. She said she would like to read through them and she looks forward to the community meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 LIBRARY PATRON CODE OF CONDUCT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this is a discussion item for the Library's Patron Code of Conduct. He said we have had two prior conversations with the Commission in February and April. He said the idea is to gather input and hear from you about proposed changes.

Michael Lambert, Deputy City Librarian, said we have been working with the Office of the City Attorney and various stakeholders to update the rules and regulations governing the use of the library. He gave a presentation on the latest draft of the Patron Code of Conduct. He said Level One violations have gone from nine to three. He said the latest addition to the Code has been to add the California Penal Code Section addressing the violation. He said Level Two Moderate Violations have a consistent suspension duration. He said these violations are also considered serious. He said there are 23 Level Three Minor Violations. He said we are confident that our revised Patron Code of Conduct has greater fairness and legitimacy. He said some of the violations listed under Minor Violations are simply rules violations set by the Library Commission. He said trespassing is straightforward and we will call the Police Department for support and press charges when necessary. He said we have worked with the Coalition on the Homeless on updating the appeals process and have created a new procedure to allow a patron to bring a patron advocate of their choosing who may support them during the hearing. He said we are working to develop a new arbitration process,

a second tier hearing that will allow an individual to meet with a second tier arbitrator who will make a binding and final decision.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we are including a training component for our security personnel and our public service staff. He said we have been successful in including in our budget not just support for our building and patron officers and additional custodial support, but also some additional support for bridging the gap between the 60 hours the library is open and the 40 hour social service worker. He said the amount of security incidents have dropped.

Explanatory documents: Draft [Library Patron Code of Conduct](#).

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said this revision of the Patron Code of Conduct is something of an improvement over the prior draconian formulations of which there have been two. He said but is still not good enough by far. He said you have provided less and less information so with this formulation **there is** no comparison **possible** to existing versions of the rules or prior versions. He said there is no information as to what has been changed or why. He said it makes comparisons and evaluation laborious and difficult. He said you have already heard from library users, the homeless coalition and the American Civil Liberties Union regarding the vagueness of the wording which allows targeting of people you don't like and the draconian increases in the penalties. He said we are very concerned that there is no independent adjudication of guilt or innocence. He said your claims to due process are merely nonsense. He said everything is run by the library and the policy is that you are guilty until proven innocent. He said there are also issues of freedom of speech and assembly which excludes the second appeals process which seems to have some independence.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said one of the reasons he fights so hard for public participation in meetings is exemplified by this agenda item. He said without public participation the draconian and probably illegal rules initially set for approval would already be in place. He said the American Civil Liberties Union wrote that this was vague and probably illegal and if it hadn't been for public participation the former President of the Library Commission would have just jammed them through without any participation. He said we have seen so many permutations of these rules, that it is impossible for anyone to have a true understanding as to how this will be carried out. He said that includes members of the public but also the staff who will have the onerous responsibility for operating under them. He said late last year someone was accused of hitting someone else with a chair, they were arrested and had to go to trial and it was found that they were not the person who committed the act and they were found not guilty. He said if it were me, I would be suing the library and the staff members who were involved as well as the city because that was a wrongful arrest. He said this is fair neither to the patrons nor the staff for this Library Commission to enact a policy which they have been forced to repeatedly revise and did so only with ongoing public pressure. He said he hopes that some degree of

pressure will not be required to ensure that the staff is properly trained prior to any implementation.

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One of the reasons I fight so hard for public participation in meetings is exemplified by this agenda item. Without public participation these draconian and probably illegal rules initially set for approval would be in place. We have seen so many permutations of these rules, that it is impossible for anyone to have an understanding as to how this will be carried out. That includes not only members of the public who will be affected by these rules, but, also the staff who will have the onerous responsibility for operating under them. It is fair neither to the patrons nor the staff for this library commission to enact a policy which they have been forced to repeatedly revise and do so only with ongoing public pressure! I hope that same degree of pressure will not be required to ensure that the staff is properly trained prior to any implementation.

Brent Paradise said several times he has observed people shooting up in the stacks by hiding and injecting themselves. He said he has also seen this happening in the Men's room. He said he has found dirty needles in books uncapped. He said he thinks the suspension for illegal drugs of three months, six months and one year is a little lenient.

Lisa Marie Alatorre from the Commission on Homelessness said they still oppose the penalty increases but they are excited about the opportunity to work alongside you and collaborate with you. She said she is happy to see that the next item on the agenda is the ALA Policy Statement but she wishes it had come before this item because we are talking about a different sort of approach. She said we continue to believe that merely increasing the penalty is not a deterrent for the behavior you are trying to address. She said merely banning people from the library is not going to stop poverty and drug use and people not having their basic needs met. She said the ALA Statement has additional steps and one of them is taking a political stance to demand that appropriate funding for the needs of poor and homeless people in the community are met. She said she is happy that there is some thinking about the gaps in services but it is unclear if there are actual social workers that are going to be hired or if it is just custodians. She said there is a moment in the budget when the library can take a stance in demanding more social workers as part of the budget and this is part of what the ALA statement is about.

Melissa Riley, Librarians Guild, said they just saw this a few days ago and it seems to be improving and it is great to have these legal codes included so that we can understand much better the law and she would like to see these hyperlinked eventually. She said they are happy that there is ongoing improvement of this document and she thinks there may

be some changes that we would like to see but they are still analyzing and it and trying to determine how this would actually be implemented. She said we want to make this a safe and welcoming place for everyone including staff.

Amanda said she is with the Coalition on Homelessness and she wanted to thank the library for working with the Coalition. She said she thinks we need to start getting more creative and stop punishing people. She said we need to stop banishing people from the library because it is for everyone and they need the library.

Scott Staub, Executive Director, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, said welcome to our new Commissioner. He said just yesterday at the Steps Sale one of the Friends' staff members was assaulted so he is particularly paying attention to the Code of Conduct because it is for the safety of not only our users but also staff and this is particularly important.

Isaac said he has a problem with a couple of things. He said he was talking to one of the librarians the other day and he asked her for his library number and she got an attitude with him and she got very upset. He said some of these rules can be tampered with by the library staff. He said sometimes you have to look at the staff and not just the patron.

Deborah Doyle said welcome to the new Commissioner. She said she is with the Friends of the Library but she is also the President of the California Library Association and on the Board of the National Section of the American Library Association that represents Friends, Trustees and Foundations. She said San Francisco has been at the forefront of providing services and reaching out to the community to find out how our community can be stronger. She said we are not the only community facing these issues. She said this conversation is being watched all over the country. She said the fact that this conversation is going on so long is a very good thing. She said there is willingness from the community to reach in and from the library to reach out. She said we are a terrific model and the staff is to be applauded.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall said she is guilty of number 25, sleeping in the library. She said she would like to see that eliminated as a violation. She said she does not think a warning on number 27 is enough. She said there needs to be more discussion on number 27, using SFPL facilities for other than their intended purpose. She said whatever we have on this document should be real and should be workable. She said she would be upset if she found needles or people doing drugs. We really need to look at the things that are a priority. She said skateboarding or roller skating goes on all the time.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said some of these violations have safety concerns such as hurting themselves or others. He said it is a safety issue for both security staff and the police. He said we have a lot of

people complaining about those issues. He said we can go back and look at some of the wording.

Commissioner Mall said these issues are the toughest things we deal with. She said we are making progress but we need to take our time and do it right.

Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said this is her first time seeing this document. She said she has actually written code of conduct policies in her context as a former Dean of Students. She said there are probably some specifics that she might be able to add to help with some language. She said we need to be very clear about what we want this Code of Conduct to communicate to the community about who we are and what we aspire and what we believe in. She said one of the things she advises is that there needs to be a statement that leads into the commentary of the code of conduct that talks about and confirms what the values are. She said it should get in the spirit of education versus being punitive although with rights comes responsibilities. She said when you frame it that way it becomes an affirmation that as the San Francisco Public Library these are the things that we believe in. She said a prelude is something that will be really important. She said she thinks that we can probably be a model and that we are at the forefront and can actually do something great.

Commissioner Lee said this is a very tricky issue. He said only one of the public comments said that this is too lenient where others say that it is too stringent. He said the silent majority is not here so he is talking to more of the library patrons and what he is hearing is that the library is not as safe a place as it was before. He asked how we strike a balance between expecting the library to be a place to learn and that is safe versus the minority that misbehave and show disrespect. He said he does not know how to solve this problem but it is worth trying. He said hopefully people will change their behavior so he doesn't know how you balance the third offense.

Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said code of conducts are complex and we have to create in writing a document that is affirmative as well as responsive and at the same time recognize that it is a work in progress. She said it is not unusual to relook and rewrite codes based upon what we learn once implemented.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we welcome the Commission's help on preparing the prelude and it was interesting hearing Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi's experience on preparing a code of conduct. He said the other thing he is hearing is that we do have to strike a balance and insure our public that everyone is welcome and that it is about behavior. He said it is not just the enforcement part, but the training that is very important. He said we are including additional support for the social services portion including the Health and Safety Associates.

Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said on the arbitration portion she would look a little bit more at having more voices and having training for both internal library workers and others. She said it is important to look at models and see what the best models are like in order to get a tight due process.

President Ono said if we want to make further changes once this is adopted will we need to come back to the Commission.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said that the recommendation is for the Commission to approve the Code of Conduct at a future meeting and allow us to administratively work on the hearing and arbitration process and to give us flexibility as that evolves. He said if there are changes to the Code of Conduct we will bring those back to the Commission. He said the last time this was updated was 2007.

President Ono clarified if there are any changes it will come back to the Commission for review. She said she likes that the Code references are included.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 ENDORSEMENT OF ALA POLICY STATEMENT: LIBRARY SERVICES TO THE POOR

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this item is related to the previous one but we wanted to separate them because it was a recommendation specifically by the Coalition of Homelessness to have the Commission endorse this policy statement from the American Library Association (ALA) that has been on the books for quite a while. He said it does address a philosophical statement addressing the issues of equal access and information and specifically addressing the increasing number of poor children, adults and families in America. He said it has a list of objectives specific to the ALA and those were not as relevant to the Library Commission because we are separate from the ALA. He said we have made the statement available for your endorsement with changes or going back and re-crafting a different philosophical statement on underserved and poor communities. He said this is a policy for you to take action on, either today or at a future Commission meeting.

Explanatory documents: [ALA Policy Statement: Library Services to the Poor](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said we would certainly approve the library's adoption but to make it real you need to make it real and enact what this says. He said what was included in the agenda packet was a single paragraph and not the details, which are not limited to the ALA but what libraries are supposed to be doing with respect to library services to the poor. He said he printed and will give you a copy of the 15 very specific things that you should be doing. He said the first item is promoting the removal of all barriers to library information services particularly overdue charges. He said there are also other things that we have talked about including noting the Library's complete exclusion of

homeless groups in any previous discussions prior to them showing up here in February. He said item 10 is promoting direct representation of poor people and anti-poverty advocates through appointment to local boards and creation of local advisory committees and service to low income people. He said he would recommend that the Commission adopt this and look at the full document and make it real and establish a staff committee that would look at the implementation of all of them.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said it is truly bizarre that this agenda item follows discussion of the library patron code of conduct. He said having a familiarity with how this Library Commission has operated in the past he sees this as nothing but a hypocritical attempt to deny access to members of the public and at the same time affirm a policy so likely to provide unfettered access for all. He said in the Navy we used to call this CYA or cover your ass. He said you have spent an immense amount of time and energy coming up with ways to deny access and following with a brief statement saying that citizens should have access. He said as Mr. Warfield has pointed out you get one page of the document and eliminate the other 14 points that should be there because you are talking about the entire policy not just the part you want to show us or the part you like. He said this is the first time he has seen this Library Commission have an open discussion about these matters. He said in the past it has been his belief that a lot of things are discussed illegally outside of the view of the public and they only come here with an already agreed upon outcome. He said that is not only a violation of the Sunshine Ordinance, but the Brown Act and the Constitution of the State of California and the United States of America. He said it has been the policy of Jewelle Gomez and Luis Herrera to maintain total control of the agenda. He said it is long overdue that an item relating to new business be placed on every agenda to allow members of the commission and members of the public to fully participate in these meetings. He said he has never seen any member of this commission recommend anything for this agenda.

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I find it truly bizarre that this agenda item follows discussion of the library patron code of conduct. Having a familiarity with how this library commission has operated in the past, I see this is nothing but a hypocritical attempt to deny access to members of the public and at the same time affirm a policy so likely to provide unfettered access for all! In the Navy we used to call this CYA or “cover your ass!” Spending immense amounts of time and energy coming up with ways to deny access and following with a brief statement saying that citizens should have access. It has been the policy of Jewelle Gomez and Luis Herrera to maintain total control of the agenda. It is long overdue that an item relating to “new business” be placed on every agenda to allow members of the commission and members of the public full participation!

Lisa Marie Alatorre, Homeless Coalition, said generally in dealing with a lot of city departments they deal with a lot of prejudice and stigma and the fact that this policy statement is before you today is a statement that this particular institution in this city is really trying to combat that. She said she would encourage you to also adopt the objectives because they do give some road map forward. She said this is a political moment and we have the opportunity to have a model for the city and world to look at. She said we also have a crises in our city and there is a lot of attention we are getting for that crises. She said we would like to have a radical, creative and holistic approach that truly does attempt that balance. She said she personally is opposed to penalty increases and she believes they are not actually a deterrent but are displacing and adding to that. She said there are a lot of proactive things that we can do. She said the objectives do give a road map forward and a way to look at things not just from a punitive place.

A resident of San Francisco said he was happy that he could hear part of this and be here. He said he loves the library and he encourages his students to take part. He said he does not feel as safe in this library because there is so much activity going on. He said he likes to go to the other branches more because of that. He said there are a lot of services to the underserved and he said a lot of the things the library does is really great. He said he would like to be more involved by seeing what you guys are doing.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall said she does not think the Code of Conduct is just for poor people or homeless people. She said this is about behavior and anybody using the library. She said her first thought was a different statement that has nothing to do with people's income level or where they live. She said she is thrilled Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi is on the Commission and she is sure she will have some good ideas on how to frame this.

Commissioner Lee said he has no reservation on this policy statement that promotes equal access to information for all. He said this is about behavior and he has no problem with it. He said he will advocate on the poor's behalf who come to the library for safety.

Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said that this is a good way to move forward to make some affirmations. She said the ALA has clearly been leading out front on this issue and is a national organization for us to look to. She said she would be interested in looking at the objectives that go along with the statement as well. She said she would like to take the best of the ALA statement and apply it in a San Francisco context. She said what is in this statement that affirms what we are as a City and County to keep and if there is anything that we need to add to it then we do so. She said she would be glad to help with whatever drafting of an affirmative

statement that relates to our services to the poor. She said she sees this as a model but it doesn't mean that we can't do better.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said that the entire document was sent to the Commission for an earlier meeting so we were remiss in not sending it again, but we were focusing on the statement. He said we will bring them back to share with the Commission again.

Motion: By Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Mall, to endorse the ALA Policy Statement with the addition of the word "responsible" so that it reads "the ALA promotes equal access to information for all **responsible** persons.

President Ono asked if the statement could be modified.

Sue Blackman, Commission Secretary, said that the Commission could modify the statement since they are basically endorsing not adopting the statement.

Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said she would be willing to move forward if this is a matter of endorsing the statement but with the thought of the San Francisco Public Library moving forward to create its own statement. She said she is not sure what the word responsible does to the meaning of the statement.

Commissioner Mall withdrew her second and made a substitute motion.

Motion: By Commissioner Mall, seconded by Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, to endorse in spirit the ALA Policy Statement with the opportunity to customize it for SFPL and bring it back to the Commission.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Lee, Mall, Ono and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, gave an update of the FY 2015 and 2016 budget. She said the key budget drivers were enhanced capacity for safe and welcoming facilities; added custodial and security support, collections enhancements, technology investment, potential relocation of back-of-house operations and increases from labor agreements. She said as a reminder the Library has now gone to a two-year budget process so the next full budget process will be for the FY 17 and 18 budget. She said the Library has had key initiatives including expanded library hours. She said the Library now provides 1,370 hours per week system wide which is 14% more than mandated by City Charter Section 16.109.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian said the Branch Library Improvement Program is complete and we opened the North Beach branch library on May 10. He said BLIP included 16 renovated sites and 8 new buildings

with 10 of those being LEED certified libraries. He said one of the key initiatives is the Teen Digital Media Lab, which will be 4,770 square feet at the Main Library on the second floor. He said we will be moving forward with the construction schedule to begin this summer and to be completed in spring of 2015. He said we have some very strong partnerships. He said this will require some tenant improvements. He said Phase 1 is the completion of the IT offices. He said the offices for the staffs of the Chief of Main and Community Programs and Partnerships will be completed in later this month and the Human Resources office construction will begin following that. He said Phase 2 is the Literacy and Learning Center on the Fifth Floor and the demolition is complete and construction will be complete later this summer. He said Phase 3 is the Teen Digital Media Lab. He said the design is complete but the bids came in higher than was estimated and we will be re-bidding this month and with construction to begin this summer and completed in the spring of 2015. He said the costs have been driven by a funding gap of \$1.3 Million and these include changes in construction market, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, life safety code requirements and operational staffing needs. He said the funding source is the Library Preservation Fund and the new estimated revised program budget is \$6.8 Million.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said another one of our key initiatives is youth and family services. She said we have served 243,000 children and teens through library programs, done outreach to 83,000 students through class visits, provide summer learning opportunities for children, teens and adults and will provide 125 scholarships for online high school diplomas. She said other key initiatives for the library include our collections, technology and innovation, and addressing socioeconomic equity. She showed a couple of graphs showing the budget sources of revenue and uses by expenditure type. She said the budget went to the Board of Supervisors in May instead of June this year and she explained the negotiations with the Board Analyst. She said the Board will finalize the budget in July and the Controller's Office will input all of the Board changes in July.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said he wanted to thank Maureen Singleton and her team and the Division Chiefs for all of their hard work on this budget.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief Community Programs and Partnerships, said the Summer Read program runs from May 31 through August 10. She said she has made the program guides available to the Commissioners and the public at the back of the room. She said the library partnered with SFUSD and distributed 25,000 game boards through the elementary schools. She said the goal is to prevent summer learning loss. She said children need to read for 10 hours and teens need to read for 30 hours. She said adults can participate too. She said if you reach your reading goal you receive a beautiful book bag. She said there was a wonderful kickoff event on May 31. She said this fall we will host our One City One Book program. She explained the previous choices for One City One Book and said this year's selection is Amistead Maupin's Tales of the

City. She said we will be celebrating with viewings of the Tales of the City television show starring Laura Linney, branch book discussions led by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and walking tours based on the locations in the book and other programming. He said Armistead Maupin will be at the Main Library on October 23 to talk about the book.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, gave the Bond Program Manager's Report. She said 7 property acquisitions are complete, the support services facility is in operation, 24 branches are complete and open and the old North Beach Library demolition is in progress. She showed photographs of the Grand Opening of the new North Beach Branch Library.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said he wanted to share a slide presentation of the various celebrations of the branches on the completion of the BLIP program.

Explanatory documents: [FYs 2015 and 2016 Budget](#) presentation with [Attachments I](#) and [II](#); [One City One Book](#) presentation; [BLIP Quarterly Report](#); [BLIP Financial Report](#); and [Bond Program Manager's Report](#). ;

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said the BLIP program ended up costing the citizens of San Francisco double what it was when sold to them originally. He said it was more than 100% over budget. He said if you look at the Teen Center you will see the Library's typical way of dealing with the budget which is fire, ready, aim. He said right now you are being told the \$5.3 Million you gave them for the Teen Center is not enough and they need 25% more. He said that is the way they always do it they underestimate, under budget and then come back and tell you it is beyond their control, just like the 100% increase on the BLIP was out of their control. He said he wanted to talk about the Financial Statement and the numbers on the bottom. He said those are made up numbers. He said ask the City Librarian to see numbers or documents that support those numbers. He said he has 17 Orders of Determination, more than half of those against the Commission or the City Librarian, in violation of the Sunshine Ordinance stating that these numbers do not exist. The City Librarian says there are no documents and basically he is lying to the public.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he concurs with the remarks of the previous speaker. He said this is a lot to talk about and now you have limited the public comment to an unlawful two minutes. He said with respect to the budget there has been no mention whatsoever that the literacy and learning center is coming at the cost of the destruction of half of the library's bound magazine space, which is the entire western side of the fifth floor facing City Hall. He said there is a concern with the budget which doesn't go into any specifics but if you look a little further you will see there is more police than social workers in terms of expense. He said the budget analyst talked about the library requesting seven new positions that include two positions for IT, two for security, one custodial supervisor and two custodians and not

social workers. He said we seem to have the Sergeant in the back of the room again. He said there was no demonstration ever that there was a need for the kiosks and that the small number of check outs couldn't be handled by the library staff.

Reese Isbell, said he had the honor of being the campaign staff for Proposition A for the BLIP program in 2000. He said he spent the year of 2000 learning about and visiting all the neighborhood libraries. He said many of the libraries were not seismically safe and there was a lot of discussion on what was needed for the branches. He said it is moving to him just being here and to say 14 years later we did it.

A San Francisco resident said there is so much beauty in the library. He said he would like to learn more because he usually only goes to a few of them but there are so many he wants to visit. He said some of the speakers here are concerned with the way the money is spent but this is so beautiful. He said thank you to the Commissioners for the work that they do.

Scott Staub, Executive Director, Friends San Francisco Public Library, said they are thrilled to be a partner with the Library on making the BLIP program a success. He said he hopes he will have time later this summer to give the Commission a detailed report with the level of specificity that will show you the checks and the amounts. He said that information is always available for public inspection. He said on November 11 we are going to have a celebration to celebrate the achievements on the BLIP program. He said the Ritz Carlton has made a very generous gift and the event will be called "Celebrating Success". He said you will hear more about it but we are very excited because this will be another opportunity to raise money for the library. He said we hope to see you all there that evening.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Wardell Ghirarduzzi said it was nice to see the changes in the libraries.

Commissioner Lee said in the budget there is an investment in technology. He said at the beginning of the meeting there was a gentleman who said he was not able to use the computer. He asked if the self-help laptops would have been able to help that gentleman.

Michael Lambert, Deputy City Librarian, said they appreciate hearing the comments about the technology because it validates some of the work we are doing and we are looking at expanding our access to the internet and increase the daily time limit for internet access up to two hours depending on availability. He said the kiosks will also be an additional enhancement to expand access.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the initial bond measure was for approximately \$106 Million and going into the project we knew that that

was not enough. He said we received an additional \$10 Million of State funding and the voters also voted to allow us to go back for additional revenue bonds and re-scope some of the projects so that the projects like Bayview and Ortega have beautiful new libraries. He said all of the changes have been publicly vetted and supported and we appreciate that.

Commissioner Mall said she wanted to complement Michelle Jeffers for the great Summer Read program and she thanked Maureen Singleton for all her work on the budget.

President Ono thanked staff for all of these great reports.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 LABOR UNION REPORT

Andrea Grimes said she is one of the officers of the Librarians Guild of SEIU 1021. She said she wanted to reiterate the support of the renaming of the Bayview Branch for Linda Brooks-Burton. She said she wanted to encourage the Commission to rename the branch. She said Linda Brooks-Burton was a wonderful librarian, a mentor, colleague, and she truly deserves this honor.

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he is continually amazed by the fact that the Union representative very typically doesn't talk about the benefits or welfare of union members. He said every once in a while they bring up something or no report at all. He said if he were an employee of this library, he would not feel very comfortable. In bringing his concerns to you, simply for the fact that he has the impression that you really don't give a damn. He said the Commission follows the practice of fire, ready, aim, which is you put out the policy and after people come to you and say wait a minute we weren't included in this and now you say you took the initiative and got all these stakeholders. He said the homeless people would not have been involved if it hadn't been for Peter Warfield, who took it upon himself to contact the folks and let them know what you were doing so they had an opportunity to come in and cut you off at the pass. He said the Commission does things in a hidden manner and he doesn't think the union would feel that they could come here in public and talk to you openly and honestly. He said he has been told by some of them that they feel if they did they would suffer retaliation. He said as a result they try to do things under the radar and don't bring up any issues here. He said if you go back and look at the meetings you've had and the issues they bring up they bring up almost nothing.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the union at a previous meeting brought something up that he would be very interested in having follow up on. He said they were expressing concern with the adequacy of staffing for the additional hours that have been provided at the library. He said for the benefit of the new Commissioner it is great to have new hours and we like that but the library failed in its plan to get rid of every single 8

to 9 pm hour in the system. He said 42 sessions a week where a branch was open until 9:00 were originally targeted for closure at 8:00 in the library's original extra hours plan. He said there were also some Saturday mornings which were targeted as well. Fortunately we worked a lot and the library had to back off all but three evenings and the Saturdays. He said the staffing issue was never fully discussed but it appeared to be a real concern for the librarians. He said he would be very interested in hearing about that and other issues the union may have.

Commission Discussion

There was no Commission discussion of this item.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FEBRUARY 20, 2014

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he would like to draw your attention to page 2 the bottom paragraph which is preceded by the statement: "The following written summary was provided by the speaker, Ray Hartz. The content is neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by the Library Commission." He said he is pointing that out because he wants to make it very clear to the public and the members of the Library Commission that the reason he does the 150 word summaries is because he spent years fighting this Library Commission to get what he had to say in public comment accurately represented or represented at all in some cases in the minutes of the meetings. He said the 150 word statement guarantees that he can get in what he has to say and later on you cannot come back and say well nobody ever told us for example that the Friends of the Library raised nearly \$60 Million and we have no idea where that money went except for the vaguest notion of what they claim. He said he noticed again that the speaker from the Friends of the Library snuck in again and how long is he going to do this. He said 17 times he has gone back to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force and he has a success rate of 78% in getting orders of determination. He said most of those are against this library or the staff of the library for violating First Amendment rights having to do with free speech and limiting access to public records. He said the bottom line is if you want to follow the advice of Ms. Blackman, who loses all these cases as far as what the Sunshine Ordinance says, you would be ill advised to do so. He said there are many, many more people who have an understanding of Sunshine, the Brown Act and the Public Records Act than Ms. Blackman and basically she will say anything she thinks you want to hear.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said it is interesting that folks leave at the Minutes discussion when what they might learn if they stayed is how unfortunately misrepresenting of the public and on the issues the minutes are. He said if they were to think as the new Commissioner might that the minutes are an accurate representation of what goes on, it may

be and it may not be. He said typically what happens here are that very simple requests are completely ignored and they are sometimes important in making things understandable or even correct. He said on page 1 under his comments it says that “He said there are systems that can be set up to offer more time. He said it is procrustean in its rigidity.” He said what would make it clear is if it said that the library’s policy and practice is procrustean in its rigidity. He said he was referring to the one hour limit that a member of the public had talked about. He said on page five it states “the entire west wing of the fifth floor where bound magazines stood for decades and available for browsing.” He said that should read “were available for browsing.”

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner Mall, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the [Minutes of February 20, 2014](#).

Action: AYES 4-0: (Lee, Mall, Ono and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES APRIL 17, 2014

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said we have said repeatedly that you make the changes you like to the minutes if you don’t like them you make the changes. He said if the public comes up and says that is not what I said I meant the opposite basically what you do is approve them as they are and you don’t give a damn about the way we are represented. He said he spent four years fighting the Library Commission to get the 150 word summaries in the minutes. He said he was sick and tired of having you violate his First Amendment rights, his rights under the California Constitution, and his rights under the Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance by abridging and restricting his public comment. He said he comes to these meetings to ensure that people that come to speak have the right to speak and that includes having their remarks accurately recorded in the minutes of the meeting. He said it has been a long hard struggle and when he first started doing this the minutes were so egregious that you couldn’t make any sense of them. He said he had to spend four to five years of his time taking you repeatedly to the Sunshine Task Force who repeatedly found you in violation only to have you do other things like not give us access to the audio visual. He said in March the Ethics Commission had a hearing which was noticed coincidentally the day after he left the State and the hearing was heard the day before he got back. He said Mr. Herrera went in and lied to the Ethics Commission about what it would take to get the public’s use of the audio visual. He said it would only take him sending PowerPoint slides ahead of the meeting and they would be included just like everyone else. He said you don’t like what he has to say and you are going to do what you can to keep it out. He said if you are going to restrict us to two minutes, I’m going to use every two minute opportunity that I have because you are not going to shut people up.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the lack of discussion on the previous item is sad to say that perhaps the new Commissioner is going to fall into line and never listen to requests for a single word change or try to make clear what is going on. He said under the first item under Public Comment his remarks were well done, but he wanted to clarify that this Commission used to meet twice a month and in prior years once a month with two subcommittees meeting once a month each so a total of three meetings. He said the Commission has decided that rather than taking the heat it would rather just duck out. He said the last sentence should read "He said the nominee is somebody **he thinks** would be a great improvement. . ." not "He said the nominee is somebody he would think would be a great improvement . . ." He said that is an example of the Commission not allowing favorable comments that we make to be shown there so you can continue to say we are just naysayers. He said on page 17 it says that he said ". . .since 1994 and again 2007 when the concept of every five years having a review of hours must take place." He said that should read the **law requires** that every five years a review of hours must take place."

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Wardell- Ghirarduzzi asked about how amendments to the minutes can be made.

President Ono said the Commissioners can amend the minutes and then take action on the amended minutes.

Sue Blackman, Commission Secretary, said when the minutes are amended they read "Approved as amended" and the amendment would be included. She said you can also ask that I go back and listen to the tape to see if there is a correction that needs to be made.

Commissioner Lee asked about the corrections and what was being asked.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, clarified that on page 2 it should read somebody he thinks would be a great improvement. He said on page 17 under public comment for item 6 it should state that the law requires that every five years having a review of the hours.

Motion: By Commissioner Mall, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the [Minutes of April 17, 2014](#) as amended to change a sentence on page 2 under Peter Warfield's remarks to read: "He said the nominee is somebody he thinks would be a great improvement over her predecessor" and on page 17 under Peter Warfield's remarks to read: "since 1994 and again 2007 when the law requires a review of hours must take place every five years."

Action: AYES 4-0: (Lee, Mall, Ono and Wardell Ghirarduzzi).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 ADJOURNMENT IN HONOR OF OLIVE ‘BABS’ WILBUR GAMBLE WAUGH; DR. MAYA ANGELOU AND JOHN G. FETROS

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said that Olive Wilbur Gamble Waugh was a former long standing member of the Friends of the Library Board. He said we all know the merits of Dr. Maya Angelou and John Fetros was a former staff librarian at one of our neighborhood libraries as well as at the Main.

President Ono said she would like to add that Olive Gamble Waugh according to her obituary established or developed Project Read.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he approves and supports adjourning in the memory of those three people. He said he believes that Mr. Fetros worked at the San Francisco Public Library for quite some time and was also the author of a number of books. He said for the new Commissioner the adjournment portion has been for honoring those who have a particularly close relationship to the Library and who have died. He said he has on a number of occasions said the Commission is not doing its duty until it insists that the agenda add what has been in the past and what most agendas have and that is New Business. He said these agendas under the tyrannical rule of the previous chair did not have New Business. He said he does not think you should approve this without discussion about putting new business back on the agenda, which is where the Commission has a chance to say what he or she would like to see on an agenda. He said that is a key part of an open and democratic process.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government said he completely concurs with adjourning in remembrance of the individuals listed, especially Dr, Maya Angelou and he doesn't have the words to express his admiration and respect for her. He said he would ask you to consider whether you are not a day late and a dollar short. He said there are and will be many people who contribute to the library who could be acknowledged prior to their death. He said there is one he believes should be considered and he knows it won't be and that is Mr. James Chaffee. He said Mr. Chaffee came to these library commission meetings for more than 30 years and that is devotion. He said he did it because he had a concern about the library and the way the Library Commission did its business or in most cases failed to do its business. He said he did so with an honest intent and what he got for in reward for that was years and years of denigration and abuse. He said 99% of the comments that were made to Mr. Chaffee or about Mr. Chaffee by members of this Commission present or past have been derogatory comments and have been done to give the impression to the public that he was nothing but a pain in the ass. He said Mr. Chaffee was a very, very devoted citizen who exercised his rights to look into the operation of government.

Deborah Doyle, Friends of the Library said she would like to stick to the topic before you. She said she appreciates that you are adjourning in honor of Dr. Angelou and Mr. Fetros, but she said she wanted to talk about Babs. She said Babs was one of the beginning members of Friends and for years and years she worked with the Friends when the Main Library was just a glimmer in the eye of the Friends Wish List. She said Babs worked so hard for that. She said a lot of libraries did not think that it was their business to do anything about adult literacy. She said Project Read was one of the first organizations or attempts to really handle adult literacy and Babs was the Executive Director and she made it so successful that the library said we want that. She said Babs was also a writer just like Dr. Angelou and Mr. Fetros and when the Foundation was raising money for the Main Library they started doing the Laureates and Babs was the first director of the Library Laureates which was such a wonderful Gala. She said Babs was so committed to literacy, education and this library and she is so grateful that you are adjourning in her honor

Motion: By Commissioner Mall, seconded by Commissioner Wardell Ghirarduzzi, to adjourn the regular meeting of June 19, 2014 in memory of Olive "Babs" Wilbur Gamble Waugh, Dr. Maya Angelou, and John G. Fetros.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Lee, Mall, Ono and Wardell Ghirarduzzi)

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Sue Blackman
Commission Secretary

Please note: These are draft minutes subject to revision by the Public Library Commission. Copies of commission minutes and handouts are available in the office of the secretary of the San Francisco Public Library Commission, 6th floor, Main Library, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4733.

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the commission secretary/custodian of records, 6th 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).