

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 4, 2012

(As approved at the regular meeting of December 6, 2012)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 4, 2012 in the Koret Auditorium Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:46 pm.

Commissioners present: Munson, Gomez, Nguyen and Randlett

Commissioner excused: Ono

Commissioner Kane arrived at 5:03 pm

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous citizen said maybe what you should do is what they used to do in the old Roman Republic – elect Ms. Gomez for the position of dictator for life and then at least the rest of us would have the hope an assassination might result in a change of leadership. He said Mr. Breyer resigned on June 11 which means that next week there will have been a vacancy on the Commission for four months. He said maybe you can find a dozen people who will bury us in the darkness, but you can't even find one person who is willing to associate with you in the daylight. He said the Friends of the Library claim to be under new management and have turned over a new leaf but that is a bigger fraud than claiming it does good. He said Jewelle Gomez would never be president if the Friends didn't need to suppress open discussion. He said language should mean something, and everyone should have a voice. He said we know what happens when people are not being heard. He said social capital of mutual trust has been sacrificed. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association said just as there has been a growing number of people in support of the Bernal Mural restoration you have managed to paint it out. He said this happened despite the fact that the Library and other City officials received a letter from one of the artists who had painted the mural asking that they be given the legal 90 day notice required by the California Arts

Preservation Act. He said sadly this mural has had a lot of trash talk about it and the library has withheld information in the file about the mural from the Commission. He said his favorite explanation the Library provided in its abbreviated PowerPoint presentation about the side panel was that the side panel represented different themes. He said the Commission's role in enabling this destruction, this cultural cleansing to occur is a stain on the Commission's already unfortunate record. He said this is a City that boasts of multiculturalism and a multicultural mural is being destroyed. He said there were two languages on the mural Spanish and English and they are being replaced by no words at all. He said it is a very sad day in the history of this library.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, read the following statement: "At a recent General Obligation Bond Oversight Committee (GOBAC) meeting, library staff presented charts regarding the Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP) containing the same misrepresentations that have been made repeatedly at these Library Commission meetings. Ms. Singleton, the Chief Financial Officer, admitted again that the \$5.17 Million figure shown as contributions from the Friends has no documented support. That City Librarian Luis Herrera has himself repeatedly made public assurances about the contributions being "on track" is bad enough. To place employees under his supervision in the position of making the same baseless claims is reprehensible! He shares the pattern of your President Jewelle Gomez, in sending others to attempt to justify misconduct. Neither feels the least embarrassed when responding to Sunshine Ordinance Task Force complaints, in sending Secretary Sue Blackman to attempt justifications in their defense, or placing Ms. Blackman in the position of "censor" of Library Commission minutes or as a roadblock to public records requests!" He said this Library Commission and the City Librarian are responsible for the fact that the Friends for years have been raising and spending Millions every year and you have misrepresented to the public a wonderful relationship and that you have absolutely no idea how much money the Friends have spent on behalf of the Library.

Larry Ware said thank you to the Commission for getting the Bayview Library built. He said he has lived in the neighborhood since 1957. He recited a poem "Young America we need the Light" that he wrote in the Bayview Branch many years ago. He said this is especially for the young people because they are the present and future for us.

Steve Zeltzer, United Public Workers for Action, said a murder occurred this morning in San Francisco at the Bernal Heights Public Library. He said the mural with Victor Jara, who was murdered in 1973 in Chile by a US supported military coups, was painted out at the Bernal Heights Public Library. He said the Chair of this Commission who violates the Sunshine Laws and is called on by the Ethics Commission to resign and continues to sit here is despicable. He said the people of San Francisco have a right to have some accountability in this Commission and all public Commissions. He said you want the users of the library to have accountability and yet you yourselves do not have accountability. He said

the Friends of the Library have a conflict of interest and are receiving a fee from the destruction of the mural. He asked why the Friends of the Library are providing \$3,000 a month to Luis Herrera with no accountability. He asked what Luis Herrera is doing with that money. He said what happened today with the mural was a tragedy and a crime.

A woman from the audience said she was at the Bernal Heights Library this morning and she said she is still too distressed from watching a white clothed hooded painter systematically covering up that mural. She said she made a video of it. She said she had a lot of thoughts about it but she is just not collected enough to go over all of them. She said it took about two hours to paint over the mural and the sides. She said she had a verbal exchange with one of the painters who said he painted city walls and then he said the mural was flaking and was probably 30 years old. She said they did not clean the surface so she wondered if they were just painting out the mural for political reasons or convenience reasons. She said it was an additional slap in the face that they didn't even remove it properly.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, the first set of meetings for the Open Hours hearings were not well attended but he said he is pleased to report that the fifth hearing was held at the Bernal Heights Branch and there was a capacity crowd of about 40 people. He said there are several hearings coming up and they are pushing hard to get the word out. He said he appreciates the Commissioners who have attended the meetings. He said there has also been some good representation from the Council of Neighborhood Libraries. He said another area he wanted to talk about is the Bernal Mural Art Project. He said the Commission is aware that there have been a number of discussions at the Commission about this and it has gone on for several years. He said there was a mediation spearheaded by Supervisor Campos and there has been strong emotion on all sides. He said the group of volunteers spent many, many hours trying to reach a compromise. He said they agreed to have an artwork project that would recognize the legacy of the Arch Williams mural. He said that was endorsed by the Library Commission and subsequently approved by the Arts Commission. He said we were ready to move forward with the project in June but we got word that the heir to Arch Williams, his sister Nancy York said she was not aware of it. He said we did the right thing and noticed her with a 90 day notice. He said Arch Williams was the primary artist. He said there were other collaborators such as students and others who worked on the project. He said we have moved forward with the project and the mural was painted over today. He said the artwork will now move forward. He read a statement from Supervisor Campos saying that he supports the artwork that came out of the mediation process and he believes that the community process was honored. He said the last update will be on the Laptop Lending Program.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches said that Terry Gwiazdowski will give a status report on the [Laptop Lending Program](#).

Terry Gwiazdowski, South West District Manager, said she reported on this program as a pilot program in 2009. She said the project has been a huge success. She said the goal was to expand the program into all of the branches. She said only North Beach and Bayview need to be added. She said another goal was to increase the number of laptops available at each branch. She said the 25 branches now have 127 laptops. She gave the laptop lending program circulation statistics and the percent increases. She said in FY 12-13 circulation has gone up 10% in just 3 months. She gave a popular circulation comparison for a popular book and laptop circulation. She said it is a totally successful program. She said the next steps are to determine the need for a laptop lending program at the Main. She said they would like to refresh the older laptops, with new laptops, develop a publicity plan, and evaluate the success of how laptops are currently used and how they can be utilized in the future.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches, said there is a new Program “Play Games, Learn English” at the Excelsior Branch Library. He said this is a partnership with the Learning Games Network and the Boston Public Library. He said funding has come from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. He said this is a Spanish ESL Support Laptop lending pilot program. He said the pre-pilot is running from September – December 2012 and the pilot will be January – March 2013.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said thank you to Terry and the team for their leadership on the pilot program. She said the impetus for doing the laptop lending in the branches was to increase the computer time available. She said that we have expanded the number of computers but demand has gone up as well. She said this type of program does address all of the five strategic priorities of the library.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said the open hours hearings have been interesting and sparsely populated. He said Commissioner Kane’s presence was acknowledged at Noe Valley, but not at Bernal. He said Jewelle Gomez was present at Bernal and her presence was acknowledged. He said with only audio recordings and without acknowledgment there is no record of who was there and who wasn’t. He said there has been a dearth of notice around the branches. He said at Chinatown there was an intercom announcement but there was no sign on the meeting room. He said the bigger problem is that if you walked past that branch the day before there was nothing visible announcing the meeting. He said at the Bernal branch a nine-year old boy came up to him and said that is terrible that they are destroying the mural. He said that highlights the point that he is only nine years old and he is aware of what he is aware of. He asked if the laptop lending program is really credible. He said without more information we wouldn’t know.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the laptop lending presentation is pretty unfortunate for a number of reasons. He said the statistics show that the circulation of laptops is no more than one or two a day. He said he does not think that is impressive at all. He said comparing laptops to books that is just appalling. He said a book that goes out for three weeks cannot be compared to laptop lending. He said the library has crippled its own circulation by not having a one week circulation for best sellers and new books, which it used to have. He said for very popular books and materials you should have reserve rooms where the material can be loaned out for one or two hours at a time. He said you would have a tremendous increase in circulation of books. He said unfortunately books are not your priority. He said with respect to the Bernal meeting, which was his first meeting on the open hours, there was no information provided to the public about surveys past or current in terms of results. He said the specifics of surveys are important. He said people are typically concerned with more hours on the weekends and the evenings. He said the mediation spearheaded by Supervisor Campos on the Bernal Mural involved one person appointing all 12 members and they met without agendas and without recorded meetings or recorded votes.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, read the following statement: "There is absolutely no doubt that the San Francisco Public Library and staff provide outstanding service and meaningful programs. While some may disagree with particular programs or the focus of particular programs, there is no doubt that they meet the needs expressed by the public. I really wish that I could come to these meetings singing only the praises of the SFPL. Sadly, I cannot. My concerns, as much as you would like to dismiss them and/or mischaracterize them, are with the City Librarian and this Library Commission. Always missing from Mr. Herrera's report are answers to legitimate questions raised by members of the public and this commission regarding the financial relationship with the Friends. Library Commission members seem to feel absolutely no need to demand meaningful answers to questions involving millions and millions of dollars, raised and expended by The Friends, in the name of the citizens of San Francisco." He said it is easy to give a dishonest answer about removing the Bernal Mural when the meetings of the Committee were held in private and not open to the public.

Steve Zeltzer, United Public Workers for Action, said here we have an example of straight out lying. He asked why was someone who got a contract for the artwork involved with the decision making process. He asked if that was fair and transparent. He said that is a conflict of interest and outsourcing of city projects. He said you need transparency and you should learn from what is going on with the Park and Recreation Commission, which is also outsourcing and contracting out to its buddies. He said a bond issue which is now being presented is opposed by a wide variety of sources. He said money is being used in San Francisco to privatize and outsource work. He said apparently the City Librarian and the Chair of the Commission think that that is fine. He said it is another example of lack of transparency and lack of financial accountability. He

asked why the documents of the BLAP are not public. He said apparently there is a rubber stamp operation going on here.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane said the demand for the laptop lending program shows him how important that service is. He said lots of families can't afford computers or laptops. He said he is not sure why we don't already have something at the Bayview Branch and he would have added that program before the completion of the new Branch. He said he worries that one hour is not long enough for students to do their homework. He said he is hopeful that each laptop is loaded with the basic functions. He said he thinks it should be in the Main already.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said the biggest factor in providing the program is not the laptops themselves; it is the wireless access points and the capacity of the facility to have the network bandwidth to handle the increased wireless access. She said that is why the program has started in branches that have been rebuilt or have had the WiFi upgrade. She said that is the issue in the Bayview and in the Main. She said the capacity in the Main has been upgraded but it still is very slow during peak usage times.

Commissioner Kane said he agrees we need to upgrade the WiFi but he would still have the laptops available in the Main for those who do not have computers. He said he would do that as soon as possible.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said the library utilizes Open Office software because it is inexpensive and we are able to load it on all the computers. She said the software is a little different than Microsoft Office so they will look into it to make sure it has the same capabilities.

Commissioner Kane said he encourages us to go to iPads and do a pilot as soon as possible. He said they can be less expensive and for certain users easier to use. He said he is concerned about lending out laptops. He said the Commission has had numerous public meetings to discuss the Bernal mural. He said there was a significant group that wanted to remove the murals. He said the Art Commission also had public meetings on the subject. He said there has been a public discussion on this and his understanding is that we have complied fully with the law on the process for this.

Commissioner Munson said one of the problems using Open Office or Microsoft Office is that some people do not know how to use them and he wanted to know if there is some sort of tutorial for people to take.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said when the pilot program was rolled out there were handouts. She said we also have basic computer classes that the library offers on a regular basis. She said increasing our public instruction is something we are actively working on.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this is terrific input in terms of the technology programs. He said we will come back at a future Commission meeting with updates on these issues.

President Gomez said thank you to Commissioner Kane for reminding us of the long, public process which included many members of the community, on the Bernal Artwork Project.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 EXCELSIOR BRANCH LIBRARY ACTION GROUP BEAUTIFICATION ART PROJECT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there is a [memo](#) in your packet giving some background for this item. He said this is headed by the Excelsior Action Group (EAG). He said this is a neighborhood driven project. He said that this presentation is strictly informational and we will come back at a later date for the approval process.

Rebecca Alcalá, Branch Manager, Excelsior Branch Library, and Nicole Agbayani, Corridor Manager, Excelsior Action Group gave a presentation on the [Excelsior Library Beautification Process](#).

Nicole Agbayani, said the EAG is a non-profit organization in the Excelsior neighborhood and the mission is to revitalize the San Francisco Excelsior Neighborhood's Commercial Corridor by involving residents, merchants, neighborhood associations and city agencies through activities aimed to reinvigorate, green, beautify, strengthen and unify the diverse community.

Rebecca Alcalá gave the project background which would beautify the library and help prevent graffiti. She said this project will benefit not just the library but also the community.

Nicole Agbayani said there are two distinct elements to the project. She said the first one is the installation of temporary art panels on the Cotter Street wall. She showed sketches from the artists they have been working with so far. She said they will also be putting art panels in vacant storefronts and other graffiti prone walls along the corridor. She said they are hoping to put three panels on the Cotter Street wall of the library. She said the panels will be up for three to five years and then they will have options of switching them out for new panels, removing them or keeping the originals in place. She said a critical component is that all of the artists have signed over their rights to the art work to the EAG and there is also explicit language in their contracts that says the EAG, the Library Commission and the San Francisco Arts Commission will be in charge of determining locations. She said the theme is greening the Excelsior through art.

Rebecca Alcalá said in addition to the art panels they are also talking about the greening of the exterior on Mission Street. She said they are working with Architecture for Humanity, who is designing the project and she showed some renderings of some different projects they have come

up with. She said this will include some seating and greenery. She said there is a project work plan with a budget of \$22,000 from a Community Challenge Grant. She said the timeline shows they are currently in design, the approval phase would be November, 2012 through February 2013 and the production phase would be March, 2013 through July, 2013.

Nicole Agbayani said they have been doing community outreach and engagement. She said the project designs will be showcased at the Excelsior Festival on October 21. She said the next steps include getting a resolution from the Library Commission supporting the project and having the Arts Panels approved by the San Francisco Arts Commission Visual Arts Review. She said the Greening will go to DPW for a sidewalk encroachment permit and construction is slated to begin in spring 2013.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said this project does not begin with the burden of outright betrayal the Bernal Heights mural faced, yet the proximity raises some questions. He said the terms, community engagement process, outreach, and public meeting are all just buzzwords by themselves. He said there is no information on vetting this organization or regarding the noticing of public meetings. He said the second factor is that they already have the money and they are already working with the staff. He asked if there is a policy about putting temporary art works on the walls. He asked what part of the community these people represent. He said there are political connections everywhere. He asked if the money was raised by telling people that it is just a formality for the library's approval. He recited a paragraph from *Cats of Ulthar* by H.P. Lovecraft. He said that was a test to see if the president would look up and, of course, she didn't.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said after the catastrophe of the so-called community process at Bernal Heights, this smells a lot as the previous speaker has said. He said we had tried to find out what was going on with regards to the Bernal Mural from Supervisor Campos' office and they received hundreds of pages of redacted material. He said the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force unanimously agreed that the redacted material was in violation of the law and ordered Supervisor Campos to provide all of the information unredacted and to do so within five days. He said they got unredacted copies in July after their request the previous October. He said we are now expected to believe that there will be a project affecting one of our branch libraries and we have not heard anything about any of the details of the project. He said all we have heard is that the artists have been selected and all the Commission has to do is put its rubber stamp on it. He said maybe you are having secret meetings with some of these folks but we do not know that. He said we need the details on the community outreach for the project.

A woman from the audience said the Excelsior Library is very popular and she is lucky to see it every day. She said she and her husband use its many services. She said this is why it was disheartening to see regularly gang graffiti on the walls. She said thinking about what gang graffiti

means it takes it to another level involving safety in the community. She said she thought about what could be done about that and she contacted Supervisor Avalos to see if he had any ideas. She said he told her the EAG was someone she could contact and work with. She said she emailed Nicole and what has happened since that time is that the community has grown closer together. She said they are excited about the project. She said the project brings positivity to the neighborhood and she thanked the Commission for its consideration of the project.

Ellen Egbert, Bernal Heights, said she thought one thing the library had learned from Bernal is to never, ever, ever let any group take possession of an interior part of the library and never let anyone paint anything on the exterior of the building when the artist retains possession of the item. She said when she heard the presentation they have some beautiful words like temporary, removable, painted on 4 x 8 sheets of plywood, and treated to prevent graffiti and also to prevent fading. She said they are not allowing the artists to retain ownership of the location where it is. She said she thinks this would be a wonderful addition to the barren corner of the Excelsior library. She said greening the front of that building would make an amazing difference.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Munson said it sounds like they applied for the grant not specifically for the library portion so whoever is concerned about city money being spent is misled. He said this is a community process. He said the last speaker did an excellent job summarizing why this could work well when we had problems with Bernal.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there will not be library money spent on the project but there may be other city money being used.

Nicole Agbayani said that there will be money from the City Administrator's Office used on this project as part of a challenge grant.

Commissioner Munson said so far he likes what he hears.

Commissioner Kane said he is concerned that we are having routine problems with graffiti at this branch.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there are some neighborhood libraries that have had some graffiti problems and the response to eradicating graffiti is pretty good throughout the city. He said we have an in-house painter.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said we have one painter and we try to get to the graffiti the same day.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the library has been painted within the last couple of months.

Commissioner Kane asked about cleaning the panels if they are tagged.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we want to work with the community to insure that the art work is taken care of. He said there may be some incidental costs to removing the graffiti.

Commissioner Kane said he would like to see the budget and cost for the cleaning. He said his understanding is that the mural at Bernal was done to stop graffiti and he is glad to hear that this is removable. He would like the decision to remove the artwork to be held unilaterally by the Library Commission and that the Commission would not have to get approvals from anybody else. He said he is concerned about the architect's opinion of the artwork.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we can have the language added to any resolution that the Commission would have the ability to remove the artwork at any time. He said this will also go to the Arts Commission for approval.

Commissioner Kane said he does not want to see issues come up that they can prevent now. He asked about the parking spaces.

Nicole Agbayani said they will not be losing any parking spaces due to the greening project.

Rebecca Alcala said there has been a discussion about the greening project and it is still in design but they will not lose any parking spaces.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we need to make sure there is more detail on the greening project.

Robert Lombardi, Facilities Director, said there have been studies that show that art projects such as this do help diminish the amount of graffiti on buildings.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said there has been temporary artwork on the Main and some of the branches in the past.

Jewelle Gomez said thanks to the community for seeing issues and jumping in to solve them for your community library.

Commissioner Randlett said it is very impressive how you got the community together to get the grant and we would like to be partners in this effort.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 LABOR UNION REPORT

There was no labor union report at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2012

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said these are pretty good minutes and most of the mistakes seem to be simply mistakes and there is no evidence of politically motivated distortion or misrepresentation at all. He said on page one his comments about what we did in the old Roman Republic should be “they did”. He said on page 2 the word “yet” should be added to Commissioner Munson’s statement that you have no right to the Friends’ books, yet you maintain social barriers to protect the fraud. He said in Peter Warfield’s comments right after that it said that “a blog was threatening the mural” but, of course he meant that there were threats on the blog. He said on page 7 “branch” is spelled “brach” and on page 8 “Carthago” is spelled “Cathago”. He said if there are no intentional distortions, why do you continue to refuse to make corrections requested by the speakers? He said if these are simple human mistakes, you should be willing to correct them. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said of course the blog didn’t threaten the mural some of the folks making comments on the blog made specific threats against the mural. He said on page 6 under Item number 3 he said that his comments regarding the North Beach Branch Library should read that the branch was judged the most landmark worthy and that was a judgment by the staff of the Planning Commission. He said on item number 4 on page 7 he said there is a connection missing on the comments about the legality of painting out the mural. He said it was only after the Library Users Association pointed out the illegality that the 90 day notice was given to the artist’s representative.

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner Randlett, seconded by Commissioner Munson to approve the Minutes of August 16, 2012.

Action: AYES 5-0: (Gomez, Kane, Munson, Nguyen and Randlett).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 ADJOURNMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to adjourn the regular meeting of October 4, 2012.

Action: AYES 5-0: (Gomez, Kane, Munson, Nguyen and Randlett)

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Sue Blackman
Commission Secretary

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).

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 accept money from the Friends of the Library

“Maybe what you should do is what they used to do in the old Roman Republic – elect Ms. Gomez for the position of dictator for life and then at least the rest of us would have the hope an assassination might result in a change of leadership.”

A vacancy of four months means you can find a dozen people to bury us, after dark, but you can't find even one person to associate with you in the daylight.

The Friends of the Library claim to be under new management, but that is a bigger fraud than claiming it does good.

Jewelle Gomez would never be president if the Friends didn't need to suppress open discussion.

Language should mean something, and everyone should have a voice. We know what happens when people are not being heard. Social capital of mutual trust has been sacrificed.

Item 2: City Librarian's Report

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

The open hours hearings have been interesting and sparsely populated. Commissioner Kane's presence was acknowledged at Noe Valley, but not at Bernal. Commissioner Gomez' presence was acknowledged at Bernal. With only an audio recording, without acknowledgment there is no record of who was there.

There has been a dearth of notice around the branches. At Chinatown there was an intercom announcement but no sign on the meeting room. The bigger problem is that there is no notice outside the branches in advance. At Bernal particularly there was nothing visible announcing the meeting even looking into the vestibule. At Bernal a nine-year-old boy said it was terrible they were destroying the mural that had been there since he was two. Like everyone, he is aware of what he is aware of.

Is the Laptop Lending Program incredible? Without more information we wouldn't know.

Item 3: Excelsior Branch Library Action Group Beautification Art Project

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

This project does not begin with the burden of outright betrayal that the Bernal Heights mural faced. Yet the proximity raises some questions.

The terms, community engagement process, outreach, public meetings, are just buzzwords by themselves. There is no information vetting this organization or regarding notice for the public meetings.

The other factor is that they already have the money and are working with the library staff. Do you have a policy about putting temporary art works on the walls? What part of the community does this represent? Did they tell the people donating the money that using the library was a fait accompli?

“It is said that in Ulthar . . .” [recites paragraph from Cats of Ulthar by H.P. Lovecraft.]

This was a test to see if the president would look up and, of course, she didn't.

Item 5: Approval of the Minutes (August 16, 2012)

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

These are pretty good minutes. The mistakes seem to be simply mistakes and there is no evidence of politically motivated distortion or misrepresentation at all.

On page 1, in “what we did in the old Roman Republic” it should be “they.”

On page 2, Commissioner Munson has stated, you have no right to the Friends' books, yet you maintain social barriers to protect the fraud. The “yet” is the causal connection which is omitted.

Mr. Warfield's comment was not, “a blog was threatening” but that threats were on the blog.

On page 7, “branch” is spelled “brach.” On page 8, “Carthago” is spelled “Cathago.”

If there are no intentional distortions, why do you continue to refuse to make corrections requested by the speakers? If these are simple human mistakes, you should be willing to correct them.