



San Francisco Public Library

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SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of OCTOBER 21, 2021

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on **OCTOBER 21, 2021** virtually and telephonically pursuant to Government Code Section 54953 (e) and the Sixteenth Supplement to Mayoral Proclamation Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency dated February 25, 2020. The purpose of the orders is to provide the safest environment for all persons consistent with San Francisco Department of Public Health Order of the Health Order No. C19-07y and current public health recommendations, while allowing the public to observe and address the Commission.

The regular meeting of the San Francisco Library Commission was called to order at **4:30 PM**

Commissioners Present: Huang, Lee, López, Mall, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 FINDINGS TO ALLOW TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e)

Explanatory Document: [Findings Resolution](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, libraryusers2004@yahoo.com, said he is very disappointed that there hasn't been any explanation nor reading of what this is all about. He said he presumes this authorizes you to have remote meetings rather than meetings in real life after September 30. He said we were justifying staying in a remote state, which is inferior.

Maurice Rivers, Executive Director of the OMI Cultural Project wanted to offer outstanding gratitude to the staff at Ocean View Library and Ingleside Library. Since they've reopened, they have been reaching out to the community organizations and have been giving out books to families. He said they have been so welcoming and they're outstanding, and so is SFPL in general.

Naima Dean said it was so lovely that the last caller gave such lovely words about the community. She said holding the meeting on-line or also in person and wanted to put an equity lens on it, that we should be providing opportunities for people to attend in as many ways as possible. She said she loves to attend online, because being in the office she can't always attend, and we may want to consider supporting people to attend from all walks of life in our community

Motion: By Commissioner Lopez, seconded by Commission Ono to Adopt the Resolution of Findings to Allow Teleconferenced Meetings Under California Government Code Section 54953 (e).

Action: AYES 7-0 (Huang, Lee, Lopez, Mall, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Warfield said the last few days he has been helping a friend get things set up. He said it was extraordinary to him how empty the Main was and how it felt like a Mausoleum. He said there were empty desks, just empty desks. It seemed sadly quiet, he supposed because there aren't any live activities.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 CITY LIBRARIANS REPORT

City Librarian, Michael Lambert said the Librarian's report presentation will focus on restoring service in our neighborhood Libraries. He said the Library resumed evening service last month and this morning the Main Library had a fantastic Shakeout event with Mayor Breed.

Chief of Branches, Cathy Delneo gave an update on the progress of Branch Reopening. She reported the restoration of seven-day service at Bernal Height, Eureka Valley, Merced and Ocean View Branches began on October 2, 2021 and more branches will be added by November 13. By early 2022 all Neighborhood Branches will be operating with full service seven days week. The Mission Branch began SFPL to Go on October 16, 2021 and has a browsing bookmobile too. Randy McClure, Chief of Research, Strategy & Analytics, said since re-opening in-person service the Library has welcomed 554, 000 visitors, 160,000 at the Main and 394,000 in the branches. SFPL has circulated over 985,000 physical material through in-person and SFPL-to-Go services.
Explanatory Document: [SFPL Reopening Presentation](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said he was glad to hear about more libraries opening more hours but didn't think it was quick enough. He said one of the things that is hidden is the discussion of whether the branches or locations are fully staffed, and it seems like the Main is understaffed and the minority of locations have any evening hours.

Cynthia Hernandez, Bernal Heights Library Page said Library Pages or part-time workers have their schedule changed. She asked if there could be a conversation about how we feel about the schedule change from four days a week to three days a week. She said the Library Pages don't have the same flexibility as others, especially during the pandemic. She said Pages cannot work from home and this is also a part of equity and wanted to encourage more conversations about what this would look like.

Naima Dean, SFPL Librarian, said they have several Pages at her Branch who are hoping to not always work a four-day schedule. She said many of the Pages have been working without a break since the pandemic began and many work multiple jobs and it helps to keep staff healthy if they work three days as opposed to four.

Angela Gutierrez, 3602 Page at Bernal Heights, said she notices the change in income from working three days schedule hoped the mandate could be reconsidered.

Commission Discussion (CHECK ORDER)

Commissioner **Wolf** said that it is a challenging period, and SFPL staff has pivoted to meet those challenges at every turn. Commissioner Wolf acknowledged the commitment and dedication to making the Library accessible to all in all neighborhoods, extending the hours and making sure staff is protected and safe.

Commissioner **Ono** said it was so fulfilling seeing the branches back to seven days and service restored at Mission Branch with SFPL To Go.

Commissioner **Lee** said he echoed the sentiments of the other Commissioners and that we were on steady progress to be back to normal by early 2022. Commissioner Lee asked about attendance statistics, if the data included remote attendance.

City Librarian, Michael Lambert responded and said they look at utilization metrics on a monthly basis. He said we will bring an Annual Report to the Commission and that will be an opportunity to bring a more macro view. He said we are just beginning phases of resuming some in-person programs and we are tracking the virtual programming, which has seen tremendous participation.

Randy McClure added that what we are showing tonight is in-person visitors in our building.

Commissioner **Lopez** said while things were reopening, the population is still fearful and taking precautions across the industry. She said we are not at 100% reopening, and many people still are not feeling comfortable being in public places because of mental health or other reasons, and it would likely be a year or two to see an increase. Commissioner Lopez thanked staff for the Mission Branch report and that we are serving the community in the Mission.

President **Wardell Ghirarduzzi** thanked the City Librarian and the team for all the work they are doing to restore services and for bringing such a comprehensive update to the Commission.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 SUMMER STRIDE

Christy Estrovitz, Youth Services Manager, presented a comprehensive report on the Annual Summer Learning Campaign, Summer Stride. She said the program was held virtually again. She thanked the partners for their long-standing support and highlighted new partners. Christy said they gave away 440,000 books to 44,000 San Francisco students, which were distributed through summer camps and individual C.B.O.s. They also distributed 30,000 culturally affirming books to 2,500 San Francisco youth. She said there is room for growth with this program regarding racial equity. Christy said this year they were able to build up awareness and it was the biggest Summer Stride marketing campaign yet.

Ileana Pulu, Youth Development Coordinator, said the presentation shows the power between youth and youth serving librarians. She introduced Lavonda Gray, Employment Coordinator for San Francisco Youth Works, who spoke about her experience and how thankful she was for the partnership between Youth Works and SFPL with Y.E.L.L.

Explanatory Documents: [Summer Stride Presentation](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said thanks for this extensive report and glad it has a lot to do, he hoped with reading. He said he'd like to start out with thanking the presenter who said that the low finishing rates in the African Community didn't look great and asked why wouldn't there be a statistical representation on what actual book or material usage there was? He said he has referred to the City and County of San Francisco Digital Community Access Plan, that says minorities, older people and a variety of other folks have less access to the computer and these programs are available by phone.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lee thanked staff for the wonderful program, and asked if Zoom is available on mobile devices, as many people will not forgo having a mobile device, and how that might lead to low attendance.

Christy Estrovitz responded the number of people counted attending virtual programs is not totally complete because one user joining could be a classroom of people or just one viewer on a laptop.

Commissioner Mall said when she was first a Commissioner, she was interviewed by Mayor Lee and he said his vision for San Francisco Public Libraries were that it could be a kind of community center and this program, stepped in to fill a gap left by the School District and providing the physical books was a Moonshot Literacy effort.

Commissioner Lopez said this is a great program and very diverse, with reading and cultural aspects of it, and so many disciplines in many areas have been incorporated into it. The program is well-rounded and well-planned.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE 2022

Explanatory document: [Draft Library Commission Meeting Schedule 2022](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield thanked the Director for allowing him to get another shot, he had his phone muted. He said the schedule is pretty much the same as the schedule has been for some time unfortunately and asked if the meetings could be held later.

Motion: By Commissioner **Wolf**, seconded by Commissioner **Lee** to approve the **2022 COMMISSION MEETING CALENDAR**

Action: AYES 7-0 (Huang, Lee, Lopez, Mall, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

Public Comment

Peter Warfield commented on changes he would like to see to the September Minutes.

Motion: By Vice President **Huang** seconded by Commissioner **Lee** to approve the [Minutes of the SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 Commission Meeting](#)

Action: AYES 7-0 (Huang, Lee, Lopez, Mall, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 ADJOURNMENT

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said the Commission should place an item on the Agenda about what the Commission would like to see on future Agendas.

Motion: By Commissioner **Mall**, seconded by Commission **Lopez** to adjourn the Meeting of **OCTOBER 21, 2021.**

Action: AYES 7-0 (Huang, Lee, Lopez, Mall, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf)

The meeting adjourned at **6:32 PM**

Margot Shaub

Library Commission Affairs Analyst

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

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the Commission Liaison Affairs Analyst/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 Commission webpage: sfpl.org/library-commission/public-notices/agendas. 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).