



# *San Francisco Public Library*

## **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 17, 2021**

**(As approved at the regular meeting of July 15, 2021)**

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on **June 17, 2021** virtually and telephonically pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 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. C19-07e 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 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, [libraryusers2004@yahoo.com](mailto:libraryusers2004@yahoo.com), spoke about the June 2, 2021 Sunshine Ordinance Taskforce Meeting and how they ruled on a complaint he had brought against the Library Commission.

Andrea Grimes, President of the Librarians Guild said she was affiliated with SEIU 1021. Ms. Grimes said it was their understanding that the reopening Committee was intended as a collaboration between Labor and management and SEIU inspires to work collaboratively with management in future endeavors.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 RACIAL EQUITY RESOLUTION**

City Librarian, Michael Lambert, introduced Chief Operating Officer, Maureen Singleton to present the Racial Equity Resolution, saying it was an important milestone in the Library's mission to advance equity and racial justice.

Maureen Singleton said the Racial Equity Resolution was part of the SFPL Racial Equity Action Plan, which calls on the Commission to adopt a resolution affirming commitment to Racial Equity and the Racial Equity

Action Plan. Ms. Singleton gave an overview of the Racial Equity Resolution and how the Library developed the resolution in collaboration with the Racial Equity Committee.

President Wardell Ghirarduzzi read the Racial Equity Resolution in full. Ms. Singleton said the Library Administration recommends the Commission approve the proposed Resolution.

Explanatory documents: [Racial Equity Resolution](#) and [Racial Equity Resolution presentation](#).

#### Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he endorses many of the points of the resolution and he felt the Library's statement was too generous about its existing record with respect to matters like these, examining all aspects of library services.

#### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono thanked the Racial Equity Committee for their work over the last two years, delivering through the pandemic. Commissioner Ono said she fully supports the Resolution.

Vice President Huang said a lot of logistical and emotional work goes into creating a Resolution like this. Commissioner Huang thanked everyone involved and thanked the SFPL Leadership for sponsoring this work and creating the space for it to happen. Huang said he was proud to be part of an organization that pushes this forward and is in full support of the Resolution

Commissioner Lopez thanked everyone for their extraordinary work on the Resolution, which she said takes a lot of investment, and bringing their personal experience to it, which made it very inclusive. Lopez said she fully supports the Resolution.

Commissioner Wolf thanked everyone for the extraordinary work and said that in many ways the hard work is ahead and will require an enormous amount of lifting and continued hard work, possibly a few setbacks now and again, but she affirmed the Commission is fully supportive and wanted to be partners on this as the Library implements these important and essential efforts and make an impact.

Commissioner Mall said she supports the enormous effort and appreciated that the Library has focused so much on this issue and is setting an example for other city agencies. Mall said that San Francisco used to pride itself on its diversity and inclusion, but we have learned that if you peel off the top layer, there is a lot of racism in our city and the Resolution address those issues.

President Wardell Ghirarduzzi added that this Resolution is a wonderful piece of institutional capacity building and putting these words on paper to make them come alive is a lot of heavy lifting. Wardell Ghirarduzzi said the Library's Racial Equity Team knows about cultivating change and it is her hope that the entire Library team and staff will embrace this item and help make the racial equity work moving forward.

Motion: By Commissioner **Lee**, seconded by Commissioner **Mall** to approve a Racial Equity Resolution.

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

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

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, gave an overview to the Commission on the Library Journal Movers and Shakers, Fog Readers and Reopening Plans for the libraries.

City Librarian Lambert highlighted the Library Journal's 2021 Movers and Shakers Awards, which included SFPL African American Center Manager Shawna Sherman. Lambert noted Shawna Sherman's dedication to

serve black youth and families. He said Shawna is guided by a philosophy of embedded librarianship that seeks to partner with community organizations by leveraging those relationships to create programs that center on racial equity and justice.

Maricela Leon-Barrera, Librarian at The Bridge at Main, reported on the SFPL F.O.G Readers program, which is a literacy program developed to support struggling readers by explicitly teaching letters, pronunciation and sounds.

Nicole Termini Germain, Portola Branch Manager, discussed the challenges the F. O. G. team faced and how they were able to reboot the program to support the learning needs of their students virtually.

Ruben Balderas, Teen Librarian at the M. I. X. highlighted the accomplishments of the F.O.G team since September 2020. In that time, they have trained 230 new tutors including more than 20 new SFPL staff tutors.

Jason Hill, SFPL Coordinator, shared information on how to become a F.O.G tutor, which is provided in three language, English, Spanish and Chinese. Mr. Hill said the tutoring will be on-line through Zoom until the Libraries are fully open.

Kate Eppler, Librarian at The Main and who formerly oversaw the F.O.G. program recognized all the work of F.O.G team and thanked them.

Assistant Chief of Main Katrin Reimuller said the Main Library opened its upper floors on June 14, 2021. The Assistant Chief of Main said there is elevator access to all the floors and direct access to the Children's Library. Patrons enter the Library at Grove and Larkin entrances, there is no capacity or time limit. Reimuller said The Bridge, TBBC, The Mix and the SF History Center are now open and said it takes everybody to make this happen.

Chief of Branches, Cathy Delneo, highlighted the phased reopening plan for the branch division. The Chief of Branches reported they now have SFPL To Go in 14 Branch Libraries. On June 21 they plan SFPL To Go at Bernal Heights, Golden Gate Valley, Ingleside, North Beach, Sunset and Western Addition. Browse and Bounce services are now available in Chinatown and Him Mark Lai. Branches are expanding in July to Bayview, Bernal Heights, Eureka Valley, Glen Park, Ocean View and Western Additions Branches. She thanked the vast array of staff and teams that help and continue to help reopen the Branch Libraries.

Explanatory documents: [Library Journal - Movers & Shakers presentation](#), [FOG Readers presentation](#), and [SFPL Reopening Plan presentation](#).

#### Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director Library Users Association, said he was thrilled with the Library opening and asked when full service is happening. He said he believes the Library is an essential service and the hours are still limited with no access to newspapers and magazines.

Alex Walker said he was speaking in his capacity as Assistant Office Staff of State Assembly Member Phil Ting and hoped that there would be a way to increase public computing at more branches and that library branches need to be prepared to serve as cooling centers in case of a heat wave event. He noted there are a lot of people who are having issues with EDD Unemployment and don't have Internet access at home to certify for unemployment.

Naima Dean, SFPL Librarian, said they are getting ready to open SFPL To Go at Western Addition Branch and looking forward to meeting the community again. Dean thanked the City Librarian for pointing out there are some considerations that need to be made on behalf of services they can provide because of staffing. She applauded the work of the F.O.G. Readers group and acknowledged the amazing work of Shawna Sherman.

## Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lopez thanked all the staff that reported today, for providing them with great information and she congratulated the F.O.G Team and their impact, which she said would have long-term results.

City Librarian Lambert responded to public comments, that with the changes to Cal/OSHA regulations the Library is looking at how to accelerate restoration of service including more access to computers with the removal of physical distancing.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES MAY 20, 2021**

### Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director Library Users Association, commented on the minutes and what he had said about them.

**Motion:** By **Vice President Huang**, seconded by **Commissioner Lopez** to approve the [Minutes of the May 20, 2021 Commission Meeting](#)

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

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

### Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director Library Users Association, said in the past the Commission used to have an item at or near the end of the meeting where you would say what you would like at future meetings of the Library Commission on the Agenda for discussion or action.

**Motion:** By **Commissioner Wolf** seconded by **Commissioner Lee** to adjourn the Meeting of **June 17, 2021**.

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

The meeting adjourned at **6:06 PM**.

Margot Shaub

Library Commission Affairs Analyst

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-notice/agendas](http://sfpl.org/library-commission/public-notice/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)