



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 20, 2014

(As approved at the regular meeting of June 19, 2014)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 20, 2014 in the Koret Auditorium Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:37 pm.

Commissioners present: Gomez, Lee, Nguyen and Ono

Commissioners excused: Mall, Munson and Randlett

President Gomez said our City Librarian, Luis Herrera, is out of town today so sitting in is our able Chief Financial Officer, Maureen Singleton.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Brent Paradise, said he was here last meeting and brought up the issue of computers that aren't used and if during the last hour there could be an exemption and let people use the computers if anything was decided about that or if it was brought up.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said we have commented on these computers and I believe that hidden in one of the library's reports on hours it turned out that something like more than 40 percent of computer time available was not being used. He said this is a huge waste of computer facilities and particularly when it is combined with an automated system for scheduling that is rigid in allowing only one hour per day system wide per patron. He said there are systems that can be set up to offer more time. He said it is procrustean in its rigidity. He said some silences are important as the silences between words and sometimes what is not present is what is notable as for example on today's agenda. He said last time we heard that there will be today February 20 a discussion of the budget, but there isn't a discussion of the budget. He said there is a small portion of budgetary material but not a budget. He said we understood that there would be a discussion of the

library's new rules of behavior and its increased staffing or the "policification" of the library. He said he passed two armed officers on his way in; one at the door of the building and one currently at the back of the room. He said that is not on the agenda. He said perhaps that is a good thing but it is a change and it would be interesting to know what the reason for it is. He said the Visual Arts Committee of the Arts Commission met yesterday to consider the rear side of the Bernal Mural replacement that the Library Commission approved. He said they tabled the item because it needs more preparation. He said what they are going to do is ram it through the Executive Committee which does not have the responsibility or expertise to vet projects and then send it to the full Arts Commission.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he agrees with the two prior speakers that if you have computers and 40 percent of the time they are not being utilized that is not a good way to use the resources of the public library. He said if you are going to come in here and ask at some date for more money for computers when you aren't using 40% of what you have then I think you should expect that members of the public are going to question that. He said what President Jewelle Gomez did at the last meeting by abridging his public comment is pretty close to what she did to Sue Cauthen. He said she was found by the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force to have violated the Sunshine Ordinance and the Brown Act and was recommended for removal by the San Francisco Ethics Commission. He said it isn't just members of the public who are questioning her handling her office as president it is other boards and commissions which she can slough off but he doesn't know how the other Commissioners in good conscience can do the same. He said he understands her dismissal of his comment regarding going to the Task Force for what it is, her disregard for the law. He said she doesn't mind going to the Task Force because she never actually goes. She sends Sue Blackman, who does a song and dance and then proceeds to spend the rest of the time saying she can't answer any of their questions. He said in case you haven't noticed this is a losing strategy as he has pointed out to the Board of Supervisors, he has filed 21 Sunshine complaints and won 16 of them which is an average of $\frac{3}{4}$ or better. He said he is not utilizing the system except for what it is intended, which is to get you to be open and honest with the public. He said in case anyone on the staff of either the Library or this Commission doesn't realize it by now, to cover their asses they have and will throw any of you under the bus. He said they will find some way like when Luis Herrera didn't report thousands of dollars' worth of gifts from the Friends and perjured statements saying he got nothing, they blamed it on accounting errors. He said in other words the staff screwed up. He said it is cowardice.

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.

What your Pres. Jewelle Gomez did at the LC meeting, by abridging my public comment, is pretty damn close to what she

did to Sue Cauthen. She was found by the SOTF to have violated the Sunshine Ordinance and was recommended for removal by the Ethics Commission. I understand her dismissal of my comment regarding going to the Task Force for what it is: her disregard for the law. She doesn't mind going to SOTF because she never actually goes! She sends Sue Blackman, who does a song and dance, and then proceeds to simply say she cannot answer any of their questions. In case you haven't noticed, this is a losing strategy. In case anyone on the staff of either the Library or the Commission doesn't realize it by now, to cover their asses they have and will throw any of you "under the bus!"

Tess Welborn, Height Asbury Neighborhood Council (HANC), said she would like to make some comments on the proposed rules. She said she doesn't have problems with the minor infractions but on the level 1 severe infractions, some of them are very vague, such as "staring at" from a seven day suspension for the first offense to a 12-month suspension is too much. She said people who are using the library for legitimate purposes but may also go to sleep while they are there and we have people who are using the library for shelter as one of the few public places that people can go. She asked the Commission to please look over these proposals again. She said going from a warning to a three-month suspension for some of the moderates is way too much. She said she would like you to suggest to the Friends of the Library to publish a complete and accurate rendering of both their income and where they spend it including the salaries to all their employees. She said that would be a good disclosure for them to make to the public.

Robert Livingston said running through his mind is an old folk saying "small minds discuss people, average minds discuss events and great minds discuss ideas." He said he would love to just stick to ideas but he said he has maybe a more average mind. He said he is very pleased to see that that awful red smear in the elevator seems to be gone. He said there is a brown smear, but it doesn't have the gore look that it had previously. He said he is completely opposed to these outrageous ideas of filling this place with security guards and police. He said the police are doing their job and they eyed me coming in and he doesn't feel comfortable being eyed or checked out. He said he has lived here over 16 years now from Mayberry country with hometown and small town values. He said wouldn't it be nice if even in a big city like this we could have a new approach to dealing with people and trouble and poverty and you name it. He said there is an old idea he would like to revisit and he introduced it when he lived in Orlando, Florida and they accepted it right away and sent him a pretty certificate thanking him for it. He said he suggested they would save a lot of trouble for the patrons by putting a menu inside the elevators that explained basically what is found on each floor so they could see it right away inside of the elevators. He said about the computers to him books are the most important in the library.

AGENDA ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF THE TEEN DIGITAL MEDIA LAB CAPITOL PROGRAM UPDATED BUDGET AND APPROVAL OF A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION TO FULLY FUND THE TEEN DIGITAL MEDIA LAB LIBRARY CAPITAL PROGRAM

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, gave a presentation on the Teen Digital Media Lab Capital Program or the Teen Center. She said she would be talking about the components of the capital program, the budget and then seek the Commission's approval on the budget as well as the Supplemental Budget which is required to fully fund the capital program. She said many of the teens are present today. She gave the Program Background and explained the partnerships and linked projects. She explained the lab design and development process. She showed some renderings of the future Teen Digital Media Lab. She said before all the work can begin on the Teen Center itself, we have to do some tenant improvements for the administrative offices including relocation of some of the administrative offices. She said the schedule calls for completing all of these tenant improvements this summer. She said the next exciting phase of the project is the Literacy and Learning Center. She said this will consolidate our services and make sure we are building a Center that will address the 21st Century Literacy Skills and needs for our target population. She said this will be located on the Fifth Floor and will face towards City Hall. Construction has already begun and is expected to be completed this summer. She explained the Capital Program Budget separated by the three major components. The major expenditure categories for each one of the phases includes construction; Furniture Fixtures and Equipment; Architectural and Engineering Fees; Permits; Contingency and DPW Construction Management. She said the current estimate for the Tenant Improvements is \$1,023,605, for the Literacy and Learning Center it is \$1,151,005, and for the Teen Center \$3,075,390 which add up to \$5.25 Million. She said the administration recommends having a 5% program reserve of \$250,000 so the total would be \$5.5 Million. She said the current available funding is \$2.1 Million in Library Preservation Fund (LPF) appropriated and \$0.16 Million in closed Main Library capital projects. She said the funding gap is \$3.24 Million. She said the funding strategy is to tap into the available LFP fund balance of \$18.68 Million and appropriate \$3.2 Million in LPF fund balance leaving a remaining LPF fund balance of \$15.43 Million. She said the requested action of the Commission is to approve the Teen Digital Media Lab Capital Program Budget of \$5.50 Million and approve the Supplemental Request of \$3.24 Million for LPF Fund Balance. She said the reason we are asking for this as a supplemental is because we are running a very tight schedule. She said the Friends of the Library will be doing a fundraising effort for this and any funds raised by them will be returned to the LPF Fund Balance.

Explanatory Document: [Memo from the City Librarian](#) dated February 14, 2014; [Draft Resolution](#); and [Teen Digital Media Lab Capital Program Presentation](#).

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government said what really surprises him about this item is the inconsistency this Commission shows regarding the LPF. He said during the budget discussions recently there was all this hair pulling about spending the money for security and janitorial staff, which you have clearly identified as being two of the Mayor's and the public's concerns about the safety of the staff and the patrons of this library. He said now we have \$5.5 Million for these changes and they seem to mean nothing to you. He said the amount is just about 30% of the total LPF, the details which are presented leave many unanswered questions. He said it is basically 20% to rearrange the administrative space, 20% to improve the Literacy and Learning center and 60% for the Teen Digital Media Lab. He said everything else is a series of hypothetical statements regarding the overall effect. He said on page six it looks like for \$3 Million we get one video booth, one sound booth and a few computer stations. He said everything else is furniture and carpeting and open space and stuff the library already has. He said the only thing clear about this presentation, is the money being spent. He said everything else is a simulation. He said let's look at the Literacy and Learning Center. He asked where we show what the current usage of the Literacy Learning Center is. He asked if it is being utilized at all or is it like the computers, which are only being 60% utilized. He said whatever they put before you the Commission just bends over and says fine go ahead and do it. He said you don't ask any questions and even if you do, you don't get any answers. He said before you spend 30% of the LPF on these projects he would suggest you get some information as to why this is needed. He said in the business world there are things called benchmarks where you can look at something to see what you are paying for is what you are getting. He said you base your decisions on pretty much nothing.

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What really surprises me about this item is the inconsistency this commission shows regarding the Library Preservation Fund (LPF). During the budget discussions there was all this "hair pulling" about spending the money for security and janitorial staff, and yet, \$5.5 million for these changes seems nothing to you. As the amount is just about 30% of the total LPF, the details which are presented leave many unanswered questions. What we basically have is 20% to rearrange the administrative space, 20% to improve the literacy and learning Center and 60% for the teen digital media lab. Everything else is a series of "hypothetical statements" regarding the effect! On page six it looks as if for \$3 million we get one video booth, one sound booth, and a few computer stations. The only thing clear about this presentation is that money that's being spent. Everything else is a "simulation."

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said there are many vague things about this and some downright silences. He said

we all want a better library and we want everyone to feel welcome and to have in the library things for everyone including teens. He said there was a movie with the title something like the Amoeba that Ate New York. He said this project is the project that ate the library. He said still unmentioned is the fact that the library has already evicted the entire west wing of the fifth floor where bound magazines stood for decades and available for browsing and for reference and use by the public. He said those are now going to be placed in Brooks Hall where there is no public access for browsing and the items have to be known to the persons requesting them and then paged with a 24 hour wait. He said the domino effect of one office pushing into another and that space pushing into another space and there is nothing said about the Fourth Floor. He asked what is going to replace what is already on the Fourth Floor. He said this is a huge budget increase. He said the library has pushed you into sliding into a project whose cost was never stated up front. He said the last he recalls it would be in the neighborhood of \$3 Million. He said it did not include the Literacy and Learning Center and it is now included as though it were part of the original project. He said this is the project that is eating the library and the Commission needs to ask questions.

Adele Carpenter said she is a staff member at the San Francisco Youth Commission and she was there on behalf of the Youth Commissioners who could not attend because they have a concurrent meeting. She said she wanted to express support for the plan to move forward with the Teen Center. She said the Youth Commission received a detailed overview of the program and resources that are going to be included and they have been really impressed with the really solid level of youth input that has taken place with this project. She said they are looking forward to this moving forward. She said we can agree that teaching technology to our young people is one of our literacy challenges at the moment especially in the increasing tech focused city that we live in. She said we want to increase the number of technological resources that young people have access to. She said they think this is an initiative that needs to move forward as quickly as possible.

Robin Mencher, Director of Education and Learning at KQED one of the partners for the Teen Digital Media Lab said they have been thrilled to support this program and they pledge to continue their support for programming in the Teen Center. She said this is a great civic enterprise to support learning and literacy development of the young people of San Francisco. She said they are very glad to be able to partner with the library on this.

Anton said he is a member of the Board of Advising Youth and he has a lot of friends in San Francisco with different passions but most of them do not come to the library. He said the construction and support of the Teen Digital Media Lab is a huge step forward for attracting teens of all types of backgrounds to the library. He said he supports this project and is really excited about it.

Samantha said she is a member of the Board of Advising Youth and she thinks the project is really important because teens need a safe space to come and learn new forms of media. She said the library is a place for learning and it is not an intimidating place. She said at the library you are learning for yourself and it nourishes your creative pursuits.

Annie said she is a member of the Board of Advising Youth and the teen center is a great space for her friends to hang out after school and learn more about technology and digital media that is not always offered at school. She said the Teen Center is a safe space for teens to be creative and not be judged.

A teenager said she is from San Francisco and she supports the Teen Center.

Bianca Salazar said she is a youth worker at the library and she is also part of the teen board. She said she thinks the new Teen Center will be innovative and it will give teens a safe place to hang out and it will give kids the resources they need to work on fun or school projects. She said there will be a lot of different activities to do instead of going out to do unsafe things.

Marc Robert Wong, member of the Board of Advising Youth, said he would like to take a wider perspective and talk about democracy in the digital age. He said what is at stake here is not just our libraries but our freedom. He said if we do not keep our libraries up to date, it will go the way of the Post Office and then where will our youth go for free access to information and the tech skills they need that will allow them to become informed and capable citizens. He said for the past two years he has been involved in developing new innovative programs for the new Teen Center. He said the purpose of the new Teen Media Center is to bridge the digital divide and make sure all teens are literate and to have a place where they can innovate, collaborate and create. He said diversity breeds innovation. He said anybody who has a great idea and works hard can become a tech success. He said the library has a key role in making sure that everyone has access to internet resources and has the skills necessary to safeguard democracy in the digital age.

A woman from France said she is studying to be a librarian and has obtained an internship with the San Francisco Public Library. She said she is very excited about this project because in France they do not have space for teenagers in the library. She said she hopes the Commission will support the project.

Carmen said she is a member of the Youth Advisory Board. She said living in such a diverse city there is a lot of people that do not have the same resources as others so having a program in the future like the Teen Digital Lab would really give teens more of an equal stance.

Leo said he seconded Carmen on what she just said that teens are going to need to have that opportunity because the jobs that are being made

here in San Francisco, the teens need that opportunity the library can offer. He said he volunteers once a week at City College, and he gives practice interviews with immigrants who want to become United States citizens. He said they are going there and getting this free opportunity to learn and to get where they want to be. He said he thinks this Teen Center could do the same thing.

Jason said he is also part of the Board of Advising Youth and he supports the funding of the Teen Digital Media Center because it will be a space for teenagers to come together and learn things such as DJing and Music making. He said it will provide a fun and safe place where teenagers and students can be.

Kaila said she is also part of the Teen Advisory Board. She said she thinks the Teen Center is a great investment for the library and for teenagers because a lot of the tools that will be provided in the Teen Center such as the video and sound booth. She said a lot of teens don't have access to that at home or at school so it is a great way to foster the passions and even explore new interests. She said the Teen Media Lab will also have classes such as becoming a DJ or using the Maker Space. She said it is a great way for teens to come together with their diverse interests to share with each other.

Shelly said she is part of the Library's Youth Advisory Board as well as the Department of Children, Youth and their Families Youth Advisory Council. She said the Teen Center is a necessary and crucial investment in the future of the city and the youth of the bay area. She said the Teen Center will provide not only books and computers but there will also be chances for youth to be creative. She said it will be an open space for them to express themselves and it is free. She said school is not always an encouraging place for people to express themselves. She said they are the future of the city, of the country and the world.

Donovan Adams said he is a teen staff member and he is supporting the Teen Center for a hang out spot. He said the Teen Center now has about two bookshelves, two computers and two tables. He said adults have complained about how loud the teens are. He said the Teen Center is a really good idea for teens to express themselves.

Terry Ma said he is an intern at the teen center and he supports the teen center because it provides many helpful resources and opportunities for teens. He said it will be another opportunity to get close to the technology.

Dawson said he is a junior in High School and a member of the Board of Advising Youth. He said he supports the Teen Center because he is an instructor who teaches speech and debate. He said it has come to his attention that San Francisco lacks facilities for things such as chess tournaments for teens and speech and debate tournaments for teens. He said he thinks the Teen Center would be a very good place to hold tournaments for teens to express themselves. He said it would be a place

where they can do more than just read books. He said this would be a very good investment of the San Francisco Public Library's budget.

Derrick Russell, said he works at the Children's Creative Museum. He said we should promote a Teen Digital Media Lab because today we live in a society where the digital divide is a gap between people who don't have access to computers, technology and the internet and those that do. He said we should open this Teen Center because some teens have nowhere else to go. He said if you do not open this then there will be more people out on the streets and getting involved in negative activity. He said by allowing this to happen we will have so much impact on future generations. He said at his current job they have a lot of workshops and other activities for children.

Aimee Espiritu, Youth Program and Community Engagement Manager at the Children's Creativity Museum said there is an opportunity here that is no assimilation and it is actually already happening in the movement of youth development, digital literacy and network learning across the nation. She said a couple of weeks ago she was on the advisory board for the maker space at the Chicago Public Library. She said she has been serving on the advisory board for the past year and they received the IMLS grant to support public accessible space for maker culture. She said this is happening at the library and is also happening at the youth level. She said we have an opportunity to have a hub and an amazing opportunity to create design programs for teens by teens and also having a space for community based organizations that are promoting digital literacy and digital learning. She said the teens and adults are creating programming where there are animation specialists who are coming in and teaching digital animation and using tools that are relevant to the teens. She said she asks the Commission to fully fund the Teen Digital Media Lab.

Scott Staub, Executive Director of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, said they just received a quarter million dollar grant from the MacArthur Foundation for the HIVE or connected learning with the Library and partners KQED, BAYVAC and the California Academy of Science. He said last week he attended a national conference about badging, which is a very exciting way of how teens learn outside of school, he is more convinced than ever that the Teen Center is essential. He said the Friends Board of Directors is in dialogue about how much the Friends will be able to raise for the Teen Center and when they have a firm number they will be communicating that to Maureen and Luis.

Larry Edmund said he has been going to libraries since 1969 and museums since 1973. He said looking back he has always made time to go to museums and libraries. He said San Francisco has 180 ethnicities. He said ignorance is deadly to you and you need to go ahead with this Teen Center. He said education is part of our greatest source of hope in our country.

An anonymous woman said she was a parent, a teacher and a businessperson. She said for her a business model that doesn't work is like saying o.k. a computer is used only 40% of the time or 60% of the time, let's throw out the computers. She said what she really likes about the plans for the Teen Media Center is that it is not just about the equipment and it is not

just about the facility, it's about the programming. She said as a teacher she tries to go to where the students are and lift them up and help them to reach their potential not say to them if you are not going to read it out of a book on paper like I did, then I don't care if you don't read. She said this is the way people learn today. She said think about email, are we going to go back to using stamps and letters. She said think about the Opera, they would die to have teens like this come and ask them to be a part of the Opera. She said this is the future model and if you try to hold back time and just have the people who always use the library and use it the way it is, you don't have a future. She said other countries are investing in their future. She said if we don't make room for the teens then 10 years from now there won't be a library.

Charles Higuera, former Commissioner and current member of the Friends Board, said he would like to add his voice to the many eloquent voices you have heard this afternoon in support of this project. He said at a time when the city is challenged to maintain its population of families and children, it is especially important to provide for that special demographic. He said it is a natural continuation of our Branch Library Improvement Program's acknowledgement of teens as a special population with particular needs and the space we have added to our projects to make a space for them. He said this is an especially wise investment so he encourages the Commission to approve the Supplemental Budget for this project.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lee wanted to know about the attendance or usage of the existing Teen Center as well as the existing adult literacy center.

Karen Strauss, Chief of Main, said we have the figures of the Project Read program and will come back with that information. She said the Teen Center currently is a small space on the third floor. She said most of the activity is through the programming.

Commissioner Lee said it would be helpful to have a baseline with this information.

Jennifer Collins said there are over 800 programs throughout the library system throughout the Fiscal Year and the attendance is above 14,000.

Cathy Cormier said a lot of the programs for teens are held in the children's center because there is not a separate area for teens. She said they have a partnership with WritersCorp.

Commissioner Lee said in the future with the new Teen Center perhaps staff can keep track of usage of the center. He said he is very encouraged by what is being offered in the Teen Center. He said the word that comes to mind is incubator and it seems like the Teen Center is being set up like an incubator so we can see the young teenagers grow to be young adults. He said the Teen Center is very much dependent on a trainer, an instructor or a mentor to guide them to accelerate their learning.

Cathy Cormier said they are actively working with the partners and envisioning those future programs. She said we see a golden moment here in San Francisco. She said there is a real need to have these partnerships.

Commissioner Lee said thank you to the Friends of the Library to take on the commitment to raise funds.

Commissioner Nguyen said he would like to acknowledge the teens and their poise, grace and courage are exemplary and he is truly moved. He said a theme in what was said is the plurality of multiple intelligence. He said it was a very compelling presentation.

Commissioner Ono said the longer we take on this they are not going to be teens anymore. She said she knows everyone has been working really hard on this project. She asked why the contingency for the Teen Media Lab is so high.

Maureen Singleton explained the contingency is broken out to be 10% of the various phases or components. She said DPW usually determines the contingency amount.

Julia Laue, DPW said she is the manager of building design and construction and they have been working very hard on this budget. She said usually contingencies are about 10% and this contingency is only about 7.2% of the overall budget for the Teen Center. She said this contingency includes soft and hard contingency costs.

Commissioner Ono said if we approve the \$3.2 Million coming from the LPF, we will still have a healthy balance. She thanked all the speakers today and she said she totally supports this program.

Karen Strauss, said she wanted to report back with the ProjectRead numbers. She said the staff and volunteers serve about 200 learners per year on a very intensive level.

Commissioner Nguyen said he was quite taken with the partnership with KQED. He said there is something percolating that KQED and the teens will be working closely together in this partnership.

President Gomez said she wants to thank the staff and our partners and especially the teens for their input and enthusiasm.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the resolution recommending that the Board of Supervisors approve a supplemental appropriation that would appropriate \$3,243,752 in Library Preservation Fund balance monies to complete the Teen Digital Media Lab Capital Program.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Lee, Gomez, Nguyen, and Ono).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, gave the Bond Program Manager's Report and said there are 7 property acquisitions complete, the support services facility is in operation, 23 branches are complete and open and one branch is in construction. He said the approved budget is \$196,259,350 and expended and encumbered as of February 13, 2013 \$181,941,680. He said the North Beach Branch is 82% complete and we are looking at a spring time opening for the branch. He showed photographs of the construction of the building. Explanatory documents: Current [Budget Report](#) and [Bond Program Manager's Report](#).

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the former North Beach Branch Library was considered by the Planning Commission folks to be the best preserved and most worthy of preservation as a mid-century landmark so it would be useful if we might receive an update of what the fate of that building is and what is in store for it. He said it would be useful to understand the future intentions of that library.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said here we have another bond program manager's report which includes at the bottom unsupported statements regarding the contributions by the Friends. He said we don't see much of the Friends these days except when they sneak in like today and speak on a couple of items. They used to be here every quarter or so lauding how wonderful they were. He said the Commission authorizes the staff of the library to put these unsubstantiated claims on public documents knowing full well there is no supporting documentation for these figures. He said he guesses the Friends spend their time now cooking the books. He said what they are trying to do is come up with some sort of justification numbers at the bottom. He said it is as if you actually believe that coming up with the numbers after the fact will make up for all the years of your lies. He said you don't know how much the Friends have raised, you don't know where the money went and you have done your best to hide it. He said we finally got Luis Herrera convicted by the Fair Political Practices Commission for committing three years of perjury about the thousands of dollars of gifts he received from the Friends and then lied under penalty of perjury and said he got nothing. He said that was after the two years he fought me to keep the documents from me for which we could have shown he accepted additional thousands of dollars of gifts for prior years. He said you continue with this pattern and it is negligence. He said your primary obligation is to consider the interests of the San Francisco Public Library and you simply give carte blanche to a group of private individuals without any oversight. He said between 2000 and 2013 \$60 Million was expended by the Friends and none of you know where that money went.

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We have another bond manager's report which includes at the bottom unsupported statements regarding the contributions by "The Friends." We don't see much of "The Friends" these days do we? I guess that would be because they're too busy "cooking the books" to come up with some source of justification for these numbers! It's as if you actually believe coming up with numbers "after the fact" will make up for all the years of your lies! Let's be clear: you have ignored the financial dealings of "The Friends" for years, you continue to do so, and give every indication you intend to continue this pattern. Despite the fact that your primary obligation is to consider the interests of the San Francisco Public Library, you simply give carte blanche to a group of private individuals to raise and expend money without any oversight. I know people don't like to hear this.

Scott Staub, Executive Director, Friends of the Library, said he never sneaks into the Commission meeting. He said he is always here. He said the Friends submit to the Library and to the Controller every year their audited financial statements by a very reputable accounting firm. He said the Friends are a Silver rated Guidestar and have a three star with Charity Navigator. He said they are completely transparent and if our critics have any questions they can always come to the Friends directly.

Larry Edmond said those young leaders know how important our world is. He said Black History Month in the libraries has been such a great experience. He said we need the learning trees and the trees will teach us.

Commission Discussion

President Gomez asked about the existing North Beach branch library and what will happen to it when the new one is complete.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said that the building is located on Park and Rec property and they have other plans for the site.

Commissioner Ono asked if we are still on track for an April opening for the North Beach branch.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said we are on track for opening sometime in the spring.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, introduced the City Librarian's report. She said with respect to the Ingleside Landscape Project, she wanted to remind everyone that the budget the Commission approved did include an allocation of around \$200,000 for this project.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said at the Ingleside Library there is a PUC easement next to the building that is not very attractive. He said they are combining the two areas for the existing garden and the easement. He showed photographs of the existing conditions and drawings of the proposed garden. He said this is a project with the Library, DPW, SFPUC and Rec and Park. He said Supervisor Norman Yee has been spearheading the effort. He said the garden will be open when the library is open. He said there would be very low impact on our operations. He said the current construction estimate is around \$500,000 and the Library portion of the funding is \$200,000. He said the construction schedule is yet to be determined.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief, Community Programs and Partnerships, explained the many programs the Library had this month for Black History Month. She said there are more than 80 programs this month at every branch and at the Main Library. She said the Library was also one of the co-sponsors for the City Hall Kick Off for Black History month and City Librarian Luis Herrera and members of the African American Interest Committee had roles in that luncheon event. She said the month was full of activities including crafts, dance programs, films, music, quilting, special events, storytimes, talks, and City College events. She said Black History Month was generously funded by the Friends of the Library. She said she wanted to talk about the Annual Report, which was created on January 31st. She said it was done in house by our staff graphic designers and our staff copywriters. She said it is themed around our strategic priorities as well as the BLIP program. She said they tried to keep it short and readable and it has been posted on the website and publicly available for everyone.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said she was handed a flyer right before the meeting about Teen Tech Week which will be March 9 through the 15th and there will be lots of great programming. She said there are handouts in the back of the room and information is available on the web.

Explanatory documents: [Ingleside Landscape Project](#) Presentation; [Black History Month Presentation](#); and 2012-2013 [San Francisco Public Library Annual Report](#).

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said the Commission will approve this report even though it is nothing but a propaganda piece. He said on page 12 facts and figures can probably be verified although you would probably fight like hell to keep anyone from the public getting a look at them. He said everything else is a series of unsubstantiated claims. He said there are a lot of comments from people saying I love the library. He said you will only permit the good stuff to be talked about. He said if someone talks about something you don't like, you will do what your president did the last time and although this evening several people have wandered way off topic no attempt was made to stop or interfere with them, it is only folks like myself that she is free to do that with. He said he is concerned about the picture on page 9. He said if the

mural in the picture is on a public library, it is probably already targeted for destruction like the Bernal mural. He said then there is page 3 the Executive Letter signed by Luis Herrera a publicly admitted perjurer and the president of this commission who has been recommended for removal from her office by the San Francisco Ethics Commission. He said he questions why any citizen of San Francisco, who makes any effort to look into the operations of the library, should trust anything these two people have to say. He said as President Reagan once said, "trust but verify." He said he doesn't trust either one and they work together to ensure members of the public cannot verify. He said annual reports usually have a lot on the financial side of things but this is nothing but a bunch of pretty pictures. He said it is propaganda that is all it 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.

Doesn't really matter what anybody has to say you're going to approve this report, even though it's nothing but public relations "propaganda." Page 12 "Facts and Figures," can probably be verified, with everything else a series of unsubstantiated claims. I'm concerned about the picture on page 9, in that the mural in the picture, is on a public library, is probably already targeted for destruction. Then there's page 3, the "Executive Letter," signed by a publicly admitted perjurer and the president of this commission, recommended for removal by the San Francisco Ethics Commission. I really do question why any citizen of San Francisco, who makes any effort to look into the operations of the library, should trust anything these two people have to say! As president Reagan once said, "trust but verify." I don't trust either one, and they work together to ensure no one can verify!

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the Ingleside Landscape Plan was very interesting and he thinks it would be very useful if the designers would take the trouble of making a 3D model of it so that folks can actually see it rather than just the two dimensional that we have been given. He said he is a little concerned with DPW and the Parks involved and he wondered why the open space that is being proposed is going to be open apparently only during library open hours. He said the library spaces around other libraries that he is familiar with such as the Richmond Branch library are open to the public and Park branch space is open to the public. He said it is unfortunate it is closing off a public space and he doesn't think the public will be entirely happy with it. He said it should be considered for open space but used regardless of whether the library is open. He said the annual report is very interesting for something that is not mentioned at all. He said the previous speaker certainly hit on some very important issues. He said it is a lot of happy talk and certainly not something that I would agree with where it states that the library is exemplary. He said the library is not a role model with respect to the illegalities with respect to the two individuals and the Commission itself unfortunately. He said there is not a breath of mention of what we have

seen in the past and there doesn't seem to be a single word about the Friends.

Larry Edmund, said he likes to be called Juicy Colorado and he likes to tell people to go to Colorado. He said he was here the night that Mandela passed. He said he is very in touch with his history and he thinks Black History Month is so great. He said what you did for Black History Month he would like to see done for a Latin History Month. He said he is glad we do not have private names on the libraries and that they are public. He said reading something can change his outlook. He said he listens to three radio stations. He said the libraries will always be around and are very important.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lee asked about the donation from the Friends of the Library for Black History Month

Michelle Jeffers, Chief, Community Programs and Partnerships said the funding for Black History Month came from our annual grant from the Friends and was part of our regular programming grant.

Commissioner Lee said since the patrons of the Library benefit from the donations by the Friends, is there some reason the Friends are not mentioned in the Annual Report.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief, Community Programs and Partnerships said in the past we have done a joint report with the Friends of the Library and this year we decided not to do that and the Friends will be doing its own annual report.

Commissioner Ono asked if the Ingleside Branch Garden is accessible.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said the Ingleside Branch Garden is accessible and that there will be a ramp as well as the stairs.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 LABOR UNION REPORT

Andrea Grimes, Special Collections Librarian and one of the officers of the Library Chapter of SEIU. She said there is not really a report for this meeting, however, she did want to make a comment that she thinks this is a wonderful library and she believes the collections are topnotch and the library staff is just terrific. She said but we are not in library heaven and we are not perfect. She said quite often the union does come up to talk about and question and criticize some of the things that are either wrong or problematic. She said we are light years away from where we were even back as far as 1996, which she said some in the audience will remember as very dark days indeed. She said this is an extraordinary library and everybody works really, really hard to make it so for the public.

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he would like to make it clear so that the staff of the Library and most of the senior administration of the library clearly understand this. He said he has very few problems with this library. He said this is the branch he uses. He said he finds it exemplary and finds the staff very helpful and all of the innovations to be very rewarding. He said it isn't the staff and the library he has a problem with it is this Commission and its members, who will listen year after year to him saying there ought to be some accountability from the Friends and yet you just won't do anything about it. He said his earlier comment about the staff's safety ought to be something the union looks at because you were pissing and moaning last time about the budget and not wanting to spend extra money for janitorial staff to keep it clean and security staff to keep patrons and the staff safe and now you come back and say \$5.5 Million for a Teen Center and rearranging the library is not a problem. He said you don't mind taking money out of the Library Preservation Fund for that, but you do have a problem taking it out for the safety and security of the library staff and patrons. He said the \$5.5 Million turns out to be 29.89% of the Library Preservation Fund. He said the Friends sneak into the meeting. He said the Friends spend \$6.6 Million and the Library gets \$375,000 and that is where funding for the Black History Month came out of.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the reason some folks at times have criticism and the reason that they spend their own time and energy and effort is because as far as he is concerned and perspective, they do care about the library and they do want the library to be as good as possible. He said he has said many times things like the best search engine is a librarian, or has seldom approached a librarian with a question and often learned something very valuable. He said he doesn't have a problem with the staff at all. He said he believes the staff is well-qualified. He said the problems he has talked about are basically management problems and maybe some people don't recognize that there is a difference between front line staff and management. He said when he has talked to librarians a theme that has come out quite regularly is that management doesn't listen to us. He said they feel that management here does not listen to the librarians on particular issues. He said things like the eviction of magazines for example, the library management may try and say staff was consulted, but he doesn't think that they would be able to say that staff agreed that this was the best use of the space on the Fifth Floor. He said there is a range of things where there are differences between staff and management. He said he loves this library and his criticisms are certainly to make it better.

Larry Edmund, Juicy Colorado, said his mother worked for a company that was moved to Canada and that is a union story. He said he was in a great union in San Diego. In San Francisco he was in Local 2 Communications Workers of America. He said he thinks the staff here, the Commission and unions in this city do a damn good job to get us the service that we need. He said San Francisco is a union town and he hopes we have more tenant unions in labor.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2013

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he would like to compliment the Library Commission and the Library Commission Secretary on the vast, vast improvement of these Minutes over what we have seen in prior years. He said he would like to make the public and one member of this Commission who is new, familiar with the fact that it took years of fighting through the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force and other bodies to get to this point. He said it wasn't done willingly and it wasn't done in any way other than dragging their heels. He said he still cannot use the overhead why because the Commission does not want him to use the overhead. He said if he could show charts and graphs you would really be screwed. He said you will fight, fight, fight. He said he is like Mr. Warfield. He said he loves libraries. He said if it hadn't been for libraries, he wouldn't be anywhere near as educated as he is or had the opportunities he has had. He said he can't think of any civic institutions more important than our libraries. He said he doesn't come here because he has nothing better to do, he comes here because he has legitimate public comment and very frankly he doesn't see many members of the public coming here unless it is over one particular item. He said he is sorry the Commission is too lazy or too scared to look at the finances of the Friends, but it won't stop him from looking at it and it won't stop him from commenting on it. He said it hasn't stopped him from submitting his 150 word statements into the minutes.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said at this meeting he asked multiple times what was going to happen to the materials that will be displaced by the planned Literacy and Learning Center. He said he doesn't believe that that is sufficiently shown including the silences that came with his direct questions. He said it was at this meeting as well where there was a question repeatedly asked about the cost of the Literacy and Learning Center and his recollection is that eventually Luis Herrera said \$784,000. He said we see that figure today at \$1.1 Million. He said he is puzzled by these absences in the minutes and perhaps he should review the tape. He said under General Public Comment the last sentence under his comments it says "he wanted to know about the implementation schedule in detail for the Literacy Center and what is going to happen with the displaced material." He said his recollection was that after that statement there was a long silence. He said in his comments he tries to be specific. He said under item no. 2 he believes that he said when talking about the BLIP project and the considerable amount that had been budgeted for alternate locations. He said \$4.4 Million was allocated and only \$.5 Million expended. He said the description is pretty unclear in the minutes. He said on item no. 4 he thinks he was much clearer than what is in the minutes and it should be straightened out.

Larry Edmund said he approves the Minutes of December 5, 2013 because that was the night he heard that Mandela died. He read the names of buttons on his suspenders.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to approve the [Minutes of December 5, 2013](#).

Action: AYES 4-0: (Gomez, Lee, Ono, and Nguyen)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 ADJOURNMENT

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government said he hopes the Commission will notice that he is catching up on all the two minute public comments you forced on us in the past. He said he would like to talk about this adjournment because it is an example of what should happen. He said all Commissioners should be present. He said you should go through the entire agenda, treating each item respectfully and then when you get through the agenda you should go home. He said that wasn't what happened last time was it? He said you got through the middle of one part of the agenda and then you took these young people who came to talk to you about their LEGO projects and you jammed them through and were rude to them and you want to treat it like it was some sort of right treatment. He said you did that because you guys don't come to these meetings. He said you have cut down to half the number of meetings you have had in the past. He said the Mayor has a policy on Boards and Commissions and if you can't attend the meetings by showing up when they start and staying until the finish then you should resign your positions. He said adjournment is something that happens when the business as stated to the public is complete, not when you get too lazy to stay. He said you have one meeting a month and you can't arrange your schedule to be here on time and stay for the meeting. He said tonight there are only four members of the seven and three couldn't even bother to show up let alone handle any of the business on the agenda. He said members of the public who you deride have a better attendance record at these meetings than some of you do. He said he will be sending a letter to the Mayor reporting the Commission's attendance.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said this portion of the agenda in past years has been devoted to memorializing library folks and others who have died but over time he has asked the Commission to get back to where it used to be with respect to not adjourning before taking an item that used to be on the agenda all the time and that is routinely on other Commission agendas and that is new business, which is a time where at other bodies there is an opportunity for the commissioners to say what they would like on future agendas. He said the previous speaker's concerns about attendance might be something you would want to put on the agenda. He said he thinks that would be a good thing to review. He said you very often have had a bare quorum and where are the other three people who are supposed to represent the citizens of San Francisco and take good care of library business. He said another item that you have on your agenda is the requirements of the Sunshine Ordinance. He

said apparently many of you don't know key portions of it. He said your President doesn't know key portions of it even though she can be very sharp about picking at members of the public who she thinks have given the wrong terminology for something that they are talking about. He said the Labor Union report mentioned the dark days of 1996 and he remembers those days and it might be useful to have a presentation or an agenda item looking back on how things have changed since 1996. He said he thinks that would be very constructive.

Larry Edmund said he wanted to read posters on his umbrella on renters' rights. He read from a book called the Black Male Handbook.

Motion: By Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Ono, to adjourn the regular meeting of February 20, 2014.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Gomez, Lee, Nguyen and Ono)

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 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).