



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 19, 2015

(As approved at the regular meeting of April 16, 2015)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 19, 2015 in the Koret Auditorium Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 pm.

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

Commissioner excused: Dunning

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer was acting City Librarian at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said this Commission is making a charade of democracy. He said the Commission said that it had some concerns over BiblioCommons and there has been zero follow up on these concerns. He said BiblioCommons needs to be on this agenda

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he agrees with Mr. Warfield. He said there has been no formal presentation by the Friends of the Library in over a year and a half. He said the members of the Commission continue to impede members of the public who question the relationship that the SFPL, the City Librarian and the members of this Commission have with the Friends. He said since 2001 \$70 Million has been raised by the Friends and the Commission has no idea where the money has gone.

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.

Scott Staub, Executive Director of The Friends, seems to object when I have described his appearances as “sneaking in.” I’m

curious as to how he would describe them, as no formal presentation by The Friends has occurred for over a year and a half! Part of the reason, I believe, is the complaint the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force will be hearing on April 1 against your Pres. Teresa Ono. The members of this Library Commission continue their ongoing efforts to impede, in any way possible, members of the public who question the relationship that the SFPL, the City Librarian and the members of this commission have with The Friends. Since 2001 almost \$70 million has passed through their hands and you haven't got foggiest notion as to where that money has gone! Further, you engage in an ongoing program of deceiving the public regarding your understanding of all that money!

Scott Staub, Executive Director, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, said on March 31 the Friends will have their member preview and reception for the fifth spring book sale. He said on April 4 there will be a Neighborhood Library Campaign community celebration at Fort Mason. He said some people think that the Friends are not transparent but our financial statements are all available on our website.

AGENDA ITEM 2 THE MIX AT SFPL PROGRAMMING

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said the Mix at SFPL at the Main is currently under construction and is scheduled to be completed in June this year. She said we will be giving a presentation of some of the programming that is scheduled for the site.

Megan Anderson, Youth Centers Manager, gave a presentation on the Mix beginning with some background on the Center. She said we see passionate children at the library and then around middle school some of those children drift away. She said the process started in 2011 to try to answer why those children drift away. She said we brought together a group of young people and other partners and began to develop a teen space.

Cathy Cormier, Teen Center Manager, gave a presentation and explained the various areas within the Mix.

Megan Anderson, Youth Centers Manager, said although we are calling this a digital media space, it's still a library and the core of this space is the very large book collection. She said our partnerships are very important in order to complement our staff.

Jennifer Greenlee, Teen Services Coordinator, continued the presentation with the ways partnerships will enhance the programs that happen within the Mix. She said the Mix on the Move will be serving the branch libraries in our community. She said there is a larger community that we are addressing through social media and we will be launching a new teen website. She said we will be piloting programs on different platforms.

Megan Anderson, Youth Centers Manager, explained how we will be reaching out to the teens so that they will find The Mix through teen connectors. She explained what a typical day of programs would include.

Jennifer Greenlee, Teen Services Coordinator, said thank you to all of our partners.

Cathy Cormier, Teen Center Manager, said we are part of a large community of informal educators serving teens.

Explanatory document: [The Mix at SFPL](#) presentation

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said this library has heard a lot of promises over many year and the follow through doesn't always happen. He said he has not heard presentations about how the teen centers in the branches or the Main are being used. He said we need to know how the existing program failed before we can plan for the future.

Lauren Taylor, Adobe Youth Voices Program, said this space is important because there are teens who don't have access to these types of programs.

Katy Udall, California Academy of Sciences, said the Academy is pleased to be a partner with the Mix at SFPL and we are excited to continue to contribute programming. She said the Academy has been involved with this program since 2011.

Kayla said she is a senior at St. Ignatius. She said she was very excited to have a hard hat tour of the new space and she is excited that this is really happening.

Marco said he is a founding member of the Board of Advisory Youth. He said he is truly excited to be part of the reimaging of the library for the 21st Century and beyond.

Dawson said he is a member of the Board of Advisory Youth and the City has a lack of good resources for teens. He said the Mix will have equipment that teens will actually be able to use and develop their skills.

Robert said he is a sophomore at Lowell. He said he is a video editor and he has worked with other teenagers who have been concerned with the costs involved of equipment so he is very excited about the Mix having that equipment available.

A woman who said she is a freshman at City College said thanks to the Commission for having this Teen Center. She said the Mix is important and it tells teenagers that they are important and it will provide free resources.

Darla said she is a freshman at San Francisco State University, she said she is very excited about the Mix because she is a young artist and activist. She said she wants to use the space to make art that revolves around social justice.

A woman said she was thankful to all the teen speakers who have spoken so far. She said she has students and her own granddaughter who have been on the teen advisory board and they learned so much and brought ideas back to the schools. She said it is wonderful that there will be the Mix at the Main but there will also be mobile programs that will go out to the branches.

A woman said libraries are her favorite places in the whole world. She thanked the Commissioners for putting in their time. She said she is a teacher and parent of teens and she said the library is so important for them to develop knowledge. She said the programs at the Mix will be very important.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he acknowledges the efforts of the staff and thanks all of the teens who have participated. He said he is waiting to find out the final overall cost of the Mix and how soon the public will be told to what extent it is being utilized. He asked how the intelligence of this expenditure will be determined and if the Commission will be willing to follow up and look into this to see if it is effective.

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I'm waiting with eager anticipation for two things: the final overall cost of "The Mix," and how soon the public will be told to what extent this very expensive project is being utilized. What metrics will be used to determine whether this "brainchild" of the City Librarian was truly worth the millions expended? When can we expect a report that will allow us to evaluate the wisdom of this project: As he frequently does, the latest example being BiblioCommons, Mr. Herrera likes to sneak things in "under the radar," with the members of the Library Commission as willing dupes. When the "target audience" for this program is able to do everything it encompasses on their smart phones and iPads, how will anyone determine the intelligence of this expenditure? Or, as I've come to believe, will we simply move on to the next effort to burnish the credentials of Luis Herrera?

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall said she is very optimistic about our future after hearing from all of the young people. She said she is sure the final outcome will reflect their input. She asked if the teen center will be open

to everyone or just teens. She also asked about the 3D printer in the Teen Center and whether there is an adult advisory committee.

Megan Anderson, Youth Centers Manager, said the open hours will be dedicated to teens. She said however we will be serving a wide range of ages in different ways through programming. She said two of the 3D printers they purchased for the Mix are kits, so the teens will actually be building them. She said there are also 3D printers in the branch division and in the new Learning Center.

Jennifer Greenlee, Teen Services Coordinator, said we are in the process of engaging a wide variety of partnerships with adults serving youth who will be called on to be an advisory group and plan programmatic aspects.

Cathy Cormier, Teen Center Manager, said we are part of a national group that is a robust online community.

Commissioner Mall said she would like to see some of the tech companies in our neighborhood contribute to the Friends for the Mix.

Scott Staub, Executive Director, Friends of the Library, said Microsoft made a \$50,000 gift to the Mix and we have had support from Airbnb, Comcast and Twitter. He said at the Branching Out event there was over \$60,000 raised for the Mix. He said we are talking to other tech companies as well.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said that the City Librarian is also talking with Google as well.

Megan Anderson, Youth Centers Manager, said working with the tech sector is a high priority for us.

Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi thanked the staff for all of their hard work and commitment. She said to the youth they have brought wisdom to the space and they have her commitment to make sure the Mix has the resources it needs and we will continue to listen to you.

Commissioner Lee said he enjoyed the whole presentation. He said one of the goals he heard was to attract middle school age students and he wondered if we have a baseline measure for that age group.

Megan Anderson, Youth Centers Manager, said the trends they are relying on for data are the attendance at programs for this age groups 13-18 and also the number of library cards issued for that age group. She said all of the work produced by the teens will be available for the public to view.

Commissioner Lee said the partners will be able to help the teens.

Jennifer Greenlee said the idea of being part of youth pathways is part of the foundational concepts and principles in forming this space. She said she would love to hear about additional partners for the space.

Cathy Cormier, Teen Center Manager, said that all of our programming is being designed with the intention of building blocks for pathways.

Commissioner Nguyen said hearing from the teens about their creative imagination and aspirations. He asked how the advisory board serves as liaisons back to their own schools.

One of the teens said he has been teaching chess at the Excelsior Branch for almost five years and he has been trying to get it into the public schools. He said he also does teen computer corps at the Excelsior Branch.

Commissioner Nguyen said he is getting a glimpse into how this will reverberate back into the community and the schools.

One of the teens said she is a new youth board member and she is working with the Boys and Girls Club in the Mission. She said she learned how to make buttons at the library and she is taking that back to others as well.

Jennifer Greenlee said we have a fantastic corps of ambassadors.

Cathy Cormier, Teen Center Manager, said yesterday the library was the host for Youth Advocacy Day.

Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, asked that staff go back and look at the copy write and intellectual property rights laws to be very clear about the use of the public space so that they are both protected.

Jennifer Greenlee said that is where partnerships are such an incredible help and strength.

President Ono said anytime we have a presentation on the Mix it is so heartwarming and hearing from the teens makes us feel like what we are doing is worthwhile.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said we would be hearing a report on our repurposed bookmobile which we call the techmobile, the facilities operational enhancements and the Ingleside Library Garden Project.

Alice Chen, Southeast District Manager, gave a presentation on Techmobile Services. She explained the techmobile features and the vision for the techmobile. She explained the external and internal partners. She said the spring focus will be on Digital Arts and Lego

Robotics; the summer will focus on Digital Storytelling and the fall focus will be on coding.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, gave a presentation on the Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP) Post Occupancy Investments at the branches. He explained the FY 14-15 projects, and the FY 15-16 planned projects for the branches and the Main. He said there was a groundbreaking recently on the Ingleside Library Garden Project. He showed the design for the project, listed the project partners and said the expected date of completion will be July, 2015. He said the construction cost is \$346,334.

Explanatory documents: [Techmobile Services](#) presentation; [Facilities Operational Enhancements](#) presentation; and [Ingleside Library Garden Project](#) presentation.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said it is shocking that there are some recent library activities that are not mentioned in the report. He spoke about the problems with the new library catalog BiblioCommons.

President Ono said the City Librarian's report is on the items presented.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said it is on recent library activities and the omission is shocking. He said there has not been a report on other recent functions. He said it appears that Mr. Lombardi cannot even have a consistent sign in sheet on what the cleaning staff is actually doing. He said he has a concern over excess partnerships other than with other city departments.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said it is restriction of public comment to say that we are allowed to talk about what you put on the agenda but not what we think should be on the agenda. He said the report fails to address a very serious issue about Luis Herrera receiving funds from the Friends of the Library and then lying about it on his statement of economic interest.

President Ono said public comment should be on the City Librarian's report.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said not to interrupt him he has the right to speak on what is not on the City Librarian's report. He said I will take you back to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. He demanded that the clock be stopped. He said he has freedom of speech.

President Ono said we are on the City Librarian's Report.

Sue Blackman, Library Commission Secretary said that there is public comment at the beginning of the meeting at which time members of the

public have the opportunity to speak about any issue that relates to the library that is not on the agenda.

Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi left the meeting.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government said he is sick of the Commission taking Ms. Blackman's advice. He said you interfere with people's first amendment rights, the Brown Act and the Sunshine Ordinance.

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The City Librarian's report fails to address a very important issue: How does Luis Herrera justify accepting approximately \$5000 a year for three consecutive years from The Friends and then lying about that on his Statement of Economic Interests? I know hell will freeze over before any member of the Library Commission addresses that breach of the public trust! I believe Mr. Herrera owes the public an explanation as to why he filed, under penalty of perjury, false statements regarding thousands of dollars of gifts he received from a group for which he is supposed to provide oversight? So to put two questions point-blank: Mr. Herrera, what were you thinking when you knowingly and willfully signed false official statements lying about your receipt of those gifts? And, if you lied year after year on the original statements, why should the public believe the revised statements are any more honest?

The Commission recessed at 6:10 pm and reconvened at 6:15 pm.

President Ono asked if there was any additional public comment.

(From the audience) Ray Hartz asked if he could finish his public comment.

President Ono told Mr. Hartz his three minutes were up.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 LABOR UNION REPORT

There was no labor union report at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FEBRUARY 19, 2015

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he has some recommended improvement, changes and corrections. He said his comments regarding BiblioCommons, his comments on the bottom of

page three regarding the materials removed from the fifth floor and his comments on the Minutes should be corrected.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government said he believes the Library Commission will continue to follow it's pattern of changing anything the Commission disagrees with and ignore anything members of the public call to your attention. He said he is once again providing his 150 word summaries of his comments to ensure that his lawful criticism is accurately reflected in the official record.

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.

In approving these minutes I believe the members of this Library Commission will follow the usual pattern: change anything with which you disagree, and ignore anything members of the public call to your attention. The Library Commission, in its various iterations, has followed a pattern of censoring, abridging falsifying, mischaracterizing, and attempting to prohibit comments by the public from being accurately reflected in the minutes. It does so in an effort to cover up its willful negligence! I am once again submitting 150 word summaries of my comments to ensure that my lawful criticism is accurately reflected in the official record. I believe it is a breach of the public trust that the members of this commission show no interest at all in seeing that the official record is a complete and accurate one! And further, seem to have little interest in carrying out their business in an open manner.

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, seconded by Commissioner Mall, to approve the [Minutes of February 19, 2015](#).

Action: AYES 5-0: (Lee, Mall, Nguyen, Ono and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said that adjournment has generally speaking been a time when the Commission adjourns in honor of someone who has died. He said the Commission does a disservice to the public by not having New Business on the agenda. He said he suggests you adjourn in honor of the dead or dying democracy and accountability.

Motion: By Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Mall to adjourn the regular meeting of March 19, 2015.

Action: AYES 5-0: (Lee, Mall, Nguyen Ono and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi)

The meeting adjourned at 6:24 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).