SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 2, 2013

(Approved as amended at the June 20, 2013 regular meeting).

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 2, 2013 in the Koret Auditorium Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm.

Commissioners present: Gomez, Lee, Mall, Munson, Nguyen, and Ono.

Commissioner Randlett entered the meeting at 5:09 pm.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous citizen said at the last meeting he mentioned Le Mot de Coulter and the public comment fund. He asked the Commissioners if they thought that one day that is what they would stand for. He said the Commission thinks if you run your enemies out of town that will solve all of your problems. He said the benefit of running people out of town is that you never have to recognize any shared humanity. He said the Commission thinks it is killing his claim on humanity but it is killing its own.

The following written summary was provided by the speaker, anonymous citizen. The content is neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by the Library Commission.

Stop the Hate & Stop the Ignorance – Don’t accept money from the Friends of the Library. “Maybe what you should do is what they used to do in the old Roman Republic – elect Ms. Gomez for the position of dictator for life and then at least the rest of us would have the hope an assassination might result in a change of leadership.” Understanding Le Mot de Coulter, and the Public Comment Fund, you once would’ve been shocked. You put all of your eggs in one basket; getting rid of people once and for all; like old Cowboy movies – running your enemies out of town. The benefit is never having to recognize any shared humanity.
You should develop the ears to hear people, or you shouldn't be representatives. You are killing your own claim on humanity. Abandoning your humanity to serve the interests of money is the nightmare of the human race.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he gave copies of a document from the Framework for each of you. He said he would be using graphics but because the Commission doesn't like what we say you want to abridge and censor it. He said we will be going back to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF) because he is sick and tired of the Commission trying to keep what we say out of the official record. He said the Framework states that “Friends will provide the Library or its designee with quarterly reports of its cash, pledges and other sources of funding.” He said this was taken before the SOTF who found your City Librarian in violation of the ordinance. He said it has been referred to the Board of Supervisors requesting enforcement action against Luis Herrera. He asked if the two new Commissioners were going to participate in this ongoing fraud and deception of the public relating to the 50 to 60 Million Dollars the Friends have raised and expended.

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.

I have just passed out two pages from a document known as the “Framework.” This first sheet is to ensure that none of the members of this Library Commission can pretend not to know what I’m talking about. The second sheet includes section 3.6 City Right to Audit. “Friends will provide the Library or its designee with quarterly reports of its cash, pledges and other sources of funding.” Failure to produce these documents, among others, resulted in a March 7, 2013 referral to the Board of Supervisors requesting enforcement action against city librarian Luis Herrera. Mr. Herrera is probably working under the delusion that the BOS will not hear this referral. The board and the public will hear this matter, even if in two-minute increments spread out over a year! It would seem less painful for this commission to have a hearing, rather than experience a “Death by 1000 cuts.”

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the library unfortunately has a long and sad history of obstruction and making it difficult or impossible to get documents they are legally required to turn over. He said delays, redactions and refusals to turn over documents have been taken in some cases to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force which is the body, whose members are chosen by the Board of Supervisors to be the watchdog of sunshine for the city. He said the Library Citizens Advisory Committee (LCAC) which was created by the Board of Supervisors and met for a number of years had the agendas and minutes posted on the library’s website. He said there is now no mention on the website of the LCAC. He said there may be other ways to get at those records but an ordinary citizen with a reasonable search would not
be able to find those records. He said he hopes that the Commission will pay attention to those sorts of problems at the Library.

**AGENDA ITEM 2. RESOLUTION HONORING FORMER LIBRARY COMMISSIONER LARRY KANE**

President Gomez read a resolution honoring former Commissioner Larry Kane.

**Public Comment**

An anonymous citizen said we have to give you credit for putting this on the agenda. He said we rarely get a Commissioner of his level and he is the sort of person that comes on the Commission to give back to the community. He said Mr. Kane was just a few days short of 8 full years. He went over Mr. Kane’s attendance record for each year he was on the Commission. He said there should have been 164 meetings during Mr. Kane’s tenure and only 149 were held. He said Mr. Kane was late 64 times, he left early 19 times and he was absent 19 times. He said Mr. Kane only attended 49 full meetings out of 149 yet we consider Larry Kane one of the better Commissioners. He said Mr. Kane used to ask questions of the Friends of the Library and suggest that they report back to the Commission. He said this was intended to show how unaware Mr. Kane was of how sleazy the Friends are. He was faithful to the idea of additional hours and holding meetings at the branches. He said on balance, Mr. Kane was above average.

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Stop the Hate & Ignorance – Don’t give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. Whatever opprobrium and obloquy we heap upon Mr. Kane he will consider an endorsement. Commissioners at his level want to serve humanity, rather than most who act like pigs. Mr. Kane’s first meeting was May 5, 2005. The first year his attendance was absent once, late once. It went downhill from there. Even after moving to 4:30 he was still late 10 times in one year, absent four times. Overall, out of 149 meetings he was late 64 times and only attended 49 full meetings. Outrageously Mr. Kane would imply he was really unaware of how sleazy the Friends are. He knows. Mr. Kane was the first to nominate Jewelle Gomez as President, his idea of a joke. He spoke up for service to the public and meeting in branches, so overall above average.

Ray Hartz, Executive Director, San Francisco Open Government, said Mr. Kane has made some really solid efforts to improve the overall library. He said with all the praise there needs to be some balance to paint an honest picture. He said Mr. Kane willfully participated in a cover-up related to the Friends of the Library. He said Mr. Kane participated in actions to censor
and abridge public comment. He said despite Mr. Kane’s legal background, he never made any effort to protect the right to free speech. He said Mr. Kane was willfully ignorant in the two areas he mentioned, betrayed the public trust placed in him and knows that this commendation is tainted.

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.

With all the praise for Commissioner Kane, there needs to be some balance to paint an honest picture. Throughout his years of service on the Library Commission, he knowingly and willfully participated in a cover-up related to the finances of The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. Further, he participated in actions to censor and abridge public comment. Mr. Kane, despite his legal background, never asked why the Library Commission wanted to silence dissent and never made any effort to protect the right to free speech. Mr. Kane’s only concern was that the city attorney said it was okay and that there was something to cover his ass! Thomas Aquinas teaches: “Willful ignorance of what one ought to know is a mortal sin.” Mr. Kane was willfully ignorant in the two areas I mentioned, betrayed the public trust placed in him, and knows that this commendation is tainted.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he appreciates this being on the agenda. He said Larry Kane has recently been one of the most intelligent and conscientious of the Library Commission members. He said Mr. Kane followed issues and asked questions. He said Mr. Kane pushed for the expansion of library open hours, something that Library Users Association, has been pushing for years. He said unfortunately there are some down sides as you have heard and in general it was a disappointment that Larry Kane’s questions were sometimes softball and he did not insist on a prompt fix he would ask for more information at a later date. He said Larry Kane voted to reelect Jewelle Gomez as President after she had been found by the Ethics Commission that her behavior was so egregious that she should be sacked by the Mayor. He said Larry Kane let things go without commenting or trying to improve things. He said eight years on the Library Commission is a good effort and public spirited and we appreciate that.

Iona Eisner said she is a student at San Francisco State University and is attending her first Library Commission meeting. She said she has been going to the library since she was 4 years old and she appreciates what Larry Kane has done and thinks he should be honored.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said it was a great honor working with Larry and sitting next to him. She said Larry always asked the probing questions that she wanted to ask. She said she appreciated that Larry took the time
when he went to the library with his family, to ask patrons what they thought about the library. She said Larry did that on his own time and he did it because he cared. She said she appreciated that Larry brought his kids with him, because he wants them to learn. She said she will try her hardest to keep his mantra of getting more open hours. She said it was a great pleasure and honor to work with Larry Kane.

Commissioner Munson said he agrees with Commissioner Ono’s comments. He said Larry Kane has been an exceptional commissioner on this Commission. He said the naysayers just spoke about their particular focus. He said the Commission has been managing well a program with total expenditures approaching $200 Million. He said Larry Kane has always kept in mind the big picture and he thinks Larry deserves a special tribute.

Commissioner Nguyen said he would like to congratulate and thank Larry Kane for his enquiring nature and the wonderful courage and energy that he brought to the Commission. He said the willingness of Larry to ask the kind of questions he has asked has been very educational to him. He said he appreciates all that Larry has done for the Commission and he will miss having a fellow dimple chin on the Commission.

Commissioner Mall said she has only had the opportunity to meet with Commissioner Kane on one occasion and she is so sorry that they will not be serving on the Commission together. She said she was impressed that Larry Kane has been a partner in a major law firm in the city, on other nonprofit boards, his dedication to the youth of San Francisco, along with having his own children. She said there aren’t a lot of people willing to take the time to dedicate themselves to something like the San Francisco Public Library the way Larry has and she said she thinks Larry is a remarkable person.

President Gomez said she relied on Larry Kane always for his tough questions and his perspective and good humor and she was always inspired by his bike riding to the meetings.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Munson to approve a resolution honoring Larry Kane for his outstanding leadership and dedicated hard work as a member of the Commission and to hereby recognize, honor, commend and thank him.

Action: AYES 7-0: (Gomez, Lee, Mall, Munson, Nguyen, Ono and Randlett)

Larry Kane said his wife and daughters win on patience of him being late. He said thank you to the Commissioners for all their kind words and said it means a lot to him. He said he has learned a lot by serving on the Commission. He said that people can complain about the library and he has learned that the librarians and staff at the branches and the Main are some of the hardest working public servants that there are. He said it would not be the great library system it is without the great hard working
AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 FINES AND FEES ORDINANCE

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this item follows the conversation from the last meeting. He said in the packets are the draft resolution, the draft ordinance, legislative digest, and the existing ordinance. He said the cover memo outlines the changes they are recommending to the Fines and Fees ordinance. He said they are recommending reducing the DVD overdue fines for adults/seniors from $1 per day to $.10 per day; a new fee for reproduction of photographs per project in an unlimited media; and scaled fees for scanning photographs based on higher resolution purposes.

Shellie Cocking, Collections and Cataloging Manager, gave a presentation on the streamline borrowing policies. She said the goal was to standardize item limits, loan periods, renewals and fines. She said they wanted to improve the user experience and create efficiencies. She explained the former item limits and fines. She said the goal was to have all media types have the same item limit, loan period, fines and renewal limits. She said they have made some changes and are now asking for the fines change. She addressed some of the issues that the Commission had raised during the previous meeting and gave some circulation and collection figures to address those issues. She gave some average prices for books, new hard covers and DVDs. She said there is no logical reason to charge more for late fees for DVDs. Explanatory document: Memo from City Librarian dated April 29, 2013; Revised Fines and Fees Presentation; Resolution; and Revised Fines and Fees Ordinance.

Public Comment
An anonymous citizen said that the Commission says that it endorses sunshine violations, official misconduct and concealment. He said for the Commission to say that the citizens are negative and it is their own fault is a self-serving illusion that the Commission creates itself. He said it would have been important to have the approval of the minutes first so that you could reconcile what you were told last time. He said there were questions at the last meeting about whether the libraries fines and fees go into the budget and you were told quite rightly that the Supervisors create...
a mechanism where they add back the money that goes into the General Fund back into the Library Preservation Fund, but the secret is that it does not add to the Library Preservation Fund because it has a maximum set by ordinance. He said the system was created because there was more demand than items for the DVDs.

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Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don’t give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. We are grateful to Mr. Munson for orienting the new commissioners. The Commission endorses sunshine violations, official misconduct and concealment. Making the citizens negative is an artificial illusion. By approving the minutes first, you could reconcile what you were told last time. This is the first time you have seen this resolution. In response to question about the fees going into the library’s budget, you were told that the Supervisors cosmetically transfer an amount for the fine proceeds. The total budget is set by the Library Preservation Fund, which does not increase based on the fines transfer. The fines are a function of the frequency of the borrowing cycle, and fines for DVD’s were created to replenish availability for the demand. I hope you will insist on answers to the questions you asked.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said fines and fees deter usage. He said Sandy Berman is a well respected long time now retired former head librarian and he would like to play a recording left by him regarding this subject. He said we agree with the reductions but not the increases. The tape recording from Sandy Berman said that most fines are charged to increase revenue to secure extra funds. Sandy Berman said it is indisputable that fines deter library use by poor people.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he likes that Commissioner Munson always talks about how negative the public comments are because it really shows the efforts to keep public comments out of the official record and to silence what we have to say because you don’t like what we have to say. He said you take credit for everything positive that occurs and ignore anything that goes wrong. He said it is sensible if you are going to have fines that they are consistent and the lending periods should be consistent as well. He said it simplifies it for everyone. He said for a long time a multi disc DVD was put into different cases and now all of the DVDs in a set are lent out together. He said Commissioner Lee had raised the issue of a social contract at the last meeting. He said he does believe it is a social contract and that is the most important part of it. He said if people were made aware of the fact that they can renew online, fines wouldn’t be an issue.

Commission Discussion
Commissioner Ono asked what type of impact the change in the DVD fee will have on the budget.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we are hoping that the efficiencies we are creating will help offset the impact on the budget from the change in fees, and he said the change in fees will not have an impact on the operating budget.

Commissioner Lee said he has talked to a number of people, who said they think they will be deprived of an item because people will keep the items longer if the fines are reduced. He said he would like the Commission to reconsider reducing the fees.

Commissioner Munson asked about the efficiencies created.

Shellie Cocking, Collections and Cataloging Manager, said it is hard to estimate the savings in staff time that staff spends with unhappy patrons over the high fee for the DVDs. She said they have changed the borrowing policies by moving all television shows into one case.

Commissioner Munson said he wanted to clarify that now a person can take out the entire set of discs rather than wait for each individual disc to become available. He asked about the renewals of DVDs.

Shellie Cocking, Collections and Cataloging Manager, said if a patron has a hold on an item there is no renewal allowed.

Commissioner Munson said if people renew then there is no fine.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said it is all about facilitating access. He said we are looking at how we make the user experience better and how we eliminate barriers. He said all of the work the staff has done in reviewing the policies is really making a difference in improving the user experience.

Commissioner Mall said all other material is $.10 a day

Commissioner Lee said DVDs are used three to one compared to other materials.

President Gomez said there is a higher percentage of borrowing books than DVDs.

Shellie Cocking, Collections and Cataloging Manager, said that books do not circulate as much as DVDs, but the smaller portion of books like NY Times bestsellers have a higher turnover than DVDs. She said when we are purchasing DVDs; we are now treating them equally to books. She said we make sure that we have at least one copy for every three holds so that the wait for patrons will never be too long.
Commissioner Mall said there is already a very generous policy on borrowing and since everything else is $.10 she supports the proposal to decrease the fines on the DVDs,

President Gomez said she understands Commissioner Lee’s position that people might keep things longer since the fines are higher to keep a DVD but she said she also thinks there is something good about having the fines be uniform that creates a culture of returning materials. She said she hopes we will be able to keep track of how this goes if we vote to support this.

Commissioner Randlett said it is too bad that we don’t have a survey on this and we do not have a cost analysis. She said she is not sure we have the best information to make an accurate decision.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we are getting a lot of feedback from the community about the differences in the fees. He said we went to the Council of Neighborhood Libraries recently and had a good conversation that it would make sense to give us some level of consistency. He said Commissioner Mall attended that meeting as well.

President Gomez said the Task Force has looked into this over the past year and she feels fairly confident that the Task Force members have based their recommendations on good information.

**Motion:** By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Mall to approve the Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to adopt the ordinance attached hereto standardizing overdue fees for materials, regardless of format; and increasing fees for services (scanning at higher resolutions than currently offered) and for reproduction of photographs for commercial purposes for a single media and unlimited media with a request for a report back to the Commission on the data related to the DVD fines in one year.

Commissioner Lee said he would be voting no on this motion but he wanted to clarify that his no vote was only related to the decrease in DVD fines.

**Action:** **AYES 6:** (Gomez, Mall, Munson, Nguyen, Ono, and Randlett)  
**NAY 1:** (Lee)

Commissioner Mall asked if it is possible to have streaming videos in the future.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we could see streaming in the future, but it is not here yet.

Shellie Cocking, Collections and Cataloging Manager, said there is a new product called Hoopla that some libraries are using that does stream video, music and audio books.
AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 CITY LIBRARIANS REPORT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said that Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, has accepted the position of City Librarian for San Jose. He said we are very proud of her and she will be with us throughout the month of May. He said she will begin her tenure in San Jose in July. He said we will have a wonderful send off for her. He said she has done a phenomenal job in her almost 7 years with us. He said beyond the leadership of her helping us to expand hours, she has taken some amazing initiatives with the Teen Center and other initiatives such as Green Stacks, BLIP, Library Journal Mover and Shaker in 2009 and has been instrumental in all of the initiatives of the Library. He said the second topic is that we are going to be bringing an additional day of service for our branch libraries. He said this was approved as part of this year’s budget. He said the three branches are Visitacion Valley, Mission Bay and Portola. He said starting June 2 Visitacion Valley will be open on Sundays and on Monday June 3 both the Mission Bay and Portola Branches will be open on Mondays making all three of those branches seven day operations. He said what is exciting about it is that we know that summer is extremely important for our youth. He said last year we had over 14,000 participants in our Summer Reading Program. He said this is part of the process of revising and modifying the hours and we will be coming back on May 16 we will come back with more detailed rollout of our plans for the additional hours for the system. He said each of these libraries averages about 400-500 library users every day. He said Donya Drummond will give a presentation on the Jobs and Career Center.

Donya Drummond, Jobs and Careers Librarian, gave a presentation on the Jobs and Career Center. She said the collection went from 99% non-circulating to 99% circulating last spring, 2012 and we have seen a significant increase in usage since then. She explained the various collections available. She said there is a Jobs and Careers Bulletin Board. She said they have increased the programming for jobs and careers. She said they offer programs and classes in such areas as resume writing, how to use social media, and successful interviewing. She said the Center has offered author visits. She said the center uses social media including YouTube and Pinterest. She said many of the Libraries eLearning programs offer webinars, podcasts, online tutorials, video tutorials and others. She said ed2go is the Library’s newest eLearning data base offering interactive six week courses. She said they have expanded the job seeker computer time. She went over highlights of the Jobs and Careers Resource Homepage. She said one of the things patrons are looking for is where to find jobs and the webpage has job listing websites using various criteria. She said the site also shows materials in the library that can be checked out and database resources. The Center also does outreach with other organizations in the area. Explanatory documents: Jobs and Career Center Presentation.

Public Comment
An anonymous citizen said he wanted to caution the Commissioners especially if they are new that there is a restriction that you not have a
discussion of things not on your agenda. He said with respect to Jill Bourne and the expanded hours he hopes these subjects will come up at the last meeting in May. He said the Jobs and Career Center is very nice and an important issue and he doesn’t have anything negative to say about that right now.

The following written summary was provided by the speaker, anonymous citizen. The content is neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by the Library Commission.

Stop the Hate & Ignorance – Don’t give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. There is a legal prohibition against discussions that are not on the agenda. Previously this was a sore point, and I hope we are not going through that again. With respect to Jill Bourne and new hours in some branches, we need something in writing but presumably those subjects will come up again. This should not be the last meeting in May. The Jobs and Career Center is an important issue, so very nice. I am apprehensive about partnerships but I don’t have anything negative to say about them right now.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said congratulations to Jill Bourne and hooray for adding another day to the operations of three branches. He said that is an issue that Library Users Association has been promoting for many years including prior to the time the City Librarian arrived here. He said it is encouraging that our efforts have borne fruit. He said the City Librarian vigorously opposed adding any more time to branches and opening branches on Sundays. He said the Board of Supervisors set money aside for additional hours and the Library never used it. He said the Library did the same thing the following year and about six months later, a year and a half after the original discussion, the library finally started to implement some of the branches having additional days. He said Library Users Association encourages all of the branches to be seven day branches and certainly to have more evening and weekend hours. He said the Jobs and Career Center presentation was very interesting and he appreciates the color copies that were provided to the public. He said there are very serious privacy issues with such money making outfits as Facebook, and the Library still does not allow folks to simply save a Word document on the Library’s computers.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he is surprised Ms. Bourne is not here but he hopes she is enjoying her vacation. He said he hopes she is getting plenty of rest and getting herself in an excellent frame of mind for a well-deserved promotion. He said he wanted to thank Ms. Bourne for her service to the San Francisco Public Library. He said he believes the City of San Jose has made an excellent choice and he hopes that she will choose to make the citizens of San Jose true partners in her efforts to maximize the benefit of the public library. He said his suggestion to her would be to ask herself what would Luis Herrera do and do the opposite.
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.

I would like to thank Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian for her service to the San Francisco Public Library and to the citizens of San Francisco. I believe the City of San Jose has made a good choice in her selection to lead their library system. I believe Ms. Bourne has learned many valuable lessons from her tenure here at the public library. I hope that she will choose to make the citizens of San Jose true partners in her efforts to maximize the benefit the public library can bring to the citizens of the city. I hope she will truly welcome, and whenever possible, make use of citizen input. Above all, I hope she will instill in the operations of the San Jose Public Library, and the San Jose Library Commission, a practice of openness and honesty. My suggestion: ask “What would Luis Herrera do?” Then do the opposite!

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Randlett said it is excellent news about the additional hours and she said it would be great if we could do a press story in support of the City Librarian. She said she thinks that since she has been on the Commission that he has been both prudent and ethical in his decisions and none are made in a vacuum. She said she is pleased that Jill Bourne is moving on to a well deserved position and that she and the City Librarian worked very closely together and the City should be grateful for the City Librarian’s leadership to help guide and prepare her for such a significant honor.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian said they plan a robust campaign to promote the new hours and roll it out in sync with the summer reading program.

Commissioner Randlett said she was really impressed with the Job and Career Center and she liked the presentation. She said it would be great to get some data from people who have used the Center and whom have gotten jobs. She said that would be a nice completion of the circle.

Commissioner Mall asked about the number of computers in the Center.

Donya Drummond, Jobs and Career Center Manager said there are 20 computers in the computer training room, where the job seekers lab is.

Commissioner Mall asked if those computers are all used.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said all of the computers in the library have the resources in them.
Commissioner Mall said she applauds everything that the Center is doing and she said there might be more opportunities for partnership with all of the growth in the Mid Market area.

Commissioner Ono said it was a great presentation and she didn’t realize that there was eLearning available.

Donya Drummond, Jobs and Career Center Manager, said the Ed2Go has a lot of different job skill classes.

Commissioner Ono said she wanted to point out that Jill Bourne is not the first person to become a head librarian of another city, Brian Bannon before this became City Librarian of Chicago so she said it is a testament to the City Librarian’s mentoring, managing and supervision and his nurturing and also his being Librarian of the Year.

President Gomez said thank you to the staff for a great presentation. She said for the last few years the City has really needed the Center.

Commissioner Lee said he agreed it was a wonderful presentation. He asked if they were working with the job seekers on networking.

Donya Drummond, Jobs and Career Center Manager, said they actually have held a networking class and she said using Social Networking like LinkedIn is an amazing way to tap into the job market.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said thanks to Edward Melton and Donna Marion and Maureen Singleton for getting us ready for the June 2 weekend for the new hours.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 LABOR UNION REPORT

There was no report at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF MINUTES APRIL 4, 2013

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said online minutes have referred to explanatory documents but there is no such reference in the hard copies. He said there are only three instances where the Secretary has changed my comments from what was submitted. He said on page 6 it should be “that there be no fines” not “there are”. He said on page 10 it should read Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance” not “& Ignorance” and on page 11 it should not read “not subject” but should be “nor subject to.” He said on page 12 Commissioner Randlett did not mean to make changes from the Anonymous Citizen. He said those changes were made to the Minutes with the implication that he wanted to preserve grammatical changes and that is not the case.
Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don’t give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. Again the online version of the minutes refer to explanatory documents, but there is no such reference available for those who rely on the hard copy being approved here. Since the online minutes is a PDF, you are going out of your way to make it different. You will be happy to learn that there are only three instances where your secretary altered what I submitted. On page 6, “that there be no fines.” Not, “there are.” On page 10, “Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance.” Not, “& Ignorance.” On page 11, “nor subject to.” Not, “not subject.” On page 12, Commissioner Randlett did not mean to make changes from the Anonymous Citizen. The changes in the prior minutes were made. The implication was that I wanted to preserve grammatical errors and that is not the case.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said the Library Commission and the City Librarian want to take credit for everything positive that occurs and deny responsibility for anything negative. He said they have been found by the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force to have censored and abridged free speech on numerous occasions and went on to explain the various violations. He said the Ethics Commission directed a change in the placement of the 150 word summaries and that change has not been made. He said the Commission seems to think this is a joke. He said you can either put it on the agenda and make a formal change of policy or we can go back to the Ethics Commission and tell them Mr. Herrera lied to them.

As I said in the past, the Library Commission and the City Librarian want to take credit for everything positive that occurs and deny responsibility for anything negative. The Library Commission and the City Librarian had been found by the SOTF to have censored and/or abridged free speech on multiple occasions. The City Librarian has been found to have unlawfully withheld public records, in particular, the financial records I mentioned in general public comment. In violating the constitutional and civil rights of the public this commission and the City Librarian have pointed fingers at one another, each claiming it was the others decision. Before the Ethics Commission, the City Librarian promised a change in policy regarding the placement of 150 word summaries and has yet to keep that promise. A member of the Ethics Commission stated that if this change was not made, he would consider it a willful violation.
Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said while the minutes give the appearance of lengthy summaries, some of the summaries make a hash out of what was said. He said on page 2 under General Public Comment it says “she intended on charging me” he said me should be changed to him. He said on page 4 the last line of his remarks “the Excelsior Branch was said to have about a 10% cut in the books and she was silenced.” He said it should say she was silenced at the meeting. He said the point was that branch had 68,000 books and the library was now saying the newly renovated branch would have 42,000. He said that whole sense of fraud in the reporting of what was going on was left out. He said there are repeated references to his comments as for example on page 10 where it says “he believes” and other places it says “he thinks”. He said he does not make those types of comments, he simply states what he has to say.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said that under the Motion on page 12 she thought that the motion was to approve the Minutes of February 7, 2013 as amended to include the grammatical changed mentioned by the Anonymous Citizen. She said she thought that should be Peter Warfield instead of the Anonymous Citizen.

Sue Blackman, Commission Secretary said she thought that Commissioner Randlett in her motion was referring to the grammatical changes mentioned by the Anonymous Citizen and not the formatting changes mentioned by Peter Warfield.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Munson to approve the Minutes of April 4, 2013.

Action: AYES 7-0: (Lee, Gomez, Mall, Munson, Nguyen, Ono, and Randlett)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 ADJOURNMENT

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said BF Skinner the father of behavioral conditioning said ‘any behavior which is rewarded will be repeated.’ He said when I make my comments and watch you afraid to lift your eyes because you know what I’m saying is right and you are embarrassed by it, that is a reward and it keeps me going. He said when you roll your eyes and make feeble excuses for each other another reward. He said it is just the three of us right now and all of you. He said he has fought for three years to get his statements into the Minutes and all you know that you did not put them in the minutes because you don’t like dissenting opinions. He said you never refute our statements because you don’t have anything to refute them with. He said he hopes the City Controller does an audit of the Friends and that you all get into the newspapers.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said traditionally adjournment has been used for honoring people who have left this world and who were
connected in some way to the library. He said because there are new Commissioners that there might be a recent pattern changed and that New Business would be included on the agenda as it has been in the past. He said it shuts the Commission up and prevents the Commissioners from doing the job you were appointed to do in this city as public servants. He said to silence yourselves without ever saying anything about it is very unfortunate. He said there has been a lot of talk of naysayers and he said he doesn’t think that is being a naysayer to say that we want more open hours, more money in the budget for books, or that the reduction in fines is not enough. He said there is a great deal of positive in people telling you about problems so that you can fix them. He said it shouldn’t be your job just to ignore it.

Motion: By Commissioner Randlett, seconded by Commissioner Munson, to adjourn the regular meeting of May 2, 2013.

Action: AYES 7-0: (Lee, Gomez, Mall, Munson, Ono, Nguyen and Randlett)

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 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).