



# *San Francisco Public Library*

## **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 6, 2013**

(Approved as amended at the July 18, 2013 regular Commission meeting.)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 6, 2013 in the Koret Auditorium Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm.

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

Commissioners excused: Lee, Mall and Randlett

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

An anonymous citizen said that Ms. Gomez, the President of the Library Commission, was found guilty of official misconduct and despite that the Commission has ratified her actions and reappointed her with no explanation. He said Commissioner Randlett stated that she renominated Jewelle Gomez based on what she has actually seen. He said Commissioner Randlett has been a commissioner since January 20, 2011 and has 16 excused absences, 2 unexcused and attended 23 out of 41 meetings and 13 full meetings. He said previous mayors would have asked her to resign. He said this is the example of the three monkeys with their hands over their eyes, ears and mouths. He said the three monkeys are not supposed to be a lesson on how not to behave. He said Commissioner Randlett is proud of that because that is what money is about and she feels no obligation to represent me, the public or anyone else. He said Commissioner Randlett boasts the banality of evil. He said the evil is she thinks she is entitled to do so. He said this is just the same old thing and the lies cost more than the money.

*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.*

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Corporate Rape of the Library – Don't give money to, or 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.” Commissioner Randlett justified her renomination of Jewelle Gomez with direct knowledge. Having been commissioner since January 20, 2011, she has 16 excused absences, 2 unexcused, attended 23 out of 41 meetings, and 13 full meetings. Previous mayors would have asked her to resign. The three monkeys are how not to behave. Feeling no obligation to represent anyone, does she boast that she stands for the banality of evil? The evil is, she thinks she is entitled to do so. This was accomplished a long time ago.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said between 2008 and 2013 City Librarian Luis Herrera received \$361,000 from the Friends for spending at his discretion. He said \$180,000 of that was for public relations. He said he is concerned about the \$181,000 Luis Herrera has total discretion over including sums for his personal benefit. He said Mr. Herrera has failed to report any of these gifts and he has to wonder whether any of these sums were reported to the Internal Revenue Service or the Franchise Tax Board. He said the bulk of the funds were spent on gifts for the staff of the Library and he wonders whether these city employees were given proper information about the potential tax liability incurred by accepting these gifts. He said that also includes people on this Commission. He said Luis Herrera has used his position as City Librarian to direct staff to withhold public records, which he has been found to have done by the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force and been referred to the Board of Supervisors, to make statements to mislead the public, and has now potentially placed dozens of City employees in a position of violating both Federal and State tax codes. He said he has compiled two complaints to the Federal and State government on income tax fraud.

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Public record requests indicate from 2008-2013, City Librarian Herrera received \$181,000 from The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library! Herrera has total discretion in spending these funds, including sums for his personal benefit. As Mr. Herrera has failed to report any of these “gifts” as required by state and local ordinances, I have to wonder whether any of these sums were reported to the IRS or the FTB? As the bulk of these funds were spent on “gifts” for the staff of the library, I also have to wonder, whether these City employees were given proper information about the potential tax liability incurred by accepting these “gifts?” Using his position as City Librarian to direct City employees to withhold public records, to make statements to mislead the public, he has now potentially placed dozens of City employees in a position of having violated both federal and state tax codes!

Ojocion Ingram said she disapproves of the use of the term assassination and the abuse of the First Amendment to get one's views heard. She said she thinks it can be left out. She said she is here to thank the Commission, the City Building Department, and the City Police for their attention to the incident in the Library for the Blind which was an act of arson. She said she received incident reports. She said the equipment is now operable fairly well and she wanted to thank the Commission for paying attention to this issue.

Ivana Corolla said she is a patron of the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled. She said she has concerns about the hours for the Center and she is a member of the Yoga class and she does not want to see it cancelled.

A man from the audience said his theme is problem solving. He said his branch library has become a nursery school. He said the Marina Branch is open seven days a week and it is filled with tots who cannot read or write. He said it is difficult to ask a parent to discipline a child. He said the librarians do not want to have an altercation with the children. He said what are we going to do about all of the noise and distraction. He said it is a serious problem. He said maybe we should build a wall. He said the library used to be and should be a quiet place to read a book. He said he grew up in San Francisco and has gone to libraries here his entire life. He said the elementary school has a library. He said the parents reading to tots should be in the park and recreation building that adjoins the library.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he would like to give a little bit of background on what was discussed by the first two speakers. He said the library has an unfortunate history of not listening to the law, the public, the Supervisors, the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF), and the Ethics Commission and simply doing what it wants regardless of what the public or others have to say. He said the library has a long history of sunshine violations, withholding documents, and not running meetings properly. He said one of the violations was an egregious breach in which the President of the Library Commission shouted down a member of the public who was trying to speak and the SOTF found the President in violation and sent it to the Ethics Commission who sent a letter to the Mayor recommending that she be sacked. He said that was not done and this Library Commission basically endorsed her behavior by reelecting her to the position of President. He said the library has a history of asking questions of people so that the results will turn out as they wish. He said there has never been a question about whether people would like later evening or more evening hours.

Glen Ramisky, said he is a patron who lives in Mission Bay and he has recently rejoined the Friends of the Library Board. He said he holds a different opinion. He said we should all give early and give often to the Friends. He said he would like to thank each of the Commissioners for their long and dedicated service to the City and the Library system in what sometimes can appear to be a thankless job. He said this library

system is the real jewel of the United States. He said we are fortunate to have people who give their time and their skills to make the system even better than it is.

Ellen Egbert from Bernal Heights brought in a flyer for Family Lego Night at the Bernal Branch Library which was held last night. She said she hopes the Commissioners have an opportunity to check out the programming going on in the branches. She said we are now pushing intergenerational programming and last night there were easily 150 people including grandparents, children and grandchildren all working together with Legos. She said it was truly joyful and she urges the Commissioners to keep an eye out for the programming at their branches and to show up and support it.

Scott Staub, Executive Director, San Francisco Friends of the Library, said this last year the Friends gave \$750,000 unrestricted funds to the Library. He said in addition the Friends gave a half million dollars to the Branch Library Improvement Program. He said the Friends are also especially pleased to have given \$30,000 of educational opportunities for the library staff in general and \$180,000 over the past several years for our City Librarian who has used those funds for other staff members. He said the Friends' auditors tell us that we are in complete compliance and we will continue to support the library and we are very grateful for the Commission's dedicated service.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2. PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON ASSESSMENT AND PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF LIBRARY SERVICE HOURS**

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said at the last meeting we provided a detailed assessment of the proposed modification to public service hours. He said today we are returning for a further discussion with more information that was gathered at the Commission's request. He explained the Benchmark Comparisons to other urban library systems. He said this shows the cities involved, the number of branches, hours opens per week, weekend service and additional details. He explained the library comparisons based on population, circulation per capita, visits and visits per capita. He explained the comparisons for Main Libraries in the same cities. He gave the presentation on the summary of proposed modifications to public service hours. He explained the changes to the Main Library hours and the assessment and modification of hours for the branches. He said they are broken down by 45 hours/6 day branches; 45 hours/7 day branches; 50 hours/7 day branches and 55 hours/7day branches. He said since the last meeting we have conducted a survey for each branch and the Main on the proposed modifications to public services. He said we asked three questions: Are you in favor; Are you neutral; or are you not in favor of the proposed hours and we showed the current and proposed hours. He went over some of the comments received. He said to summarize there were over 2600 surveys received. He said 83.3% of respondents are in favor or neutral about the proposed changes. He said the proposed recommendations are based not only on the hearings and the surveys, but also staff resources, and equity of

service throughout the city. He said at the June 20 Commission meeting, we will ask you to approve the recommendations.

Explanatory documents: [City Librarian memo to Commission](#) dated June 3, 2013; [Summary of Proposed Modification of Survey Hours](#); [Benchmark Comparisons to Select Urban Library Systems](#); [Survey Results of Proposed Modification](#)

#### Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said we haven't heard anything about shrinkage or cuts. He said we approve of more hours for the library to be open including the centers in the Main Library. He said what has not been said is that this represents a Million Dollar per year cost to add overall hours to the library, but what it also represents is massive cuts to evening hours to all branches that are currently open until 9:00 pm. He said we did an analysis of all the branches and every single one of the branches that are currently open until 9:00 pm. will now be closing at 8:00 pm. He said there will no longer be a branch in the system open past 8:00 pm. He said the plan will also shrink patron choice as to which library you can go to in the evening. He said the surveys were not openly available and they did not mention cuts.

Joy Okinako said she is a patron of the Library for the Blind and she was a Braille transcriber for 28 years at the Library for the Blind and recently retired. She said she knows about what goes on in the Library for the Blind. She said she thinks it is a good idea to get more hours but it would threaten the blind yoga class on Thursdays. She said as a blind patron she would not venture out at night for additional hours. She said she would suggest to the Commission that the Library for the Blind could use more accessible equipment and not necessarily more evening hours.

An anonymous citizen said wouldn't it be nice if the citizens had access to the graphics. He said he hopes those who have come to speak appreciate those on whose shoulders they are standing. He said this is ignoring the legally mandated process that requires you to set hours every five years. He said there was no mention that what this change does is eliminate all library hours between 8:00 and 9:00 pm. He said the material for the data about the benchmarks comes from a survey called the Public Library Data Service, which has always been available to the public. He said the paper copy has been eliminated and it is not found on the public databases. He said he assumes that this Commission will defend his legal rights to make sure that data is equally accessible. He said the last time this was available on paper was 2011. He said compared to cities of comparable size, San Francisco has 226 times the annual expenditures per capita, but 8.6% below average in materials expenditures, 25% below average in borrowers per capita, and even though this is a 130 year old library it is 6.5% below average in collection size.

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Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. Individuals making public comment should appreciate those on whose shoulders they are standing. This bypasses the Library Preservation Fund process and there has been no acknowledgment that this eliminates all hours between 8:00 and 9:00 p.m. that are most important for many people. The data for the benchmarks comes from the Public Library Data Service that was formerly available to the public. The librarians now act like characters in Glengarry Glen Ross. Will the library commissioners protect the traditions of public libraries that information is equally accessible? The last time the data was available, compared to similar sized cities, San Francisco had 226% of average expenditures per capita, but 8.6% below average in materials expenditures, 25% below average in borrowers per capita, and 6.5% below average in collection size, even being 130 years old.

Catherine Arronda, Program Director for Jumpstart Northern California, said that Jumpstart is a national organization that focuses on early language and literacy of children in low income urban areas. She said for over a decade Jumpstart has been a great partner with San Francisco Public Library. She said she would like to reiterate the importance of early morning hours for all of our branches across the city. She said it is important to note that preschool teachers, elementary school teachers and others need the morning hours to introduce children to the free resources of the public library. She said the opportunity comes in those morning hours when they can take field trips; participate in reading times and other services. She said accessibility to our libraries is important to our young families and children.

Ojocion Ingram, Library for the Blind Advisory Committee, said budget concerns are an issue. She said we don't want to wait for an incident until we install crime lights especially for the later hours.

Ray Hartz, Executive Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he would like those in the audience to take into account that Peter Warfield is very knowledgeable about these issues. He said Mr. Chaffee has been coming to Commission meetings for over 30 years. He said he has spent the last five years attending these meetings and has spent more than 300 hours researching actual financial documents to talk the talk and walk the walk. He said he believes that Mr. Herrera and Ms. Gomez get together and decide what is going to happen and then put it on the agenda. He said the library staff, the other Commissioners and the public have absolutely no real input. He said over \$40,000 was spent on a questionable survey. He said the on-line survey was well hidden on the website. He said he had hoped the on-line survey would be on for a

period of time and actually get library users to tell you what they think about the proposed changes.

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I'm always confused about how the City Librarian and this Library Commission make decisions! My personal belief is that Herrera and Gomez get together, decide what is to happen, and then put it on the agenda. The library staff, the remaining commissioners, and the public have absolutely no real input. To put a good face on it over \$40,000 is spent on a truly questionable survey. An on-line survey is placed, well hidden, on the library's website and then these "surveys" are used to justify the previously decided changes. I had originally intended to propose that the online survey remain on the library's website for a minimum of 60 days, and that all branch library staff encourage branch patrons to visit the site and express their feelings regarding the changes. Oops! The on-line survey is already gone! Don't want real input from real patrons actually affected by the proposed changes!

Marian Muller said she goes to the Bernal Branch a couple of times a week and she is a library volunteer. She said she is asking you to please let the library stay open at night until 9:00. She said the unintended consequence of moving the closing time to 8:00 is to close the library evening programs to working people. She said our evening programs start at 6:30 and usually last two hours. She said the evening programs are not fluff. She said if you moved the closing time to 8:00 you would lose a number of these evening programs.

Steve Leslie said he has used the libraries here for about 27 years. He said he has three degrees from MIT in Civil and Structural Engineering and Project Management and he has a MBA from Columbia in Finance and Organizational Behavior. He said he has used computers since he was six years old. He said evening hours are the best time to go through the shelves and look for books. He said moving all the staff around to make this work will cause the whole system to seize up. He said looking at the number of responses to the survey is statistically insignificant. He said the numbers do not give you any real results. He said the numbers need to be broken down differently. He said you want some real results from these surveys.

Ruth Maginnis, retired librarian from the San Francisco Public Library for over 40 years, said she has used the library for more than 70 years. She said she is very concerned about losing hours in the evening. She said consistency is important and she understands the library's need to save money. She said San Francisco is a world renowned city with a varied population. She said this is a city of writers, artists, musicians, and people who work varied hours. She said in the areas with foot traffic and muni service the libraries are used until 9:00. She said there are reasons to

keep the libraries open past 8:00 for programs. She is concerned about whether the libraries will be able to have their hours tweaked to support programs.

Charles Moody said he is a member of the Council of Neighborhood Libraries representing the Ortega Branch. He said the process that is resulting in the recommendations tonight fills the purpose of transparency. He said it has been widely discussed. He said the transparency is there and it is difficult to defend a survey process because some people choose not to participate. He said one thing that can be inferred by that is that maybe people are satisfied with the service and don't feel the need to fill out a survey. He said we should deal with the information that we have. He said the Ortega branch is losing two hours at night and gaining several other hours during the day. He said this is reasonable for an area that is somewhat removed from the downtown. He said the meeting rooms remain open independent of the library.

Cathy Cormier, Teen Center Manager at the Main Library, said for many years she worked at branches and in particular the Marina Branch. She said she hopes you approve the early morning hours. She said this is important for schools and classes.

Glenn Ramiskey resident of Mission Bay said he had plenty of opportunity to fill out a survey he said his personal preference is to look at special needs. He said there will be unanticipated benefits with these additional hours.

Dario Cadoppi said he would like to emphasize the addition of morning hours for field trips. He said it is a great opportunity to get oriented to the library.

Shellie said she is part of the Youth Advisory Board at the Library but today she is speaking as a patron. She said she lives near the Richmond Branch. She said cutting back the evening hours does not affect her. She said additional hours in the morning and on the weekends are more important.

Annie said she is a student at Lowell High School and she said on behalf of students she would like to see the library hours increased overall. She said morning hours are important to students.

Bradley Weidmeyer said he is a member of the Executive Board of SEIUUHW, a union that represents health care workers. He said he is representing home care workers in San Francisco. He said if the Main Library was staying open until 9:00 it might be ok to close the branches earlier. He said this looks like the tyranny of the majority. He said he is surprised at the labor collections and that there are some major books, which are not in the collection. He said there is a problem with surveys that will be tilted to the majority.

Clarice Moody said she is on the Council of Neighborhood Libraries. She said when you put out a survey and you really encourage people to take the survey you are pretty much left with the number of people who did take it. She said once you have the input, to just discard it because you didn't like how many took the survey, or how long the survey was available, is a revolving door. She said she appreciates the information comparing San Francisco to other cities in the country. She said we are at the forefront of having a library that meets the needs of the community.

Nancy Cross said she is a library patron who would like to see the Main Library open until 9:00 pm every night. She said the hours should be for the public not for the staff. She said she enjoys the yoga class at the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled.

Tommie Lussier President of the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled Advisory Committee said most people would like to see the Library open more on Saturdays and Sundays. She said she would prefer quality over quantity. She said the digital age has brought unprecedented opportunities to disabled people. She said we have equipment but there is not staff or funding to teach people how to use the equipment. She asked about the additional 28 hours for the Library for the Blind and whether there would be additional staff.

Betty Williams said she is a Senior Librarian Technician and is also a Librarian Union Steward. She said she attends the monthly management meetings. She said the Union is not opposed to the additional hours. She said their main concern is having adequate and appropriate staffing levels to accommodate these proposed new hours. She said library staff is committed to providing the best possible service to the public and adding additional hours without proper staffing levels already in place will dilute staff's ability to provide service. She said we want to continue to earn the public's high regard for us.

Noel McKinney resident of Lower Nob Hill said there are many reasons to keep libraries open until 9:00. He said many people cannot get to a library until 7 or 7:30, which doesn't leave much time if the library closes at 8:00. He said lots of people need to use reference books or computers and there is not often seating before 8:00. He asked about how this will affect the programs at the branches.

Ellen Egbert said she wanted to thank the Commission and the library for the extraordinary distribution of this survey. She said she saw the survey in many places and the response has been exceptional.

A man from the audience said he just learned about the survey a week ago and thanks to the Library Users Association he learned about losing his evening hours. He said none of the libraries told him about the survey. He said the librarians want the public to lose their hours. He said the hours will be going to the children in the morning. He said the survey is no good; the librarians do not want to work nights.

Melissa Riley said she works at West Portal branch and continuing Betty Williams comments and representing the Librarians Union said we are very happy that we have been assured by the administration that hours will not be increased until the proper staff is in place. She said they are told that vacancies will be filled and we are asking the Commission to be patient in adding these hours. She said they do not want service to deteriorate by having staff stretched too thin. She said several branches do not have enough staff assigned and there are not enough custodial and security staff. She said increasing hours the additional staff does not seem to cover needs.

### Commission Discussion

President Gomez said there was a fuller survey which included telephone calls that was very extensive in all of the branches and that the subsequent information was in response to questions for the public and the Commissioners at the last meeting.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this has been a year long process including hearings, face to face interviews, telephone surveys and on line surveys.

Commissioner Munson asked about the scheduling of the staff.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian said for the most part staff is scheduled for an 8 hour day but there is some part time staff as well.

Commissioner Ono asked about the programs that are held after hours. She said her understanding is that the programs would continue even if they went past the 8:00 closing hour.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian said in some cases there is after hour access to the community rooms and in branches where we don't have that access we would make arrangements for the programs.

Commissioner Ono asked about additional staffing.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said it will take a while to fill the positions that are vacant. He said hopefully these positions will be approved in the next budget and it will be at least October before we can fill the positions. He said there are 10 additional FTEs at a cost of \$1 Million.

Commissioner Ono said the public testimony seemed split on the morning hours and the evening hours. She said when she saw the benchmark with the other cities she thought we are doing a great job. She said she recommends going forward with what is proposed.

President Gomez asked if any of the branches had a real preference over morning hours.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches, said Noe Valley would lose some of their Saturday mornings for a full day on Monday so they are considering changing that recommendation to add a half a day on Monday and leave the Saturday morning hours in place. He said we are looking at flexibility for the branches that have programs that go past 8:00.

President Gomez asked about the Yoga class in the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled and what would happen to that class.

Karen Strauss, Acting Chief of Main, said we will be accommodating the Yoga for the Blind program.

President Gomez asked if it would be possible to have the Main Library open late one night.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we will report back to the Commission on the possibility of opening late at the Main Library.

President Gomez said she appreciates the support the staff is being given on their efforts to support the community.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the publisher of the survey used for the benchmarks is only providing that online for 2012.

President Gomez asked if staff would be looking into the noise issue at the Marina Branch.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we are aware of the issue at the Marina Branch and there is no community room at that branch so we are looking at the options that might be available to us.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches, said in considering the additional morning hours it was not just the youth population that we are considering but quite a bit of our senior population prefers the mornings as well.

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

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said last Friday the Mayor sent his proposed FY 13-14 and FY 14-15 budget to the Board of Supervisors including the recommendations for the library. The recommended budget for the Library totals \$100.9 Million which represents about a 9% increase over the current budget. He said it includes the addition of the public service hours and the additional 10 FTE, includes enhancements to the collection for the next two years, and includes the Post Occupancy Investments. He said there is good news on the Library Preservation Fund. He said the Mayor's Office reported that we can assume about \$2.97 Million more to our baseline. So we were looking at using about \$4 Million from the Fund Reserve but now it looks like it's down to \$1.3 Million from our Fund Reserve. He said for the following year we will not have to draw anything from our Fund Balance. He said the first meeting with the Board will be

on June 19 and he will report back to the Commission at the June 20 meeting. He said the second item is the Summer Read Program.

Toni Bernardi, Chief of Children and Youth Services, said Summer Read SF started on Saturday and said it is a little livelier this year. She said the program started June 1, which is the day after San Francisco Unified let out and will go through August 11 which is the week before school starts up again. She said the theme is the same as last year. She said we urge all Commissioners to participate. She said there are a couple of changes. She said the prizes will be two choices, a free book or a ticket for admission to a local museum or cultural entity. She said Supervisor Farrell has contributed four \$5,000 scholarships to teens who finish their reading and do five book reports.

Michelle Jeffers, Public Relations Officer, announced the One City One Book 2013: SF Reads is *Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow. She said it is the first time selecting a young adult novel so it brings in the teen audience but it also has great crossover appeal. She said it investigates many of the hot button issues of today from technology access and how we use technology in the modern world. She said we are looking forward to highlighting the Library's own digital resources and strategies as we promote the book. She said *Little Brother* has been published in 17 languages. She said the author has also made it available as a free download nationwide. She said as we get closer to fall we will bring in more details and programs and events.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said he wanted to add that President Gomez was a member of the selection committee for One City One Book. Explanatory documents: One City One Book: San Francisco Reads 2013 – *Little Brother* by [Cory Doctorow Press Release](#).

#### Public Comment

Marti Goddard, Access Services Manager, said she wanted to add a little bit to the Summer Reads Program and the One City One Book Program. She said both programs are very exciting in terms of access. She said for the first time this year there will be a Summer Reading Program developed specifically for adults with developmental disabilities. She said they will not be required to read x number of hours but there will be a number of other options available to them including getting a library card, having a tour of the library and just getting more involved with the fabric of the library. She said the One City One Book selection *Little Brother* is available as a National Library Service Talking Book so people who are with the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled will have equal access to the book.

An anonymous citizen said he derives a great deal of satisfaction when people can come to the library and be heard before their Library Commission. He said his attendance at these meetings is almost 40 years. He said the Commission should admit that it wasn't so bad after all to hear from its patrons and the people it should be listening to. He said there is little he can say about the budget because there is nothing in

writing, which is something that we should have. Perhaps this might be a good opportunity to put the additional money going into the reserve for library materials. He said he thought “China Boy” was a young adult novel but it is great to hear we have a new selection.

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Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don’t give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. This was a wonderful meeting. I derive a great deal of satisfaction when people can come to the library and be heard before their Library Commission. My attendance can be more accurately characterized as nearly 40 years. This is why I did it. Your predecessors may be turning over in their graves, but you might admit, if you were candid, that it wasn’t so bad after all. These are the people you are supposed to listen to. The report on the budget should be in writing. Since the reserve was considered prudent perhaps opportunity should be offered to spend the additional money on library materials. Was this the first young adult novel in the One City One Book program? I thought “China Boy” was a young adult novel.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said it is a pleasure to hear from Toni Bernardi and he is glad that prizes are a little more serious such as a book or a cultural institution in town. He said he is disappointed that Supervisor Farrell’s scholarships are not eligible to adults. He said he does have some concerns about the library being a transmission for a political interest to advance specific interests outside the library. He said that needs a little bit more thought. He said there is a budget freeze on the book collection. He said our library is rich. He said from the Public Library Association data that out of 87 libraries that serve half a million people or more, San Francisco is second. He said only one has more than \$100 spending per patron the other libraries go down after ours to \$81 and all the way down to \$5. He said the benchmark libraries have per capita as follows: Houston \$17 per capita, ours is \$100 per capita. He said the range goes up to LA \$23, San Diego \$22 or \$34; San Jose \$35 and yet they all do very well.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said every other meeting of the Commission is cancelled and you can barely get a quorum to the meetings you do hold. He said Mr. Herrera offers less and less substance in his reports that might elicit public comment. He said your President retains dictatorial control over the agenda. He said the library budget is sort of floating out there with nothing in writing. The Summer Reading Program has nothing of substance as evidenced by the lack of any supporting documents. He said there is some information in the publication that goes out from the Library. He said One City One Book gets one page. He said providing fewer and smaller targets may be a tactic but it is not a long term strategy. He said at this rate by the end of

2013 the Commission will probably have one meeting every other month. He said under the leadership of Herrera and Gomez this Library Commission has become like the appendix at best a vestigial organ. He said he is making a comment from Shakespeare's Macbeth and more and more it refers to the City Librarian's report. "A tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." He said you don't talk about the Friends and the money they donate; none of which information jives and the Commission knows it.

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What to say about the City Librarians report? Following the Library Commissioners pattern of only holding one meeting per month, Herrera offers less and less substance which might elicit public comment. Gomez, your president, retains dictatorial control of the agenda! What do we have in today's report? The library budget for the next two years is sort of floating out there. The Summer Read program has nothing of substance, shown by the lack of any supporting documents. One City, One Book gets one page! Providing fewer and smaller targets may be a tactic but is certainly not a long-term strategy. At this rate, by the end of 2013 you can probably have one meeting every other month! Under the leadership of Herrera and Gomez, this Library Commission has become, like the appendix, at best, a vestigial organ! "A tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

#### Commission Discussion

President Gomez said she had a great time reading books for One City One Book and she thinks the selection will be interesting for people to read because it is all about friendship, responsibility and understanding how democracy is meant to work through the eyes of these young people.

Commissioner Ono said she appreciates that the Summer Reading Program is giving out books as prizes this year.

Commissioner Munson said the City Librarian's report covered lots of interesting topics and he is keeping the Commission informed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 LABOR UNION REPORT**

Melissa Riley, Librarians Guild and Library Union Employees Chapter, said increasing the hours of all Main Library Departments does not necessarily provide the kinds of quality and service which are needed and wanted. She said it does not seem like the additional staff members will cover the needs. She said quantity is not more important than quality. She said equity can be more about the quality of service than the quantity. She said the Library for the Blind and Print Disabled will need additional staff to meet the needs of the 80,000 people in San Francisco

who are eligible for the service. She said additionally the Book Arts and Special Collections no longer have a full time librarian because of added hours. She said labor would like a fuller discussion about the needs of the Book Arts and Special Collections and how that will be further impacted. She said there are many artists, poets, etc. who are very interested in having the Book Arts and Special Collections open again. She said the people who use these special collections deserve the staff required to have the collections fully accessible and to make sure that special collections remain vibrant and to be fully cataloged. She said it is hard to assign enough of the right staff to make the increased hours work.

### Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said it is always gratifying to have the labor union report and for the staff to introduce so many important issues. He said when you use the term consistency it is not a euphemism and you may not realize it probably sends the opposite message from what you mean. He said when you were selling the Branch Library Improvement Program, you were emphasizing to all of these neighborhoods that they would have service. He said now you are saying you want to make the hours consistent and he asked “consistent with what?” He said each neighborhood thinks they are special and they want the service for their neighborhood. He said evening hours are important to many, many people. He said after the blind lady asked about whether staff would be augmented in the blind center, you did not give her an answer. He said he is glad the labor union report brought up the Richard Harrison collection and all of the collections. He said that is a serious flaw that has never been corrected.

*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.*

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don’t give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. It is gratifying to have a labor union report. The term “consistency” is not a euphemism and probably sends the opposite message of what you intend. When selling the Branch Library Improvement Program you emphasized that neighborhood service would be particularized and sensitive to each neighborhood. Consistent to what? San Franciscans in the Marina or Ortega neighborhoods think they are special. You heard from many people that they want evening hours. I regret the blind lady did not get an answer about augmenting the staff. I am grateful the presenter brought up the Richard Harrison collection. The flaw has never been corrected that the Special Collections was once co-equal to the San Francisco History Room and had its own staff. Richard Harrison was not rich and built up that collection by trade.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he appreciates the report by the library's union and he wants to see good service and good working conditions for the public and librarians. He said he thought that had all been worked out for the additional hours with a price tag of \$1 Million to add 56 hours to the course of each week. He said it seems that it was not a good idea to have the Main Library compartmentalized. He said he is disappointed that both of the union reps who spoke this evening have expressed concern about proper staffing but not about what patrons want or need with respect to hours, particularly with the lack of good information the patrons have failed to get from the library. He said he has been to a number of branches where there was nothing about the survey or the survey was hidden in a corner or covered up.

Nancy Yates said she is the adaptive yoga instructor she said she is not sure about all of the issues but her major concern is the quality of the classes and to continue to offer the value of what yoga is with regard to the breath and the body and the other benefits. She said she would like to see the continuance of yoga in that special place.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said as he has mentioned he has a considerable amount of experience and was given the opportunity to develop a performance appraisal system for State of Hawaii employees. He said part of that training included every single manager and supervisor in every department in the State of Hawaii and training and getting acceptance from every single union officer down through shop steward. He said he has a real appreciation for the difficult position union representatives are in. He said they have to walk a fine line between saying we have a problem here and getting something done about it. He said what he has heard tonight is that the union representatives are expressing concerns about the union members, the changes in the hours and the staffing levels. He said he has yet to hear anything from any of the Commissioners saying that is really important to them and that they promise to look into it and to openly and honestly consider whether the staffing issue is one that should affect how soon the program is implemented. He said his problem is not with the library or its staff, his problem has always been with the management of the library and this Library Commission. He said the surveys are not statistically valid.

Donna Moore said she loves the library and she comes to the library frequently. She said she didn't see anything about a survey and she would have happily filled out a survey and she doesn't know how she missed it. She spends a lot of time in the library and she was happy when the hours extended into the evening. She said during the day time she is busy and the only time she can get to the library is in the evening. She said if you reduce the hours she will not be able to come in the

evening. She asked what will happen to the people who try to come to the libraries in the evening. She said if you do another survey you should have a big table and put notices in the elevators.

#### Commission Discussion

President Gomez said she feels the Commissioners have a great sensitivity to the staff and the Commission has made comments about how the staff is brought into this and she would like to reiterate that this is a high priority for the Commission.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 2, 2013**

President Gomez said we are about to lose our quorum so the approval of the minutes will need to be trailed to the next meeting.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 ADJOURNMENT**

##### Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said we use adjournment to honor those who made a contribution to the library or some aspect of libraries or public service and that have passed away. He said Robert Appleton passed away on May 31 at the age of 94. He said he was a principal of the firm of Appleton & Wolford. He said the firm Appleton & Wolford designed eight branch libraries between 1951 and 1966. He said the branches are considered architecturally distinguished and he suggested that the Commission adjourn in Robert Appleton's honor.

*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.*

Anonymous Citizen: As you know, we use adjournment to honor those who have made a contribution to the San Francisco Public Library, libraries or some aspect of public service who have passed away. Robert Appleton passed away on May 31 at the age of 94. He was a principal of the firm of Appleton & Wolford. He and his firm designed eight branch libraries between 1951 and 1966. They were in order of construction, Parkside, Marina, Ortega, Merced, North Beach, Eureka Valley, Western Addition and Excelsior. He was a member of the Concordia-Argonaut Club for 80 years. Designing eight of our branches is quite a contribution and they are considered architecturally distinguished. I suggest we adjourn in his honor.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the library is not accustomed to listening and as he has said before there is no new business on the agenda. He said the library is not even listening to the Commissioners who should have the ability to suggest future agenda items for consideration at future meetings. He said he agrees with the

previous speaker that the mid-century modern branches have been valued and appreciated. He said the North Beach branch was said to be landmark worthy by the Planning Department. He said others would have been landmark worthy if errors of omission and commission had not been committed. He said architectural folks have spoken very positively about all of the branches so he seconded the previous speaker's suggestion to adjourn in honor of Robert Appleton.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Munson, to adjourn the regular meeting of June 6, 2013, in honor of the renowned architect Robert Appleton.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Sue Blackman  
Commission Secretary

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the commission secretary/custodian of records, 6<sup>th</sup> 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).