



# *San Francisco Public Library*

## **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 20, 2013**

#### **Approved as amended at the August 15, 2013 Regular Meeting**

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2013 in the Koret Auditorium Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm.

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

Commissioner Nguyen excused.

Commissioner Randlett unexcused.

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

An anonymous citizen said 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. He said he is glad to repeat this statement he said there was a recent New York Times article in which former New Jersey Governor Florio tells the story of Governor Christy calling him and during the conversation Governor Florio is quoted as saying ‘I always try to give my enemies some option other than killing me.’ Mr. Chris Christy is said to have said that is not his style. Obviously it is not Ms. Gomez’ style either. He said this quotation dramatizes what Ms. Gomez is saying is that there is no law, no morality, no ethics and no explanation and if you don’t kill me I win. He said Ms. Gomez became President in January 2008 and at the very next meeting she moved approval of the minutes to the end of the agenda from the beginning, the meeting after that she eliminated New Business and if you go back to the 10 Commissioners before Ms. Gomez the shortest tenure was three years and three months and the average was seven and one-half years. He said there have been 10 Commissioners since she became president and the average is barely 2 years. He said it took nine months to appoint the new Commissioners so it is like they have tattoos of low self-esteem on their foreheads. He said Ms. Gomez isn’t nastier and prior Commissioners were allowed to pretend that they were right and the

citizens were wrong. He said you have to admit that the citizens are right and that you are wrong. He said 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 Hate, Stop the Ignorance – 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.” This brilliant quotation questions improvements since old Roman times. Governor Christy is quoted that he doesn't give his enemies some option to killing him. Neither does Ms. Gomez, effectively stating, “There is no law, no morality – if you don't kill me, I win.”  
Before Ms. Gomez became president in January 2008, the shortest commission tenure was 3.25 years, average 7.5 years. Since, only one surpassed the shortest, average is 2 years. Finding Commissioners with low self-esteem enough took nine months. Ms. Gomez isn't nastier, rather prior commissioners could pretend the citizens were wrong.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said this library is rich by any standard and certainly by comparison with other libraries. He said he used Public Library Association Data called the Statistical Report. He said the Report goes by self-reporting by libraries and it is broken up in groups by service area population. He said if we take the top two groups of libraries according to their latest information those serving a half a million or more and those serving a million or more, he said there are 87 libraries in those categories and San Francisco is number 2 in per capita expenditures and it is head and shoulders above the rest. He said San Francisco spent \$100 per capita per year. He said the library recently said it had some benchmarks to compare its performance too and those included Seattle, which spends 20% less and there were five that managed on approximately 1/3 or less of San Francisco's income.

A man from the audience said his concern is about the surveys the library uses to get information from patrons. He said there is a bias in the survey. He said it would be better if people could pick up the surveys and then mail them in postage paid envelopes. He said that would be cheaper than paying a survey company \$40,000. He said his branch library recently had a survey about open hours and he never got any information about the survey. He said the surveys were not available on the days and nights where the changes were to be made. He said he never saw the survey and he found out about the changes through the Library Users Association and they are not even being paid. He said the morning hours are going to the tots and the adults would like the evening hours.

Bradley Weidmeyer said he is speaking as an individual and a member of SEIU. He said in the future he would like to see labor represented on the Commission. He said he is surprised that a vote would be held within the same week a survey was taken. He said any issue should give the community a chance to absorb what is being proposed. He said he would hope that the public is allowed to speak in an informed way. He said we are facing a Brown Act weakening and other information getting out and there should be a chance for the public to fully reflect on the policy.

President Gomez said she would like to change the agenda and hear Agenda Item No. 3 at this time.

### **AGENDA ITEM 3. BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT**

Luis Herrera, City Librarian said he would like to welcome Julia Laue who is Principal Architect and Manager Building Design and Construction for the Department of Public Works. He said Lena Ch'en retired and we are happy to have Julia give the Bond Program Manager's Report.

Julia Laue, Department of Public Works, gave the Bond Program Manager's report. She said 7 property acquisitions are complete, the Support Services Facility is in operation; 23 branches are complete and open and the North Beach Branch is under construction. She said the approved budget for the program is \$196,259,350 as of February 16, 2013. She said the approved opening is between December 2013 and March 2014. She showed photographs of Bayview Branch Library which opened in February. She showed construction photographs of the North Beach branch. She also showed renderings of the completed project. Explanatory document: Current [Budget Report](#).

#### **Public Comment**

An anonymous citizen said the Sunshine Ordinance provides that when you are changing the agenda you have to announce it as soon as you are aware of the change. He said the public was prepared for the other item. He said BLIP except for North Beach is complete. He said this is the time we should be evaluating the overall program and the claims that were made on behalf of the Friends of the Library. He said when the citizens approved the bond issue, the claim was that the Friends would raise \$16 Million. He said it was expected that the citizens would put in \$105.9 Million and the Friends would put in \$16 Million. He said not only are the Friends putting in a fraction of that, but we have no documentation of what their so-called in-kind contributions are. He said if you are claiming attorney's fees you cannot claim them unless you have contemporaneous records. He said the contemporaneous records were completely absent. He said no one is calling for an accounting of how much money there really was and what it was spent on which should be the Commission's responsibility to the public.

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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. The Sunshine Ordinance requires an alteration in the agenda be announced as soon possible. Since the BLIP is complete, except North Beach, we should evaluate the overall program, especially the claims that were made for the Friends of the Library. When the bond issue passed, citizens were told the Friends would raise \$16 Million, which was over 15% of the public's expenditure of \$105.9 Million. We have no documentation of what the "in-kind contributions" are. In the legal profession, a claim of attorney's fees will be rejected without contemporaneous records. Contemporaneous records do not reflect what is being claimed, although many commissioners had their photograph taken with oversized checks. Now no one is calling for an accounting of the money or what it was spent on. Your duty is to the public not the Friends.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said there is no note made of the tremendous cost overruns. He said this library is overwhelmingly wealthy with comparison to other libraries. He said this library should have the best of everything. He said the Bayview Branch has cost more than three times what was originally planned. He said the North Beach branch is costing four times the original cost. He said the view corridors are being cut off by the intrusion of that building into the street. He said it would be helpful to discuss what is to happen to the branch that is considered historically worthwhile. He said he thinks it is time for a retrospective look. He said moving and interim services which was approved at \$4,360,000. He said they could have been used to provide alternate locations and only under a half a million has been expended.

Bradley Weidmeyer said he would like to comment on the expansion of the BLIP program to rebuild the North Beach Branch and said it was helpful to see the images of the construction under way. He said some of the photographs were taken from critical points of view. He said the architects were requested to try to mitigate the view corridor position. He said unfortunately the cornice is projected out which is a further intrusion and an aesthetic one into the right of way and view corridor of Mason Street. He said there is a willful desire to ignore the implications. He said the existing building is an historic resource and it has been recognized as a very interesting structure and a marvelous contrast that the building lends to the neighborhood. He said that whole issue needs to be resolved. He said he would appreciate if the Commission take as assessment of where we are today and retaining the building as a landmark and using it for some library purpose.

A man from the audience said he would like the Commission to trash the recent surveys to cut library hours especially the Marina Branch. He said

we need the evening hours. He said you could do a new survey and keep it out of the hands of the librarians because they are prejudiced and do not want to work the evening hours.

Jose Quintana said he admires and respects the library. He said it is a shame that students will be affected by cutting the hours of the library and he would like the evening hours to remain.

### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lee said since he is a new commissioner he has learned that some of the variances and cost increases in some of the projects were due to public opinion. He said the report says that the North Beach Branch is 48% complete and the approved budget is \$14,548,573 and the amount expended to date is \$11,879,570 and he wondered if there is any information about what it will take to complete the project.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian said we are on budget and we have a contingency that is built into the budget. He said we expect to be able to complete the full project for North Beach within the budget. He said he appreciates Commissioner Lee's comments on the scope changes because quite a few of the branches did have a change in scope and the changes are significant.

President Gomez said each step of each building went through a series of meetings and plans were revised based upon new information all along the way. She said where we are now is based on extensive consultation with the community and architects. She said the existing North Beach Branch Library is on Park and Recreation property and it will be their decision what happens with the building.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2. PROPOSED MODIFICATION OF LIBRARY SERVICE HOURS**

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the Commission is being asked to take action on a Resolution approving an increase in branch library hours and increasing access to the Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Deaf Services and History Centers of the Main Library. He said there is a Memo to the Commission outlining the proposal. He said we are not reducing hours we are increasing 36 hours across the city. He said this was a year-long assessment of hours per City Charter 16.109. He said he wanted to congratulate Karen Strauss on her appointment as Chief of Main. He said she has been serving as the Acting Chief of Main for the past year and was the Assistant Chief of Main prior to that. He said she has been very active in the Public Hours Task Force.

Karen Strauss, Chief of Main, gave a presentation on the modification to public service hours for the Main Library. She said the proposal is to bring the Deaf Services Center, Library for the Blind and Print Disabled and the San Francisco History Center and Book Arts/Special Collections up to 60 hours a week in accordance with the hours of the rest of the Main Library.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches, gave a presentation on the modification of hours for the 45 hour/6 day branches, the 50 hour/7 day branches and the 55 hour/7 day branches. He said there have been some modifications to the earlier proposal.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said in summary we are asking for the Commission to approve the Draft Resolution approving the modification and increase of hours as defined in the Proposed Modification of Public Hours Plan. He said this will increase library service hours at 18 branches and 3 Main Centers. He said this will expand total service to 1,370 hours per week (13% above the required 1 211 hours per week). He said it will maintain the 8-9 pm hour of operation at the majority of branches currently open until 9 pm, improve equity and consistency in library hours, and establish baseline structure and assessment system for future monitoring and adjustment. He thanked Randall McClure from the Controller's Office for helping out on all of this as well.

Explanatory document: [City Librarian Memo](#) dated June 17, 2013; [Proposed Modification of Library Service Hours Presentation](#); and [Resolution](#).

#### Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the hours within the Main Library being adjusted so that all departments are open when the Library is open is something that Library Users Association (LUA) has long supported and it should have been done a long time ago. He said LUA has been running a campaign issuing flyers, having petitions signed and a whole range of activities to stop this massive cut of the 8 – 9 hour. He said there are a number of hidden changes here that have not been discussed. He said the Library is still targeting evening hours. He said with a wealthy library spending over \$1 Million for additional hours, the library is ignoring the public and its own surveys. He said almost double the number of people who had been surveyed wanted evening hours as opposed to morning hours. He said the library has cut the Marina Branch one hour on each of its 9:00 closing time, an entire evening at Noe Valley from 6 – 9 where it had two evenings it now has one. He said Park Branch loses Saturday hours and weekends and evenings are what the public has told you it wants. He said there are no additional evenings past 9:00. He said the public will have a reduced choice of evening hours and the Main Library has no hours past 8:00 pm.

A patron from the Library of the Blind and Print Disabled and a member of the Thursday night Yoga class said she is concerned about the class being disturbed and no longer offered because of the increase in hours. She said people with blindness don't come out during evening hours because of safety issues. She said weekend hours would make more sense.

An anonymous citizen said wouldn't it be nice if the citizens had access to the graphics. He said there was a mandated public process to assess the needs of the public. He said that process was completed between

September 13 and October 30, 2012. He said City-wide San Franciscans prefer evenings by 52%. He said Eureka Valley prefer evenings by 219% and Noe Valley by 231%. He said those were the results of a survey conducted in 2004. He said now you have separated the process between the public process and the time you are making the decision by nine months, but you never informed people then or now that all of their evening hours were at risk. He said as soon as that was identified his good friend from the Library Users Association went out to inform people. He said the library recognized the writing on the wall and democracy was able to stop it.

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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. You are not informing the public that the mandated process for setting hours was completed between September 13 and October 30, 2012. You changed the provision of the Library Preservation Fund that a survey would be available at those hearings and took advantage of it. The public has been asked their preference for evening. City-wide San Franciscans prefer evenings by 52%. Neighborhoods with working adults like Eureka Valley prefer evenings by 219%, Noe Valley by 231%. These are the survey results from 2004, the last chance for people to express a preference. There are nine months between the process and the decision but in neither instance were people informed evenings hours would be eliminated. The Library Users Association informed people and this duplicity of one year's duration was stopped by democracy.

Bradley Weidmeyer said the historic hours at a number of reopened branches seem to be in line with the first proposal and he wondered if they had been reviewed. He said the methodology of the last hour seems to be quite faulty. He said it was a system where the attendance during that last hour was cut in half because people were preparing to leave. He said overwhelmingly people want to have evening and weekend hours and the vast bulk in the new hours are for weekdays. He said people have access to more than one branch and the options that are being presented do not seem to reflect that. He said people are asking for later hours so he wondered why the library was not open until 10:00 pm.

A man from the audience said he is opposed to cutting evening hours and he wanted his two previous statements to be in the record. He said there used to be Christian Science Reading Rooms located around the City that were open late. He said the Library needs to take their place and open late in the evening.

Craig Elman said he never heard about the cuts to the hours until he was at the Richmond Branch and the gentleman from the Library Users

Association told him about them. He said he told his two roommates who were not able to come because they had to work. He said the people that go to the library in the evening are there because they cannot go to the library in the day. He said he hopes the Commission will support the retention of the evening hours.

Jose Cantina said he is a blue collar worker and he enjoys the library. He said a lot of people cannot make it to the library during the day and he hopes it will stay open in the evening.

Another man from the audience said he was opposed to cutting evening hours. He said people are busy during the day with school or work. He said he would like to know why all of the branches are closing at 6:00 pm on Monday nights.

### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lee said he wanted to make sure he is correct that the new proposal has most of the libraries closing at 9:00 and not the previous recommendation of 8:00 pm.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the June 6 recommendation included closing libraries at 8:00 pm. He said 17 of those neighborhood branches are now going back to the original 9:00 pm closing. He said the only exception is the Marina Library. He said other neighborhood libraries close at 6:00 and those hours have not been changed. He said it is an additional 36 hours overall. He said we are bringing up the minimum of 45 hours to all branches.

Commissioner Mall asked about the recently added hours.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said that the recently added 20 hours are separate from the additional 36 hours we are now adding.

Commissioner Mall asked when the additional 20 hours was approved.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the 20 hours were approved for this year's budget a year ago.

Commissioner Mall asked when the hours they are discussing today will be implemented.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said after the Board of Supervisors approves the budget in July that would trigger the addition of the proposed hours. He said the hours would be implemented as soon as the staffing is hired. He said we want to make sure we are adequately staffed to do this and it does take time. He said it could be October or later before the new hours go into effect.



Commissioner Munson asked if these changes to the hours are set in concrete or if we need to make modifications later would we be able to do so.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said any changes would depend on if there is a need for additional staffing or funding. He said if that were the case, we would incorporate that into next year's budget. He said we can always revisit hours. He clarified that the additional 20 hours in this year's budget has already been implemented so this is an additional 36 hours on top of that.

Commissioner Munson said we will never satisfy everyone and we are lucky to have the funding to add additional hours.

Commissioner Ono asked about the Thursday night Yoga class.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we are committed to keeping the Yoga class program but it may have to be moved to somewhere else in the Main Library.

Commissioner Ono said this has been a year long process and we had meetings in each of the Supervisorial Districts. She said we had phone and online surveys and we have heard and have made adjustments along the way. She said we can't satisfy everyone.

President Gomez said not all members of the public get along with all staff members but the staff that works for this library is one of the most extraordinary staffs of any agencies in the City. She said questions about the number of hours always comes back to adequate staffing and not to some sort of selfishness by the staff to not want to work extra hours.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Munson to approve a resolution approving an increase in branch library hours and increasing access to Main Library Centers as defined in the Proposed Modification of Public Hours Plan.

Action: AYES 5-0: (Gomez, Lee, Mall, Munson, and Ono)

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 UPDATE ON FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15 BUDGET**

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we had our first budget hearing before the Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee and we are here to provide an update. He said he wanted to thank Maureen Singleton and her team for doing a wonderful job with our budget proposal for the next two years.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, gave a presentation on the FY 2014 and 2015 budget update. She said she will be sharing with you the budget analyst cut sheet, which was presented to the Board of Supervisors. She said it was a good meeting yesterday with the Board's Budget and Finance Committee. She said the budget cycles are now two

year rolling budgets which allow us to revisit the second year of a budget each year. She said we focused on public hours, collections facilities management, and the Teen Center. She said our strategic priorities are literacy and learning, digital strategy, youth engagement, strategic partnerships and diversity in programming. She went over the key funding status updates that occurred between when the Commission approved the budget in February and what the Mayor presented to the Board of Supervisors on May 31. She said the key funding status updates were to the Library Preservation Fund, Fines and Fees, Fund Balance Use and Community Improvement Impact Fees. She gave the summary of proposed resource investments, Branch POI Investment Plans by fiscal year and Public Hours. She explained some of the minor reductions recommended by the Board of Supervisors, which reduce our expenditures by \$485,000. She said she does not believe we will need to attend the second budget hearing on June 26 and the full Board of Supervisors budget approval is expected in July.

Explanatory document: [Update on Budget](#) presentation; [Budget update](#) excluding public hours Attachment I; and [Budget update Attachment II](#).

#### Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said the Commission was given the Budget Analyst's cut sheet. He said it is too bad the Commission did not receive the Budget Analyst's full report. He said sometimes if you want the right answer instead of just being massaged by the staff, there are people who can help you. He said on the revenue side the budget is going up a full \$8.5 Million. He said the allocations that you have made are actually a fraction of that. He said it seems to be concealed in the reserve. He said he has complained that there was nothing in writing that showed there was \$2.97 Million in increased support from the General Fund at that time. He said that was not part of your considerations when you approved your expenditures in February. He said Mr. Herrera has admitted that your possible allocations for service to the public have gone up almost \$3 Million. He said this would be your opportunity to decide whether you just want to add that to the reserve or whether you want to allocate that for services especially since the allocations you have made for physical collections is very meager. He said your comparison with other libraries of the same size is not that good compared to your per capita budget. He said you are a very rich library and you should spend the money on services and hours.

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Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. You were given the Budget Analyst's "cut sheet" but not the full report. I remind Commissioner Lee and others that if you want the right answer someone can help you. What is concealed is that the revenue is going up \$8.5 Million, and the allocations are a fraction of that, with the difference concealed in the reserve. When I complained

there was nothing in writing, you were told increased support from the general fund was \$2.97 Million, not part of your allocations in February. This is your chance to provide service to the public rather than just add to the reserve. Your expenditures for physical collections are meager and in terms of per capita budget your comparison to other libraries is not that good. You are rich and should spend it on public collections and hours.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said in February the Commission said that public hours and collections are the library's top priorities and that there was something like \$3 Million additional. He said the book budget was frozen with a 0% change and not a single dollar added to the actual adult book collection, the children and teen book collection, periodicals for children and teens and nothing added in a number of other areas in the collections realm. He said at the Budget and Finance Committee meeting yesterday one of the Supervisors asked about the balance between actual and electronic books and the City Librarian never gave her a straight answer on the book portion. He said finally the Supervisor asked what is happening with the books and the City Librarian's answer was we are adding \$.5 Million to books and materials. He said the freeze on the book budget is unconscionable in a wealthy library and a library that is getting \$8.5 Million more this year and a more than 9% increase over last year. He said this discussion does not compute with what the discussion was in February and what now he reads in the Budget Analyst's report. He said the Commission voted for additional hours and what you got was less Saturday and evening hours.

Bradley Weidmeyer said it is very important that the desires of the public be carried out. He said it seems as though there is a premature futurist attitude and book de-emphasis and there is not an increase commiserate with budget availability for book which he said he finds troubling. He said he wishes that we wouldn't move ahead of ourselves with disposing of books.

#### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lee said he is happy to hear there is a surplus and he asked if the surplus is going into the Library Preservation Fund for rainy days.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said the surplus for FY15 goes automatically into the fund balance.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said yesterday at the Budget and Finance Subcommittee, one of the Supervisors asked whether the savings could go to other uses because they are General Fund dollars and the answer from the Controller's Office was no it goes back to the Library Preservation Fund. He reminded the Commission we are paying back the debt on the revenue bonds and some other capital needs that could

occur. He said we have a healthy reserve and we are not asking the City for additional General Fund dollars.

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

#### Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said that his 150 word statements are now included in the Minutes. He said he checks to see if they are as he submits them. He said sometimes he summarizes himself with an ampersand in 'Stop the Hate & Ignorance' and sometimes he does not. He said the Secretary added an ampersand where he had a comma in once instance. On the top of page 5 there is a serious reduction in what Mr. Munson had to say. He said this was a rant that should be quoted at length about how the naysayers are always negative. He said at the bottom of page 5 it says Larry Kane said his wife and daughters win on patience of him being late. He said that is not quite grammatical and what he said before that should have been included.

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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. My citizen summaries are included in the minutes and I check to see they are as I submit them. Sometimes I summarize myself with an ampersand, (Stop the Hate & Ignorance). The only alteration is to put an ampersand where I didn't have it. On page 5, Mr. Munson statement "naysayers just spoke about their particular focus" is a reduction of an extensive rant that should be quoted at length about citizens always being negative, never give any credit, always causing trouble. It was a beautiful rant and deserves better. At the bottom of that page, Mr. Kane's reference to "win on patience" is not clear without his justification that he is always late everywhere and explained his late arrival at commission meetings. He also said that the anonymous citizen hesitated to his credit.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said that the people in the audience and the Commissioners may think that the comments about the Minutes are either trivial or unnecessary. He said the Minutes are the record for the Commission and the public. He said when you ignore what the public has said about the minutes to improve them you are complicit with falsification of history and falsification of the record. He said on page two his comments state "the library unfortunately has a long and sad history of obstruction and making it difficult or impossible to get documents that are legally required to turn over." He said that should read ". . . making it difficult or impossible to get documents that the library is legally required to turn over." He said there should be a correction to his comments regarding the Library Citizens Advisory Committee.

## Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Mall to approve the [Minutes of May 2, 2013](#) with a change to page 2 under Peter Warfield's remarks to read "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."

Action: AYES 5-0: (Lee, Gomez, Mall, Munson, and Ono).

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF MINUTES MAY 16, 2013**

### Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said he is grateful that Commissioner Munson is listening carefully. He said there were only five attendees at the meeting of May 16. He said Commissioners Randlett and Munson were not at the meeting and it is not noted in the Minutes that they were excused. He said Mr. Herrera told the Ethics Commission that you would adopt a policy including the 150 word summaries in the Minutes. He said you have not adopted a policy, but apparently the Secretary has adopted a practice of doing that. He said there should be a policy of the Commission to do that. When the words "Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance . . ." are not added to the summary it shows the distortion between the Secretary's summary and the citizen summary.

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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. I am sure all of the Commissioners recognize the importance of the minutes. I am grateful that Commissioner Munson is listening carefully and I will try to be clearer. Previously the Secretary has noted whether absences were excused. It was stated both Commissioners Munson and Randlett were excused. It might be assumed later they were unexcused. My citizen summaries are exactly as I submitted them. There is still no policy regarding including citizen summaries after City Librarian Herrera represented to the Ethics Commission that you would adopt such a policy. I am grateful for the practice, but you need a policy. My phrase, "Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library" never appears in your part of the minutes which reveals the distortion.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he is glad the Commission is now including the summaries in the minutes. He said the inclusion of

the 150 word summaries was a part of the 1999 amendment to the Sunshine Ordinance to strengthen it to insure that the citizens had their own words in the minutes. He said there have been multiple violations by the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force for the Library's prior practice. He said on the top of page 2 under his comments it reads "the Library Commission and the administration have a sad history of openness and compliance with the letter of the law." He said that should read "have a sad history of failure to be open and comply with the letter of the law." He said there are some significant differences to the library service hours discussion. He said he was the first speaker on the hours issue not the anonymous citizen. He said on the top of page 10 he did not say that the summary page standardizes the hours. He said there was no correlation between the library's own survey results and what the library is providing with respect to hours.

#### Commission Discussion

President Gomez asked that the Minutes reflect that Commissioners Munson and Randlett were excused.

Motion: By Commissioner Mall, seconded by Commissioner Munson to approve the [Minutes of May 16, 2013](#) reflecting that Commissioners Munson and Randlett were excused; making a change to page 2 under Peter Warfield's comments to read "as the previous speaker mentioned the Library Commission and administration have a failure to be open and to comply with the law" instead of "as the previous speaker mentioned the Library Commission and administration have a sad history of openness and compliance with the letter of the law"; and to modify Peter Warfield's statement at the top of page 10 to add the bolded words to read "He said there is no correlation between what is requested **in the survey by the public** and what the branch is providing.

Action: AYES 5-0: (Lee, Gomez, Mall, Munson, and Ono).

#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 ADJOURNMENT

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to adjourn the regular meeting of June 20, 2013.

Action: AYES 5-0: (Lee, Gomez, Mall, Munson, and Ono)

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 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).