



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 21, 2014

(Approved as amended at the October 16, 2014 regular Commission meeting)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at the Bayview Branch Library, 5075 Third Street.

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm

Sue Blackman, Library Commission Secretary, welcomed our new Commissioner Zoe Dunning.

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

President Ono thanked the community for bringing food for everyone to share.

Sue Blackman, Library Commission Secretary said because of the number of people present, public comment will be limited to two minutes.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said it is nice to be at a branch library for the meeting and he wanted to welcome the new Commissioner.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said the Commission and members of the public should know that the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library have raised over \$60 million. He said neither the City Librarian nor the Library Commission have provided any oversight for these funds. He said the City Librarian has been found in violation and had to pay fines for accepting money from the Friends and not reporting that money for multiple years.

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.

As we proceed today through the LC agenda, I believe there are certain things that members of the public should know in listening to all that is presented. From 2001 through 2013 a group of private citizens calling themselves “The Friends” expended over \$60 million of funds raised in the name of the SFPL. On the recommendation of the City Librarian, Luis Herrera, the LC authorized “The Friends” and their activities. During all those years, in regard to all that money, neither the City Librarian nor the LC provided any oversight. In fact, while accepting \$5000 per year in benefits from this group, Mr. Herrera filed under penalty of perjury that he received nothing from the group. Last year he was found to have violated state law and paid fines for multiple years. Despite these facts, and disregarding public demands, the LC seems to be determined to continue with this behavior!

Miro Kielbus, said he is representing the deaf and hearing impaired community. He said he has a problem with the DVDs in the collection. He said when he gets them from the library he does not get the captions. He said he thinks they are copies and not original DVDs. He would like some help with this issue.

AGENDA ITEM 2 BAYVIEW BRANCH LIBRARY RENAMING

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this item is a discussion regarding the possible renaming of the Bayview Branch Library in honor of Linda Brooks-Burton. He said the Commission has been presented with materials including 3000 petition signatures, letters and comments in support of the renaming. He said Library Facility Naming Policy #601 requires that the Library Commission will hold a meeting in the community prior to the name change.

Explanatory document: [Policy 601](#) – Library Facilities Naming Policy; [Memo from Commission Secretary dated 8/18/14](#); [Letters and comments in support](#) of renaming.

Public Comment

Walter Johnson, said he is on the Committee to rename the Bayview Branch in honor of Linda Brooks-Burton. He said Linda Brooks-Burton was a special person and they would like to have this branch renamed in her honor.

Larry Ware said he is a neighborhood historian and has started various programs in this library. He said the memorial for Linda Brooks-Burton was an emotional and touching service. He said he requests the branch be renamed in honor of Linda Brooks-Burton.

Linda Richardson said we lost Linda last year and she is confident God will console her family members and friends. She said she urges you to rename the library in honor of Linda Brooks-Burton.

Jofria Moore said she wanted to give her perspective as a 14 year old girl and how Linda treated her and how she taught her how to be a student. She said it is an honor to be here in support of the renaming.

Dr. Espanola Jackson said Linda was a person who could not be replaced. She said it would be more than an honor for you to hear about Linda Brooks-Burton and she hopes the Commission will say yes to the renaming.

Virginia P. Marshall said she is an educator in SFUSD. She said she was able to walk down to this library for this great meeting. She said you can change the world with one library at a time and one book at a time. She said this is a safe haven for children. She said on behalf of the San Francisco Alliance of Black School Educators she urges the Commission to vote yes on the renaming.

Doris Vincent said she is one of the Committee members to rename the library. She said her grandchildren came through this library under Linda's tutelage. She said she knows the Commission will rename the library for Linda Brooks-Burton.

President Ono said she wanted to clarify that this meeting is for discussion only and the vote on the renaming will be taken at the September meeting.

A speaker said she knew Linda more in the community outside of the library. She said her commitment was to the entire community.

A high school student said that Linda did a lot for the teens in this community and it is important to name the Library after her.

Mrs. Johnson said she has three generations who were here under the watchful caring nurturing eye of Linda Brooks-Burton. She said the least we can expect and the most we hope for is that this library be given her name.

Lydia Vincent-White said she is a member of the Committee. She said the Committee has read the Policy document 601 and we have "dotted every i and crossed every t". She said we received 3,309 signatures which have been submitted. She said they have raised \$7,065 and they have a commitment from a corporation to give us a check for \$2,935 so that the total fundraising will be \$10,000. She said we are imploring you to say yes to this name change.

Malia Cohen, District 10 Supervisor, she said we definitely want to name the library after Linda Brooks-Burton. She said she wanted to recognize the family and the members of the Committee who organized this. She

said over \$7,000 was raised by grassroots support. She said the library helped save her and she is personally connected to this and Linda will live forever with the renaming of the library.

Karen Wing, Co-President of FACES, said she knew Linda because she was on the Board of the Whitney Young Child Development Center. She said she hopes that the Commissioners will change the name and make it the Linda Brooks-Burton Library.

Vivian Altman, said she has worked at the Exploratorium for 34 years and she said she had the privilege of working with Linda in various degrees on science programming in this area. She said her reach went beyond this community and this neighborhood. She said she fully supports naming this branch after her and she urges the Commission to name this branch after Linda Brooks-Burton.

Charlie Walker said he is in support of the renaming. He said he was here to say that the Commission told him that black people were going to build this library and a white contractor built it and the two black contractors were fired. He said black people are being run out of San Francisco so he is asking that the library be named after Linda.

Henry Jenkins said he has been in this area for 30 years and he has seen the migration of people. He said it is important that we have the branch named after Linda Brooks-Burton. He said the young black people need to know their history.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he only became aware of Linda Brooks-Burton when the renaming issue came before the Library Commission. He said he has a quandary because people are saying let's name the library after her to honor her but he thinks they should name the library after her to honor the service she rendered to the library.

Sean Richards said Linda Brooks-Burton always took time off to help educate our kids. He said if they asked the crowd they would vote for the renaming.

Takesha Gardner, Executive Director for the Bayview-Hunters Point YMCA, said they are in support of renaming the library for Linda Brooks-Burton. She said Linda has been a tremendous force around youth development.

Nece Joshua said she has been in the Bayview neighborhood since 1978 and she is emotional because Linda represents the human trust and the care she took with the children. She said she was a family member to the community. She said there cannot be a no vote on this.

Teresa said she is the founder and CEO of Old School Café said all of her youth would be here today but they have to get the restaurant open tonight. She said she is speaking on behalf of a lot of youth. She said

Linda was the heart and soul of this community. She said there is no question that this should be named after Linda.

Marian Chatfield Taylor said for a long time she worked for the Friends and she formed the Committee that helped raise the funds for this branch. She said all of the librarians are great but Linda was unbelievable and she was a phenomenal resource for us. She said this renaming is not optional.

Jeannie Shiboshi said she works at City College of San Francisco. She said Linda Brooks-Burton has been an inspiration for students. She said she urges the Commission to name the Bayview library after Linda.

Cheryl Smith said Linda was a colleague of hers and she is native, born and raised in Bayview-Hunters Point. She said she was the founding Executive Director of the Bayview Hunters Point YMCA. She said she urges each of you to listen to what is being said and to vote yes.

Jamila Burton said she is Linda Brooks-Burton daughter. She said her mother spent her whole life trying to make this library a better place. She said she spent a lot of time with her mother at this library. She said she is very proud to hear all the people speak about her mother. She said her mom's spirit is in these walls and this is her library. She said the greatest gift you could give her is to rename this library.

John Burton, Linda's husband said thank you to the Commission and the community for all they have done. He said this library is his wife's library and she gave her life to this library. He said his family will never stop loving Bayview.

Ms. Berry said she is representing Bayview Academy she said they wanted to support naming this library after a great lady in our community. She said please name our library after Miss Linda.

Rohan Willis said he has lived in the community for forty some years. He said Linda Brooks-Burton is our unsung hero. He said he is looking at Policy 601. He said the community has reached out and the Library should be named after Linda Brooks-Burton

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he didn't know Linda as well as some of the other people but he knew her as a tremendously welcoming person. He said she would listen to everyone and treated everyone with respect and appreciation. He said he feels as though there was a kind of a light coming from her and he supports the renaming of the branch for her.

Geoffrey Becher, a Bayview resident said he is on the Committee to rename the library. He said he is one of the co-founders of the Bayview Footprints Network and Linda was also a co-founder. He said he strongly encourages the Commission to rename this library in her honor.

A resident of Bayview-Hunters Point for her whole life said she is imploring the Commission to rename this library for Linda Brooks-Burton. She said she had a welcoming spirit. She said Linda has left a big void. She said Linda founded a book club called Kindred Sisters and we implore you to rename the library for Linda.

Jo said she is a native San Franciscan and the Park Library was her home. She said when she moved to the Bayview, Linda was welcoming and Linda inspired her to volunteer at the library and to go back to school. She said she now has her Masters and a lot of that is attributed to Linda. She said it would be an honor, a privilege and well-deserved for her that this library be renamed for her.

A person from the audience said in 1993 he came to the library and Linda would help him over and over again. He said she was a major inspiration to him and this community. He said she was always helping the young people and the community. He said this renaming is something that needs to be done.

Emily Ray Thompson said she works for SFUSD and once upon a time she was the principal at Dr. George Washington Carver School. She said Linda was also the children's librarian for neighboring schools. She said she was also a parent. She said she supports the renaming of the library.

Corey Hawkins said she is a lifelong resident of District 10. She said she met Linda Brooks-Burton for the unsung hero award. She said when she met Linda she realized she was a special lady. She said Linda earned having this library named after her.

A woman said she went to a school called Sir Francis Drake she said now the school is Malcolm X. She said for the sake of the babies here they need to know who Linda was and she asked that the branch be renamed.

Melissa Riley, said she is the vice-president of the union that represents the librarians. She said you can feel the love in every aspect of this building. She said you can tell that Linda Brooks-Burton has made a huge impact on this community and we would like to see the library named in her honor.

Betty Williams, said she is a union steward who works for SFPL. She said Linda was a colleague. She said she grew up in this neighborhood. She said she knows how important this library has been to this community. She said this community has always embraced this library and Linda embraced it right back. She said it is a no brainer to name this library after Linda.

Andrea Grimes, President of the Librarians Guild, said we represent almost 1000 library workers and all of us are honored to support the renaming of this library.

Oscar James said he is a native resident of Bayview Hunters Point. He said it is very important in this community to show African Americans doing something important in the community. He said he looks forward to having a picture of Linda in the library and supports the renaming.

Allen Williams, President of the San Francisco and American Historical and Cultural Society, said the Society is celebrating its 60th birthday next year. He said he supports the naming of this branch for Linda Brooks-Burton. He said they support this because Linda was an ambassador for the library throughout the city.

Rebecca Alcala, Excelsior Branch Manager, said Linda was her supervisor. She said she went to Linda for advice on what to do for Excelsior since she was a new branch manager. She said she encouraged her in all ways. She said Linda's reach was to all of San Francisco.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Nguyen said his heart is swelling and he is deeply moved. He said thank you to the community and the renaming has his support and his vote.

Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said one of the greatest things that can happen is when people bear witness to the contributions that an individual has given to a community. She said thank you to the community for showing up and Linda's legacy will not be forgotten.

Commissioner Mall said it makes her proud that she can be part of this process and it is a testimony to what a library and a human being can do to make a difference.

Commissioner Lee said he hopes that this story will show up in the media because we need more positive stories such as this.

Commissioner Dunning said this is her very first Commission meeting and it will be one that she will remember for the rest of her life. She said the community will have her vote on September 18.

President Ono said in the world of politics you rarely get total agreement so it is amazing to be in this room today to hear everyone in support of the renaming for Linda Brooks-Burton. She thanked everyone for coming out today and for everyone who provided written testimony.

The Commission recessed at 6:00 p.m.

The Commission reconvened at 6:17 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 MAYOR'S POLICY ON COMMISSIONER ATTENDANCE

President Ono read parts of a letter from the Mayor dated July 9 on the Mayor's Policy on Commissioner Attendance.

Explanatory document: [Mayor's Policy on Commissioner Attendance](#) dated July 9, 2014.

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said the Mayor's Policy on Commissioner Attendance has never been enforced by the Library Commission. He said the Commission this year is holding half the number of meetings scheduled last year and then when long agendas resulted have used that as a justification to cut down the amount of time members of the public have to comment on and participate in the meetings.

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.

The policy that is being discussed today has been in place for many years. As regards the LC it has never been enforced! A number of commissioners have missed between one third and one half of all the meetings. Several commissioners are perpetually late and/or leave early from the meetings. To the best of my knowledge the LC has never taken any action to enforce this policy. In fact, of the nine meetings scheduled so far this year including this meeting, one third of the meetings have been canceled. This is particularly concerning given that the LC this year cut in half the number of meetings scheduled. So they're holding half the meetings and canceling a third of them! Then, when long agendas resulted, they use that as a justification to cut down the amount of time members of the public have to comment on and participate in the meetings.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the attendance of this Library Commission has been abysmal. He said the attendance guidelines do not seem to address cancelled meetings where entire meetings are cancelled due to a lack of quorum. He said there have been a few commissioners with excellent attendance but overall it has been abysmal.

Ms. Jackson said she would hate to come to the meeting next month and find there is not a quorum. She said she wanted to make sure at least four of you are in attendance.

Commission Discussion

President Ono said that the reason we had some cancelled meetings is that we did not have a fully seated Commission but this is a new Commission so we should be able to move forward in accordance with the Policy.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said he wanted to thank the Bayview community for hosting us today and for the testimony on behalf of Linda Brooks-Burton. He said the staff here does a wonderful job.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches, gave a presentation and overview of the Bayview Branch Library.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, gave a presentation and update on the FY2015 and 2016 budget. She said the key budget drivers are: enhanced capacity for safe and welcoming facilities; added custodial and security support; collections enhancements; technology investments; potential relocation of back-of-house operations; increases from labor agreements; and the Teen Digital Media Lab.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said he did want to emphasize the information on the attachments. He thanked the Commission for their support on this two-year budget.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, gave the Bond Program Manager's Report and said that as of last May the 24 branches are complete and open. She said the approved budget is \$196,259,350. She said the amount expended and encumbered is \$182,749,566. She showed photographs of the completed North Beach Branch.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships, gave a presentation on program and exhibit highlights. She showed photographs of the Check Out More Citywide Banner Campaigns.

Explanatory documents: [Bayview Branch presentation](#); FYs 2015 and 2016

Budget presentation and [Attachments I and II](#); [BLIP Financial Plan](#); [Bond Program Manager's Report](#); and [BLIP Quarterly Report](#); [Program and Exhibitions presentation](#); and [Banners presentations](#).

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the price of the teen lab keeps going up and up and up and it includes the literacy and learning center which has caused the complete destruction of one-half of the bound magazine section. He said access is incredibly bad for the public to the bound magazines. He said he would like to know comparisons of number of books from the old and new branches of Bayview and North Beach.

Larry Ware said thank you again to the Commission for coming out to the Bayview he shared a poem that he wrote in this library as a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said regarding the reports delivered during this item there are a number of things that neither the City Librarian nor the Library Commission have supporting documents. He said two documents were distributed that have numbers reported by the Friends as contributions. He said despite the expenditure by the Friends there are no communications between the Friends and the Library Commission detailing these expenditures.

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.

Regarding the reports delivered during this agenda item, there are a number for which neither the city librarian nor the members of the LC have supporting documents. If you remember the \$60 million I talked about before, and then go through these documents, you will see a number of listings detailing the contributions of "the friends." For more than two years these people have refused to produce documents that support most of these claims." In fact, they claim that despite the expenditure of the \$60 million there are no communications between this private group and the SFPL or the LC! No letters, no emails, no nothing! Despite pledging \$16 million to the BLIP program, they haven't even managed to hit \$10 million. This group is constantly praised for its contributions based on nothing but its unsupported claims! Neither the city librarian nor the library commissioners seem to think this questionable.

James Greenblatt said he is a native San Franciscan and there is nothing but bad news on the TV or the radio. He said he is surprised that the news media have not been notified about this meeting and he said he would like to know why that is.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall asked about the geographic area of Bayview Hunters Point. She asked about the numbers of children that use the library.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches said there is a high number of children using the library and it is probably more than 50% of the children in the area. He said there are teen programs being held at the Bayview Branch.

Commissioner Mall asked about the funding effort for the Teen Center.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the Friends will be kicking off their campaign to provide the Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment for the Teen Center.

Commissioner Mall asked about the space where the old North Beach public library was located.

Luis Herrera said there is a new Master Plan for that area including a redesign of the playground that Park and Recreation will be overseeing.

Commissioner Mall said the programs are fantastic and she would like to see them marketed more broadly.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches, told about the Shades of Bayview Program and the photographs that have been collected.

Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi asked about the allocations for the collections.

Laura Lent, Chief of Technology Services gave an overview of the budget allocations but said they would return to the Commission with a more detailed report.

Commissioner Dunning asked about the budgeting of the Teen Media Lab and the increase in the budget.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, explained the changes that were necessary to the budget for the Teen Center.

Commissioner Dunning said she would like to see as much media coverage as possible about the renaming of the Bayview Branch when the vote is taken. She would like to see Linda Brooks-Burton's story told.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the media is noticed about all of our meetings.

Commissioner Dunning asked about the possibility of having the meeting where the vote is taken on the renaming streamed to the Bayview Branch.

Commissioner Lee said 26% of Bayview is made up of youth as compared to 13% citywide. He said he would like to look at some of the things Linda did and how we can implement some of these ideas.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches, explained some of the programs that Linda Brooks-Burton was involved in and how those programs are continuing to go forward.

Commissioner Lee asked about the 70% of the budget going to personnel costs and what percentage that was 10 or 20 years ago.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said it has always been the largest portion of the budget but she can research that and get back to the Commission on it.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 LABOR UNION REPORT

There was no labor union report at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES JUNE 19, 2014

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the library's budget is triple the average of other libraries and this library should have excellent everything. He said he has about 12 changes to the minutes and he asked the Commission to hold off on approval because he was unable to review the DVD of the meeting due to technical issues at the library. He listed several changes that he felt should be made in the minutes.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he has been providing 150 word summaries of his statements to be included in the minutes. He said there has been a long history of the Library Commission abridging and censoring public comments.

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.

Members of the public may have noticed me handing single page documents to the LC Secretary. These are 150 word summaries of my comments which they are required by law to include in their minutes. In the minutes which they are now discussing you will see examples of the summaries. I do this because of a long history of the LC abridging and/or censoring public comments. I would suggest that any of you who have made comments this evening and want to determine if they were accurately represented in the official record, request a copy of the minutes for the LC. If you said something positive it will probably appear, but if it was anything but praise it may be inaccurate or missing completely. Or, perhaps, making this comment will force them to represent what you say completely and accurately. The only way they're honest is if someone keeps track!

Larry Ware said he was the project manager of the Bayview History Preservation Project and worked with Linda Brooks-Burton almost 20

years ago. He said there are archival videos of Linda available and he would like to see her name and face on this library.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall said she would like to make a motion approving the minutes with the changes.

Sue Blackman, Library Commission Secretary, asked that the Commission make specific changes when approving the minutes.

Commissioner Lee said Mr. Warfield probably has his edits on a copy and he could give that to the secretary.

Motion: By Commissioner Mall, seconded by Commissioner Dunning, to delay the approval of the [June 19, 2014 Minutes](#) to incorporate the changes made by the member of the public to the September 18, 2014 meeting,

Action: AYES 6-0: (Dunning, Lee, Mall, Nguyen, Ono and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 ADJOURNMENT

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said this item by tradition has been reserved for adjourning in honor of someone who has made a contribution and who has died. He said he does not think the Commission should adjourn unless you insist that New Business is added to the Library Commission agenda.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he agrees with the previous speaker that New Business should be on the agenda. He said questions that are asked at the meeting should be responded to at the meeting. He said the Library Commission has been found guilty of 8 violations of the Sunshine Ordinance by the Sunshine Ordinance by the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

President Ono thanked the community for allowing us to come to the community and for providing the lovely spread of food.

Motion: By Commissioner Dunning, seconded by Commissioner Wardell Ghirarduzzi, to adjourn the regular meeting of August 21, 2014.

Action: AYES 6-0: (Dunning, Lee, Mall, Nguyen, Ono and Waddell-Ghirarduzzi)

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 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).