



# *San Francisco Public Library*

## **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 17, 2019 (As approved at the regular meeting of November 21, 2019)**

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on October 17, 2019 at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 pm.

Commissioners present: Dunning, Huang, Lee, Mall, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf.

Commissioner excused: Ono

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

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the Library Commission is make-believe democracy. He said three times the Library has omitted from the Minutes his references to the ACLU and the Electronic Frontier Foundation and their objections to RFID. He said mailed printed notices have been stopped except for lost materials and that has not been discussed by the Library Commission. He said the Maya Angelou artwork that was rejected by the Arts Commission has not been discussed by the Library Commission. He said there are some serious issues about safety in the library. He said apparently there was a suicide and there will be changes to the Main to prevent that from happening again and that has not been discussed by the Library Commission.

Nick Pasquariello said that he has been using the San Francisco Public Library for over half a century. He said the Library is implementing one of the worst policy changes he has ever seen. He said the Library will no longer mail to 100,000 San Franciscans pick up notices of library materials being held at branches. He said no rational explanation has been given for this change to this effective, long standing policy. He said

more than 100,000 San Franciscans do not have internet access in their homes. He said the Library is indiscriminately discriminating against those without internet access. He said this policy exacerbates the digital divide. He quoted the California Library Services Act. He said this policy violates this Act. He asked why this policy was never brought before the Library Commission to discuss the policy's impact on 100,000 San Franciscans. He said he urges the Commission to change the policy to send out paper notices to all who desire them.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 OCEAN VIEW LIBRARY SITE FEASIBILITY REPORT**

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, gave the background on the Ocean View Branch Library project.

Cathy Delneo, Chief of Branches, gave a presentation on the Ocean View Library Site Feasibility Report. She described the community meetings which have already been held in the community and she shared the residents' feedback and the community engagement outcomes.

Andy Sohn, Architect at Public Works, explained the site feasibility report which was done from July through September this year. He showed drawings and diagrams of the area which was part of the study including neighborhood and site connectivity; potential building sites; distance to transit stops; steep side streets some of which exceed ADA code for ramps; high speed roadways form site boundaries and Ocean View, Merced Ingleside (OMI) neighborhood focus. He explained the site viability criteria and explained that Alternative D on the drawings meets all criteria and is the recommended site. He explained the library location alternatives. He said the next steps are community meetings in November and then planning research through the fall and winter.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian introduced District 11 Supervisor Ahsha Safai to comment on the project.

Supervisor Safai said he fully supports the site that has been chosen. He said it is close to public transit and is the flattest of the sites. He said he appreciates the speed in which the study was completed. He said he believes this will be a gateway to the community. He said this part of town has been dramatically underserved. He said going from the smallest branch to the largest would send a really strong sign to the community. He said the Mayor supports this project and the community is in support. Explanatory documents: [Ocean View Library memo: October 10, 2019](#) ; [Ocean View Library Site Feasibility Report](#) ; [Ocean View Library Feasibility presentation](#)

### **Public Comment**

Mark Christianson said he is absolutely opposed to the other site locations but reluctantly supports Alternative D. He said he would like to suggest a codicil to the resolution which he read into the record. He said it

would include that no further construction proposal on the Greenbelt would be allowed.

Cecilia Herman said she supports a bigger library in the system. She said she wonders why it has to be the biggest in the system. She said Orizaba Street is a mess so unless there is an intensive traffic study to mitigate the traffic issue this site will not work. She said she would vote for sites A, B or C. She said she just wants to make sure this is safe.

Lynn Rogers said he is a landscape architect and he has lived in the area since 1948. He said the renovation of the existing library is still his choice. He said the street car is several blocks away from this site. He said his second choice would be at Broad Street. He said his biggest concern about this is that it would be the beginning of the end of the Greenbelt. He said this land was originally a stream and the soils are problematic for the site and this site is on an earthquake fault.

Glenn said he fully supports the Library being located in the Alternative D site, but he said he would support a resolution being adopted to prevent any additional building on the Greenbelt.

Mary Harris, President of All My Neighbors in Action, said they are very excited about a new library. She said they support the recommendation of Alternative D. She said they would also support a resolution to prevent any additional building on the Greenbelt.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said that one of the things that has always been said about the Ocean View Branch is that the two floors are not usable. He said it is difficult for the librarians to cover both floors. He said he was concerned that a new two story building will have the same problem. He said the Ocean View Branch Library Feasibility Report has not been discussed. He said he is not clear about walkability to the site.

Al Harris, former Library Commissioner, said it is great that they have finally found a place for a new Ocean Beach Branch Library so he asked that the Commission please approve it.

Ruth McGinnis said she lives within three blocks of this location and she said she had worked at the earlier Ocean View Branch. She said she travels frequently through this intersection and it is a high speed intersection. She said she is concerned about buffers for the traffic around the proposed site. She said she is concerned about visibility in the night. She said the current library is way too small so she supports this with caveats.

Edna James said she has been on the Council of Neighborhood Libraries for 20 years. She said the current library has poor transportation and is built on hills. She said there is only one entrance into the proposed site. She said she is concerned about ADA, racial disparities and it needs

parking. She said the other side of Brotherhood Way has sites that would be more appropriate.

### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall asked Supervisor Safai about support for this site.

Supervisor Safai said a lot of the community members are in support. He said he fully supports the preservation of the open space and this will be a public building that will enhance the open space. He said the Mayor also supports this.

Commissioner Mall asked for a clarification on one of the public comments.

Cecilia Herman said the Emerald Fund from a housing development gave money for the existing library.

Commissioner Dunning asked where the assumption of 20,000 square feet came from.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said library staff determined 20,000 sq. ft. considering the needs of the community and its future growth.

Commissioner Dunning clarified that this is a discussion on the site feasibility study and she asked about what input we are asking for in these upcoming community meetings.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said the discussion with the community will be very similar to the one we are having at the Commission. He said the purpose is to secure community input and feedback on the site feasibility study. He said Library staff recommends that we continue planning. He said this planning process will be built into the budget for this project. He said this is very preliminary for decisions on this site. He said we are firmly in support of building a new library in this area.

Commissioner Dunning asked when the Commission will be asked to make decisions on this project.

Michael Lambert, city Librarian, said we welcome the Commission's input on the site feasibility study. He said we will be coming back to the Commission with additional information and there will be further discussion. He said the Commission will be asked for approval of the budget during the budget process.

Commissioner Dunning asked that there be additional discussion on the size of the library.

Commissioner Huang said this project is nuanced because we have the opportunity to change this whole area. He said with new buildings we

have to plan for 30 to 40 years in the future. He asked about the possibility that Site D might not be feasible.

Andy Sohn, Architect at Public Works, said it may be that Site D could be infeasible because of traffic and safety but he said he does not really see a hurdle that can't be overcome to build a decent library on that site.

Commissioner Wolf said she is very excited about the possibility of something new for community. She said we need to partner with other agencies and she hopes that Park and Recreation would help to activate this area in a new way. She said she does have concerns about the transportation and safety issues. She said we could possibly envision a plan for the building that is phased so that we would build approximately 12,000 to 15,000 sq. ft. now with a possible expansion in the future.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, said she wanted to thank staff for the presentation and the community members for their attendance. She said this is the first phase of this project and she said it is very rare when there is a regret for not building something or not building to its capacity. She said this will be a once in a generation opportunity.

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

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, introduced Brian Weaver and the report on Coordination of Genealogy Services at SFPL.

Brian Weaver, Program Manager, General Collections and Humanities Center, gave a presentation on his 2017 Innovation Fellowship: the Coordination of Genealogy Services at the Main and System-wide. He said this is Family History Month at the Main Library. He explained his interest in genealogy and the need for organization of the Library's genealogy resources. He said he attended a genealogical conference and brought back the information he learned to the library. He explained the accomplishments and the findings of the program. He said he plans for more programs in the future.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, introduced Tom Fortin for a presentation on Toy Time.

Tom Fortin, Chief of Main, gave a presentation on the pilot toy lending program at the Fisher Children's Center at the Main Library called Toy Time. He said one of the toys was being passed around for the Commission to see. He said this pilot was based on the Toy Lending Program at the Oakland Public Library. He explained why the program was at the Main, how it works, and how they will be measuring success.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said there was a program last night for One City One Book with the author Tommy Orange present. He said it was the largest attendance ever for a One City One Book event. He said the program was moderated by the San Francisco Poet Laureate Kim Schuck. He thanked Commissioners Wolf and Mall for serving on the One

City One Book Committee. He thanked the library staff. He said he wanted to acknowledge our newest member of the team, Kate Patterson, Director of Communications. He said we stole Kate from the Arts Commission so he wanted to welcome her to our team.

Explanatory documents: [Family History Month & Genealogy](#) ; [Toy Lending](#) ; [One City One Book](#)

#### Public Comment

Wendy said this was her first time at the Commission and she wanted to make a comment about the laptop lending program and she was wondering why this program had been discontinued.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the Toy Lending Program had not been announced at the Commission and he had a number of questions about the safety of the program, who is coordinating the program, the cleaning by the volunteers, what toys are chosen, and how do people know what toys are available. He said there are things that are not in the report. He said there were many items that were not discussed including the removal of print notices, the suicide, the Maya Angelou statue and others.

#### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Wolf said it is great that the library invests in professional staff development. She said she appreciates the Toy Lending Library and other programs that have a way to measure success so she looks forward to hearing back about that. She said the One City One Book was wonderfully managed by staff. She said she is delighted that Kate Patterson has joined the library staff.

Commissioner Dunning asked about the Toy Lending Program and if this is covered by the fee policy of the library.

Tom Fortin, Chief of Main, said this is a pilot and if toys are not returned there is a fine of one cent.

Commissioner Mall is thrilled that Kate Patterson has joined the staff. She said as a grandmother she is very excited about the Toy Time program.

Commissioner Lee said he likes the new programs. He asked if the Genealogical Program will cover migrants.

Brian Weaver, Program Manager, General Collections and Humanities Center, said there have been programs for researching people from other countries. He said each country is different and he would like to broaden the programs.

Commissioner Lee asked if you can share the protocol for cleaning the toys.

Tom Fortin, Chief of Main, said they are following of the protocol, similar to Oakland. He said the volunteers cleaning the toys will be wearing aprons and gloves.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**

##### Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said there were three different places where he made comments that are seriously deficient. He said the points he had made were that the American Civil Liberties Union and the Freedom Foundation have strongly opposed the implementation of RFID. He said on page one under public comment he referred to the Library Users Association as we and the Minutes say he. He said there is a range of things that are left out of his comments. He said he mentioned that the documentation of the explanatory documents need to be very explicit.

Motion: By Commissioner Huang, seconded by Commissioner Mall, to approve the [Minutes of September 19, 2019](#).

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

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 ADJOURNMENT**

##### Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the Commission is not doing its job if it does not insist that an item on New Business be on the agenda.

Edna James, said that the three libraries Ocean View, Merced and Ingleside have waited a long time for a new library and she encouraged the Commission to take their time on building a new library there.

Motion: By Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Lee, to adjourn the meeting of October 17, 2019.

Action: AYES 6-0: (Dunning, Huang, Lee, Mall, Wolf, and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi)

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 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).