



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 16, 2020

(As approved at the regular meeting of June 18, 2020.)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on January 16, 2020 at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

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

Commissioner Ono is expected.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Nick Pasquariello said he formed the Committee to Restore Printed Notices. He read a Resolution approved by the San Francisco Labor Council urging the San Francisco Public Library to immediately restore the option that all library patrons may choose to have library notices mailed to them by US Mail or email, whichever the patron chooses as has been the practice for many decades. He said he has not received any mailed notices since the Library supposedly reinstated the policy on January 2. He said the system is not working and he looks forward to it working.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the previous speaker has made very good points about the atrocious decision to stop mailing print notices. He said the previous meeting ended with the President of the Commission saying that it would be disrespectful for people to comment on anything other than the in memorial. He said there is nothing disrespectful about his asking that the Commission not adjourn until it has asked for new business. He said the Library can thank the long time library critic the anonymous citizen for alerting the Library to adjourn

in memory of Ernest J. Gaines at this meeting. He said the library continues to use and promote social media and that is unethical.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi asked for nominations for the position of President of the Library Commission for the next year.

Commissioner Mall nominated Commissioner Wardell-Ghirarduzzi for President.

Commissioner Wolf seconded the motion.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi asked for any other nominations. She said seeing no other nominations she would ask for public comment.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he would like to see some sort of election where we heard from the nominee about why they wanted to be the president. He said there are other candidates that would do as good a job and possibly a better job. He said he would like to see the Vice-President nominated to be the president. He said he would like to see a little more respect for public comment.

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner Mall, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, to approve President Mary Wardell-Ghirarduzzi to serve an additional term as President of the Library Commission.

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

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi asked for nominations for the position of Vice-President of the Library Commission for the next year.

Commissioner Wolf nominated Commissioner Susan Mall for Vice-President.

Commissioner Dunning seconded the motion.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi asked for any other nominations. She said seeing no other nominations for Vice-President she would ask for public comment.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he endorses Commissioner Mall for the position. He said she is one of the most actively alert and questioning member of the Commission. He said

It would be enlightening to have all of the Commissioners state why they would be interested in the position and especially he would like to hear from Commissioner Mall on why she would like to be Vice-President.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall said she is honored to be nominated for Vice-President. She said she is very honored to be part of the library leadership. She said she thinks next year there should be a discussion of the positions in a different way and perhaps get a new slate and spread out the leadership opportunities.

Motion: By Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Dunning, to approve Vice-President Susan Mall to serve an additional term as Vice-President of the Library Commission.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. BRANCH CAPITAL PROJECTS: MISSION, OCEAN VIEW AND CHINATOWN BRANCHES

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said it was last October that we presented the feasibility study for the Ocean View Branch Library. He said since then the library has been working with our partners at Public Works on all three projects.

Cathy Delneo, Chief of Branches, gave a presentation on the Branch Capital Projects Update. She said three meetings were held in the Ocean View area in November sharing the Feasibility Study. She shared the results from those meetings.

Lourdes Garcia, Senior Architect, San Francisco Public Works, explained the next steps for the Ocean View Branch Library. She said the Mission Branch Library Renovation project is moving forward and she explained the next steps for that project. She also gave an update on The Chinatown Him Mark Lai Library and explained the next steps for that project.

Explanatory document: [Branch Capital Projects](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he thinks there are people present who have concerns and the Commission should listen to those concerns. He said for the Bond program there were community meetings with extensive notes from the meetings. He said he is concerned about alternate service for the branches while they are under construction. He said there needs to be a serious and good alternate location. He said the Park Branch only had bookmobile for service when it was closed.

An anonymous person said he thought the descriptions of the Ocean View community meeting was overly rosy. He said at least 25% of the people were interested in an alternate location. He said the library will be attracting children and there will be two locations where they would have to cross on Alemany. He said the crosswalks are very dangerous there. He said the library at the proposed location will be a nuisance.

Commissioner Ono entered the meeting at 4:55 pm.

Mary Harris, President of All My Neighbors in Action, said she was at all three Ocean View community meetings and she does not think there were 25% of the people seeking an alternate location. She said her organization is unified in supporting the proposed site and she hopes the issues of traffic will be addressed. She said they would ask that the Supervisors agree to not approve any more development in the area.

Hector Lee said he is a resident and educator and said he is speaking in support of the new Ocean View Branch Library. He said he supports the proposed site.

Maneka Obansky said she has lived in the Ocean View for over 40 years and she is in support of a new branch and she said she was at the community meetings and she got the feeling that most people were in support of the proposed site. She said it would be great if it were made for pedestrian traffic.

Nickie said she lives in the neighborhood and that she really supports the branch and the branch librarian and staff. She said she encourages the Commission to expedite the building of a new library.

Dr. Veronica Honeycutt said she is chair of the CRC and a longtime teacher and educator and is a longtime resident of Ocean View. She said this area has not had the resources it deserves. She said Ocean View needs a new library and needs the Library Commission's support.

David Hooper said he lives in Mission Terrace. He said the Ocean View Library was a gift and now it is apparent that the services in the OMI are insufficient for the community. He said if this money is spent for a new branch library, it will improve the community itself.

Ruth Maginnis said her concerns about Ocean View are from living and working in the area. She said unless MTA does significant work on Alemany and Brotherhood Way she does not think this site will be safe for children or the elderly. She said it won't be a visible library for most people. She said it is an awkward site. She said she hopes the Mission Branch will get back the important front door that it once had.

Edna James said she wants to thank the people who have come to support the library. She said this has been going on for a long time and it is now time for fruition. She said it is the right time. She said it is walkable

from the old library to the proposed new site. She said the bus could stop right at the library. She said she has been working on this for 20 years.

Michael-Vincent D'Anella-Mercanit, Friends of the Library, said it is so amazing to hear from all of these community members. He said Friends is ready to help with FF&E and also the programming that goes inside.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Dunning said she did attend one of the Ocean View Community meetings. She said she is supportive of the site and the new branch in Ocean View and is looking forward to moving forward. She said she is looking forward to determining where alternate service will be held while the Mission Branch is being remodeled.

Commissioner Wolf said it is exciting that we are looking forward to a new branch for Ocean View. She asked about the square footage for the Mission Branch and what will be added in the remodel.

Cathy Delneo, Chief of Branches, said they are looking at how to remodel the Mission Branch and they are awaiting approvals for that. She said it would be a modest addition.

Lourdes Garcia, Senior Architect, San Francisco Public Works, said she does not have the exact numbers. She said the current library is 10,000 sq. ft. and they are looking at possibly adding an addition 2,000 sq. ft. and reconfiguring the existing layout.

Commissioner Lee said he is encouraged by the engagement in the community for the Ocean View Branch. He asked what sort of details will be available for the community regarding alternate services while the Mission and Chinatown branches are under construction.

Cathy Delneo, Chief of Branches, said we are exploring the possibility of a partnership with the community college district. She said both the Mission campus and the Chinatown campus have been interested in exploring opportunities at those two sites.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. FYs 2021 and 2022 BUDGET

Maureen Singleton, Chief Operating Officer, gave the presentation on the FYs 21 and 22 budget. She gave the budget background and climate. She explained the strategic and budget priorities for premier urban library, literacy and learning, youth engagement, digital strategies, partnerships for excellence, organizational excellence and facilities maintenance and infrastructure. She gave a summary of proposed investments. She said the next steps would be for the Commission to approve the budget in February with budget submittal to Controller and Mayor to follow.

Explanatory documents: [Budget FY 2021-22](#); [Budget FY 2021-22: Attachment I](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said a library has a collection of books and other materials and he does not see this listed as a priorities. He said he would like to see a serious review of the collection. He said he is concerned with free and equal access. He said those who have the toys for eBooks and other items can play but those who don't have them can't. He said he would like to see a reserve room when people can see the latest copies of items.

Edna James said she didn't hear how much is expected from the sale of the old Ocean View Library that would go towards the new library.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said that is yet to be determined. He said we have looked at a possible swap.

Edna James said she is working on fundraisers in the community.

Michael-Vincent D'Anella-Mercanit, Friends of the Library, said he wanted to make a personal comment about his support for eCollections. He said that is all his friends care about.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Wolf said thank you to Maureen and the staff for putting together a comprehensive and understandable budget. She asked about the funding for the Mission Branch.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Operating Officer, said the Mission Branch is fully funded.

Commissioner Wolf asked if the budget for the Mission Branch included the possible expansion of the library.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Operating Officer, said yes the budget has built into it potential cost overruns.

Commissioner Wolf said the personnel costs is about 66% of the budget. She asked how that compares to other urban library budgets.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said typically 2/3 of an urban library's budget will go to personnel.

Commissioner Ono asked about the Honorbound program and how we will be tracking that program.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said we will track the output of books and scale up the opportunity to get books in the hands of children.

Commissioner Ono asked about the senior playground at the Richmond Branch.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said this is a high priority because it is a need and it was generated by a neighborhood group and Supervisor Fewer.

Commissioner Lee asked about the increase for the financial coaching.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said this service was already three days a week and was grant funded. He said we need to make it self-sustaining.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief Community Programs and Partnerships, said there is a lot of demand for the program.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said he has a number of reports this evening. He said there is a memo in the packets regarding the restoration of print notices. He said the Library discontinued print notices last September as an efficiency measure. He said the resumption of this service may be sustained for the duration of the most recent contract renewal with the vendor Ace Mailing, Inc. which runs through February 23, 2022.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief Community Programs and Partnerships, said she is representing the Library's Cultural Awareness Committee in presenting the programming and exhibition highlights. She explained the More than a Month: Black History, Culture and Heritage 2020 programming and exhibits. She said the Library will be hosting the Night of Ideas – Living on the Edge on February 1, 2020. She said this event runs from 7:00 pm until 2:00 am.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said he would like to recognize the winner of the I Love My Librarian Award by the American Library Association (ALA) to Janet Tom who works at the Business Science and Technology Center in the Main Library. He said Janet will be honored at the upcoming mid-winter ALA conference. He said she is one of 10 winners.

Janet Tom, Librarian in the Business Science and Technology Center, said she is honored to receive this award. She said she was told there were 1940 entries and they are nominated by the people in the community. She told a little bit about her programs.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian said he wanted to recognize Michelle Jeffers and Cathy Delneo who won the Community Alliance Award 2019 from the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for their work on the Public Knowledge program and partnership between the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and SFPL. He said he would like to acknowledge and welcome Tremaine Johnson, our new Manager of Security Operations and Emergency Planning.

Explanatory documents: [Programs and Exhibitions; Staff Recognition:Love My Librarian Award](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said congratulations to the award recipients. He said he thinks of Janet Tom as a kind of gloom lifter. He said it was appalling that the Commission had no discussion about the print notices. He said it looks like the print notices will be reinstated and there were a lot of people and organizations that supported that. He said there was no measures to find out if there has been an impact on patrons because of this. He said there needs to be a thorough analysis of this.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono congratulated Janet Tom on her award. She also welcomed Tremaine Johnson to the Library.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said thank you to Janet Tom for helping to make the library a special place.

Commissioner Dunning said congratulations on the awards. She said she is glad the print notices have been reinstated. She said the community spoke up and the library administration responded. She said she noticed there is a citywide effort to remove all paper processes by the year 2024 so at some point eventually something will have to give.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2019

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the Minutes are the history of the Commission and they should be accurate. He said on page one his comments about the print notices is very passively phrased. He said the original answer that he got was 181 people requesting print notices and then he learned that the number was 19,000. He said the Minutes should include that the City Librarian was the one that told him the 181 number. He said the comments represented for Nick Pasquariello do not make sense and they should be corrected. He said his comments under agenda item 2 should be clarified.

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Huang, to approve the [Minutes of November 21, 2019](#).

Action: AYES 7-0: (Dunning, Huang, Lee, Mall, Ono, Wolf, and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF ERNEST J. GAINES, FORMER SFPL LIBRARY COMMISSIONER

Michael Lambert said Ernest Gaines was a former Library Commissioner. He said Ernest Gaines was an award winning author of The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman as well as other novels, nonfiction and multiple collections of short stories.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he supports the Commission in adjourning in memory of Ernest Gaines. He said we have the anonymous citizen to thank for coming to Commission at an earlier meeting to recommend adjourning in Ernest Gaines' memory. He said he does not think the Commission should end without discussing new business

Motion: By Commissioner Dunning, seconded by Commissioner Mall, to adjourn the meeting of January 16, 2020 [in memory of Ernest J. Gaines](#), former Library Commissioner.

Action: AYES 7-0: (Dunning, Huang, Lee, Mall, Ono, Wolf, and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi)

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 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).