San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of NOVEMBER 17, 2022

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on **NOVEMBER 17, 2022,** virtually and at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library pursuant to Mayor Breed's 45th Supplement to her February 25, 2020 Proclamation of Local Emergency.

The regular meeting of the San Francisco Library Commission was called to order at **4:30 PM.**

Commissioners Present: Wolf, Huang, Mall, Lomax Ghirarduzzi, López, and Bolander.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Warfield, Executive Director of Library Users Association, Libraryusers2004@yahoo.com said she announced she would not run to be leader of the House of Representatives and previous to her last 35 years in that position she was a member of the Library Commission. Warfield said the Library did not contest his complaint about Prop G Calendar at the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force.

Friends of the Library Executive Director, Marie Ciepiela said we just had a great election where the renewal of the Library Preservation Fund (LPF) passed with 82.6% of the vote. Ciepiela thanked the Commission for sending the Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to submit a ballot measure to renew the LPF, which went unopposed at the ballot.

A Member of the Public said he had a negative interaction with Library Staff and wanted the Commission to be aware of it.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 DISCUSSION on FY 24-25 BUDGET UPDATE

Explanatory Documents: FYs 24-25 Budget Presentation

Mike Fernandez, Chief Financial Officer outlined the FY 24 & FY 25 Budget Calendar process. Fernandez said he expected to be back before the Commission with updates on the Budget in December and January with an Action Item in February. Fernandez reviewed the Library Preservation Fund ballot initiative, saying it was approved for 25 years, which is a ten-year increase and has recession protections.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said pre-Covid, the Library closed at 9 PM but now it is closing at 8 PM and he has not heard any commitment to restoring pre-Covid hours. He said he would like to know if the Library is going to have two meetings in February or one.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Bolander asked how the Library will deal with inflation and where adjustments would come from.

Fernandez said inflation shows up on the expenditures side, the Library escalates based on what projections have been done in the past and what the current expenditures are. If the General Fund is hit, the Library depends on the Auditor's Office to give guidance of what the revenue side is and how it is impacted. He said the Library anticipates guidance from the Controller's Office in January/February on impacts.

Commissioner Lomax Ghirarduzzi asked about workforce development and if there are any new things to add or is it expanding to the Branches.

Fernandez said they will bring proposals to the Commission to bring workforce development accountability in-house.

President Wolf thanked staff for their incredible planning and said that in difficult times and, with the economic challenges that we're facing, the Library becomes even more important and vital and the Commission depends on the incredible efforts of the staff to keep providing those resources as the situation becomes more challenging for each family and individual and residents needing more.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Explanatory Documents: Annual Report, FY 21-22; Annual Report Presentation; SFPL First Quarter Progress Report; and US Mint Partnership: Anna May Wong Quarter

Kate Patterson, Director of Communications presented the draft Library Annual Report, which is focused on the recovery of the Library from Covid closures with programming resuming and patrons being welcomed back into the buildings. Patterson pointed out that the data, such as 11 million in physical and eCirculation and 21,870 Youth Programs offered, showed steady growth in the Library's post pandemic recovery. Patterson said each Branch is highlighted in the Report.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships reported on the Friends Grant Expenditures for 2021-2022, which totaled $573,320.

Terry Carlson, Assistant Chief of Branches reported on the Branch first quarter progress saying all 27 Branches have

reopened for seven-day service and the Mission Temporary site is open. The Branches hosted open houses welcoming patrons back into the Library and she outlined the Adult and Youth Programs offered to date.

Katrin Reimuller, Acting Chief of the Main Library reported the Main just had its one-year Anniversary for reopening

and all floors and services are available to patrons. Reimuller highlighted a few of the Adult and Youth programs being offered, such as Family Fun Day and a Portfolio Program for Students who want to go to San Francisco School of the Arts (SOTA) High School.

Michelle Jeffers gave a programming update and said there is tremendous interest from Patrons to come into the Library for programming, including Literacy and Learning offerings like Tech It Forward and One City One Book.

Randy McClure, Chief Analytics Officer, presented data which demonstrated visits to the Library are trending up; with an 11% increase in visitors compared to the last 4 months of 2022; circulation remains strong; programming increased by 82% and program attendance is up 150% with over 65,00 patrons participating.

City Librarian Lambert said the Library had a capacity crowd for the release of the Anna May Wong Quarter for the American Women Quarters series. Lambert said the event was in partnership with the Asian Pacific American Heritage Foundation of San Francisco and the Center for Asian American Media.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said the Library is doing a lot, it's certainly recovering in one from Covid and the complete closures that started Covid. He said there is rarely a description of improvement or of comparisons with pre-Covid performance and thinks the Library should be aiming for restoration of what the Library had previously.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall congratulated the staff and said the first quarter programs are impressive, she applauded that they were quantified with data and descriptions. Mall said she is very happy that things are back on track and improving and growing.

Commissioner Lomax Ghirarduzzi said she had never seen, outside a fee-based service, a program offering adolescents art-based drawing classes at no cost to build art portfolios. By the nature of who has access to such programs, it becomes an equity issue, a social equity issue, a racial equity issue. Lomax Ghirarduzzi said the Portfolio program is such a great level setter, it is hard for talented young people to be noticed and get access. She thanked staff for making it available.

Commissioner Lopez congratulated Terry Carlson for her new role as Assistant Chief of Branches. Lopez said she appreciated all the programming and diversity of activities, not just culturally but age and capacity, like the drawing, sewing, and breaking the Digital Divide by offering computers to a population often overlooked and teaching them how to use the computers. Lopez said the partnerships and collaborations the Library has built with other entities in the City and local communities is amazing.

Vice President Huang said there is a time and place for a multi-year analysis of where the Library is and we did that analysis previously and had a deep discussion about the underlying drivers. The goal of this is to recognize that there are a lot of people working hard every single day to make this place the best place they can make it, and by that measure it is phenomenal. Everyone wants our city and institutions to be better but we can celebrate our staff,

our leaders, and our partners. Huang thanked everyone who does the work every day because that is what makes the Library what it is.

President Wolf thanked the Commissioners for making such impactful testimonies about all of the great work and said it is amazing to get these numbers and to see the kind of attention the Library staff gives to each person is very special. Wolf said all the kids that in the presentations picture, are going to be able to vote for the next Library Preservation Fund in 25 years, and it is wonderful to think about these young kids growing up with Libraries at the center of their lives.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 20, 2022

Explanatory Documents: October 20, 2022 Draft Minutes

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said he certainly appreciates the good that the Library does and commented about his previous comments at the October Commission meeting.

Motion: By Commissioner **MALL,** seconded by Vice President **HUANG** to approve the **October 20, 2022**, Commission Minutes

Action: AYES 6-0 (Wolf, Huang, Lomax Ghirarduzzi, Mall, López, and Bolander)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 ADJOURNMENT OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2022

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said the Library should not adjourn until they say what future agenda items they would like to see at a future Library Commission meeting.

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner **LOMAX GHIRARDUZZI,** seconded by Commissioner **LOPEZ** to adjourn.

Action: AYES 6-0 (Wolf, Huang, Lomax Ghirarduzzi, Mall, López, and Bolander.)

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM
Margot Shaub - Commission Affairs Analyst

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the Commission Liaison Affairs Analyst/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 Commission webpage: sfpl.org/library-commission/public-notices/agendas. 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).