



# *San Francisco Public Library*

## **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 16, 2023**

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting **November 16, 2023**, virtually and at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

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

Commissioners Present: Wolf, Huang, Ono, Lomax Ghirarduzzi and Bolander.

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

Peter Warfield, Executive Director Library Users Association, Libraryusers2004@yahoo.com, said he sees five commissioners, did not hear the roll call and the library announced there is no remote public comment after this meeting, the Commission should make a formal decision on the issue.

Rudy Juárez, Member of Local 21 and Circulation Supervisor at the Library said at the last commission meeting there was some talk regarding labor and unions when the commissioners weighed in on strategic planning initiative and that Labor is receptive to hearing any proposals management may have regarding the Strategic Initiative. He said they go into a bargaining cycle next year and the prioritization of safety in the worksite for patrons and staff and, the Library fully staffed, needs to be addressed by any strategic plan.

Glenn Rogers said remote public comment should not be curtailed because the Board of Supervisors had a difficult time with the public, and often their commenting was rude but people at the Library Commission are well behaved, and he supports allowing the public to meet and give public comment over Zoom.

Alisa Lee said she has been a San Francisco resident since 1997, she is a lawyer and a writer, and an enthusiastic and avid fan of the library and all its services. As a Board Member of the Friends since 2020 she commends everything the Library has been doing around the Strategic Planning process and the hard work being put in day after day. Friends appreciates how the Library brought them in as a strategic partner throughout this process. Lee highlighted Friends fundraising and has been very successful.

Caller said they are concerned about the prohibition against remote public comment, and they think the Mayor must be in on this, it's a very sad to see this happening. The library has the vast resources of any public institution for those most in need of using its resources, low income, disabled, and taking away the very few ways the public has of using and accessing the library commission which is a body that serves everyone in San Francisco.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 19, 2023**

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said the Library minutes are unfortunate in a number of respects, and no respect for what people are saying or give a reasonable report of what he says and he gives his contact information to make up for the deficits that remote comment includes.

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner **LOMAX GHIRARDUZZI** seconded by Commissioner **BOLANDER** to approve the **OCTOBER 19, 2023** Minutes.

**Action:** AYES 5-0 (Wolf, Huang, Ono, Lomax Ghirarduzzi and Bolander)

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

John Cunha, Facilities Director and Lisa Valerio, Capital Projects Manager gave an update on completed, ongoing and upcoming capital projects. Completed projects include 750 Brannan Street Collections and the Main Library Talking Books and Braille Center (TBBC). Active projects they discussed included Energy Efficiency at 190 Ninth Street, and renovations of Mission Branch Library and Chinatown Branch. The Ocean View Branch project is moving along and they are partnering with Real Estate on potential locations for the new branch. Upcoming projects include Main Library flooring, roof, and seismic moat, Electric Vehicle Charging at 750 Brannen Street and Air Quality improvements.

Public Comment

Carrie Blanding, Interim Executive Director for Friends of the San Francisco Public Library Foundation, said the Friends love Branches, they are essential to making sure that each resident has access to the expansive library resources and Friends has a great track record of fundraising to support furniture, fixtures and equipment at Library branches, they are actively raising funds for Mission and Chinatown and poised to start raising funds for Ocean View when the project is finalized.

Glenn Rogers said the idea of having the IT Bookman and the public library together was an idea that he had about six months ago, and he is glad it has come back again, because it could create an economic center that is not presently there. The present location for the library on Brotherhood Way, has many problems and is a bad location.

Peter Warfield said in the back of the room when he arrived there was only the agenda and none of the explanatory documents, which is contrary to what the tradition has been, so he asked the City Librarian, who gave him some of the materials, most of them but not every one of them and suggested he go to the information desk to get the minutes, which would have made him late for general public comment. He asked if the Historic Preservation Commission was involved in any Capital Planning.

## Commission Discussion

President Wolf asked for clarification on what 190 Ninth Street project was.

John Cunha said it is one of the Library's non-public buildings and City Librarian Lambert said the Chief of Branches and the Chief of Collections and Technical services are located there.

Commissioner Ono said she appreciate everyone's understanding and patience as the Library goes through the renovations and some of them take a long time, like Ocean View. The Library has to work with other departments to make sure we are doing the right thing for all of San Francisco. Ono thanked staff for the work they have been doing and Friends for fundraising for these projects.

Vice President Huang asked what the outstanding dependencies are for a possible partnership with Pilgrim Church, what the cost projection to develop was and what are the next steps.

Cunha said the Library needs a third-party developer to pull it all together, the location is wonderful, a double lot right on public transit but the Library does not have the budget to do it alone. Pilgrim Church brings the property to the table and the Library needs to identify another party for a project that size.

Commissioner Lomax Ghirarduzzi asked if there were any examples of a partnership that could potentially be like the one the Library is entering into conversations with the Pilgrim Church.

Cunha said when he was at Harvard for Library Design Class, he learned several of the Chicago Public Library branches have successful colocations, and it is a better way to serve the community.

President Wolf said that the Library's real estate is an important part of the mission and how we serve the community, the only city department with brick-and-mortar space, and it is critical to who the Library is.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 CITY LIBRIANS REPORT**

Jen Woo, Family Engagement Coordinator highlighted the multiple events, programs, and book lists for Native and Indigenous Peoples Heritage Celebration, including hosting an American Indian Film Festival and a Natural Ink Making Workshop.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Operating Officer, said the Library was awarded additional state grant monies through the California State Building Forward Grant, \$6.3 million in total for the roof project at the Main and the seismic moat. Singleton said the Library is required to and has matched the amount thanks to the Commission approving those monies, which allowed the Library to be eligible for the grant.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships gave an overview of the FY 2022-2023 Annual Report, with Data highlights and major milestones like 6,030 youth programs offered, a 223% increase from FY 22., and reaching 12 million in circulation checkouts.

## Public Comment

Matt Kenaston, Friends of the Library Board Member and Treasurer said he was delighted to celebrate the

Library's Annual Report and thanked the Library for the colorful page highlighting Friends support of the Library. The Friends have provided millions of dollars of support to the amazing Library and its programs.

Peter Warfield said the annual report does not show the income of the Friends and that has been an ongoing issue. How much do the Friends keep from what they collect. The graph of circulation doesn't show a previous graph, which showed books are tremendously strong and came back as the library opened physical locations, although it still does not have pre-COVID hours.

#### Commission Discussion

President Wolf said it was a great presentation, and the annual report captures the spirit of all the Library does and it's probably only the tip of the iceberg. Wolf said the Commission is inspired by what Jen Woo has created and the robust programming to reach out and engage the larger population to learn and understand more deeply about traditions, cultures, and beliefs. Wolf thanked the Friends for their support and welcomed the interim Executive Director.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 2024 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE**

##### Public Comment

Peter Warfield said the commission meeting schedule might be convenient for library management but not for the public and should start at a more convenient time.

##### Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner **BOLANDER** seconded by Vice President **HUANG** to approve the 2024 Library Commission Meeting Calendar.

**Action:** AYES 5-0 (Wolf, Huang, Ono, Lomax Ghirarduzzi and Bolander)

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 ADJOURNMENT OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2023 COMMISSION MEETING**

##### Public Comment

Peter Warfield said he thinks they should not adjourn until they insist that the Library Commission have an agenda item that gives them an opportunity to say what they would like on future agenda items.

##### Commission Discussion

Motion: By Vice President **HUANG** seconded by Commissioner **LOMAX GHIRARDUZZI** to Adjourn the Meeting.

**Action:** AYES 5-0 (Wolf, Huang, Ono, Lomax Ghirarduzzi and Bolander)

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM  
Margot Shaub, Commission Affairs Analyst

To access **Commission Meeting recordings** please visit: [Library Commission Meeting Recording](#)

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