



# *San Francisco Public Library*

## **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of DECEMBER 14, 2023**

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting DECEMBER 14, 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, Mall, and Lopez.

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

Peter Warfield, Executive Director Library Users Association, Libraryusers2004@yahoo.com, said the library has in his view quite a wonderful slogan basically the library is providing free and equal access to the joys of reading for the diverse community. The library does not always live up to that. The library also has tremendous, excellent resources but is deficient in letting folks know what the library has.

Glenn Rogers said he was disappointed that the mayor is no longer backing up that location at Oceanview.

George, the former president of the twin peaks counsel, former president of the coalition for San Francisco neighborhoods, and cofounder of the San Francisco land use coalition has been against the project from day one for many of the reasons and believes that it is a very dangerous site from a public safety perspective. District 11 needs another library.

Carrie Blanding, Interim Executive Director for Friends of the San Francisco Public Library Foundation, said the Friends have a number of exciting things happening right now, most recently the fortieth anniversary celebration for Project Read, an amazing program for adult literacy and Friends is proud to have been a part of the founding of that program. Very soon they will launch the search for the long-term Executive Director.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 16, 2023**

#### Public Comment

Peter Warfield said the minutes are deficient and continue systematically to exclude his comments about the toxicity of social media.

#### Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner **MALL** seconded by Commissioner **LOPEZ** to approve the **NOVEMBER 16, 2023** Minutes.

**Action:** AYES 5-0 (Wolf, Huang, Ono, Mall, and Lopez)

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 FY 25-26 Budget**

Chief Operating Officer, Maureen Singleton presented the FY 25-26 Budget and said the Mayor's Office is projecting deficits for the next several fiscal years, and their instructions to all Departments was to make general fund reductions and limit discretionary spending because of the changing economic conditions. The Mayor shared with departments the priorities for the upcoming cycle, which include improving public safety and street conditions, investing in citywide economic vitality, reducing homelessness, and transforming mental health service deliveries, and accountability and equity in the services provided to the public.

#### Public Comment

Peter Warfield said he would like to see a priority on print or at least a quality of print and that has to do with the access that people have, often the print version of something has a long waiting list the E version does not and there are times when you have simply no print version at all.

George thanked Maureen for the presentation and said the current \$6 billion is not nearly enough and he doesn't feel the CBC estimates correctly. And two years in a row they have been running out of money much faster. The costs will go up and the estimates are too low.

Glenn Rogers said one of the discussions that was involved with the Oceanview Library was that there is a need for the library land to be purchased by the library from DPW and you don't really want to have your library be on the property of DPW, it is going to be necessary to purchase of that land.

Michael Vincent from Friends of the Library said they are excited to see the budget conversation starting, so much of the work they do advocating for public funds, advocating for the library is to make sure that the library and staff can spend these funds effectively.

#### Commission Discussion

President Wolf thanked Maureen for the presentation and asked if the \$ 2.3 million of potential new investments is included in the \$1.86 million or is that in addition to?

Singleton said it would be in addition to.

Commissioner Mall asked about the what the Mayor's directions to departments were priorities.

Singleton said the Mayor directed Departments to provide help improving public safety and street conditions, contribute to citywide economic vitality, reduce homelessness, and transform mental health service delivery and provide accountability and equity in services and spending.

Commissioner Ono asked about the reliance on other agencies and departments and how that might impact the Library and security in branches, is that something that will come back to the Commission in February.

Singleton said the Library provides a lot of the services directly through Library staff, they'll have to make sure the Sheriff's department at the Main library will still continue to have the capacity to provide their services.

Commissioner Lopez asked if there were concerns with hiring.

Singleton said the Mayor's office does not want departments to grow staff in subsequent years and fill the positions that are related to core services.

President Wolf said the Commission will be revisiting the budget in January and February, and will learn more about costs, look at options and make decisions. With the Library Preservation Fund the Library is part of the solution to advance the Mayor's points.

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

Frances Matthews, Bridge Learning and Literacy Center Volunteer Coordinator highlighted what volunteer services does, which a large portion of their work is spent supporting the tutoring programs based in the Bridge Learning and Literacy center. She recruits and trains volunteer applicants for Fog Readers, Project Read, ESL and Tech Time programs.

Ileana Pulu, Youth Development Coordinator gave an overview of the Teen/Tween Winter Read program, which promotes youth reading and participate in Library activities over the School Winter break.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships reviewed the Annual Holiday Train, highlighting a new partnership with the Carquinez Model Railroad Society that helped build the train set.

#### **Public Comment**

Peter Warfield asked about publicity for the volunteers because he does not see volunteer opportunities in the branches.

#### **Commission Discussion**

Commissioner Ono said she thought all the programs are really good and asked about a Zoom call that was international.

Matthews said one of the Zoom participants had been calling in from Brazil to help pass their English exams and they started moving a lot of the volunteer programming to Zoom during the pandemic and it is easier for some to participate over Zoom than to get to a Library location.

Commissioner Lopez asked what the requirements are to volunteer and said she appreciates the volunteer program and as second language learner and she knows how important it is, when learning a new language, it can be intimidating and it is important to have a safe place where you are understood.

Matthews said it varies by program.

Commissioner Mall spoke about the positive experience her family had with volunteering with project read tutors.

President Wolf said she attended the volunteer party and found it interesting because the people were from all over the city, with different experiences and ages.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 2024 ELECTION OF 2024 COMMISSON OFFICERS**

##### Public Comment

Peter Warfield said the current leadership is fine and recommended Commissioner Mall as President and almost anyone as Vice President.

##### Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner **MALL to Nominate CONNIE WOLF for 2024 Commission President**

**Action:** AYES 5-0 (Wolf, Huang, Ono, Mall, and Lopez)

Motion: By Commissioner **LOPEZ to Nominate PETE HUANG for 2024 Commission Vice President**

**Action:** AYES 5-0 (Wolf, Huang, Ono, Mall, and Lopez)

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 ADJOURNMENT OF THE DECEMBER 14, 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 Commissioner **LOPEZ** seconded by Commissioner **MALL** to Adjourn the Meeting.

**Action:** AYES 5-0 (Wolf, Huang, Ono, Mall, and Lopez)

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 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-notice/agendas](http://sfpl.org/library-commission/public-notice/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).

**SUBMITTED PUBLIC COMMENT**

Hello Library Commissioners and City Librarian Michael Lambert,<sup>5</sup>

Today in the Chronicle on Page A6 is an article titled "Challenger Charges Breed of Retribution".

Stated in the article is fact that Mayor London Breed and Supervisor Ahsha Safai are not in agreement on the location of the new Oceanview Library located at 100 Orizaba.

Mayor Breed is of the opinion there is not enough community support. Speaking as a Landscape Architect, I can say "a segment of the immediate community does not want the library built at that site but rather somewhere else." Also, Mayor Breed states the budget is unavailable for the library at this time.

The immediate community complain:

- \* The site at 100 Orizaba is not safe due to the high volume of traffic at Brotherhood Way.
- \* Orizaba is too narrow a street.
- \* It will remove part of the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt.
- \* Providing an opportunity for further encroachment in the future.
- \*

It was not a coincidence David Long originally provided a Brotherhood Way Traffic Plan which included housing on the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt. When I was distributing the Westside Observer, discussing the library at this location, one resident offered a City employee had proceeded me asking, if "Housing" would be agreed upon here. Fundamentally, the push for a library here is a desire to provide housing here later.

Please, help me protect the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt. San Francisco needs to preserve what little open space it has.

Thank you,

Glenn Rogers, RLA Landscape Architect License 3223

Please, provide this statement without additions or omissions in the Minutes. Word count 156 words.