



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of JULY 18, 2024

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on JULY 18, 2024, at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library and able to view virtually on Zoom.

The SFPL Commission meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

Commissioners Present: Wolf, Huang, Mall, Lopez and Bolander.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Warfield, Executive Director of Library Users Association Libraryusers2004@yahoo.com, PO Box 170544, San Francisco California 94117-0544, said the Library likes to tout it is the Queerest Library ever, and he doesn't feel that is true, this month is Disabled Pride Month and San Francisco Library website shows no mention of it.

Emily Garvie, Executive Director Friends of the Library, shared updates of Friends activities including the Friends Book Sale and fundraising is underway for **(Mission and Chinatown?)**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 20, 2024

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said the minutes were jumbled of what he said and lack clarity.

Commission Discussion

Motion: Motion by Vice President **HUANG** Commissioner seconded by Commissioner **MALL** to approve the **JUNE 2024** Commission Minutes.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE PRESENTATION

Lisa Valerio, Capital Projects Manager and John Cunha, Facilities Director gave an update on Library Capital Projects, their estimated costs and completion dates. The Main Library projects consist of the Roof, Moat, Safety Barriers, and Carpet. Branch Capital projects are Ocean View, \$65-94 million estimate, Chinatown, \$37 million estimate and Mission Branch, \$34 million estimate.

Public Comment

Glenn Rogers, President of Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods said he is opposed to the location at 100 Orizaba, it is not a safe location.

Nicky Trasvina, volunteer Council of Neighborhood Libraries OMI Branch, said the 100 Orizaba location downside is that is going to cause harm, it is a dangerous area to walk and drive, it is not safe and she supports the Pilgrim/It Bookman site.

Peter Warfield said Orizaba location is dangerous and located in an earthquake zone and the crossing right next to it is a death trap and would like to know how many books will be there compared to the existing books.

Mary Harris, President Neighbors in Action said they did not understand the increase in costs and would like a better explanation of the costs for different amounts of square feet.

John Trasvina, OMI Homeowner, submitted public comment, thanking the Library for its stewardship of an excellent public library system in San Francisco and regarding the proposal for a larger and permanent branch library to serve the Ocean View-Merced Heights-Ingleside (OMI) urged the continued consideration of the I.T. Bookman Center on Randolph Street for a new library. While many currently favor Orizaba and Brotherhood Way, that location is less accessible and potentially more dangerous to vehicular and other traffic than the Bookman Center. The Bookman Center is directly on the M Streetcar line, within a few hundred feet of the current library and is a well-known community location. OMI residents remember Mr. Bookman as a welcoming and inclusive community leader and it would be a tremendous testament to community residents and young people to have the Center become the place for our new library. The Brotherhood Way location is less accessible, especially for seniors.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lopez asked if there were still issues with PG&E at the Mission Branch.

Andy Sohn, Public Works, said with the Mission library there's a distinction between types of service and there has been risk with PG&E with aspects for the whole project there's still stuff out there but most of the it has been ironed out and the risk reduced.

President Wolf said for Oceanview the Library set aside \$41.2 million and there is a firm commitment from this commission, from his organization, to create a new branch of the library in the Oceanview district. The question about what the timeline and cost will be and where is it going to be, we have two locations that are simultaneously on the same path even though we have a priority based on the

Supervisors direction to prioritize one location but we are keeping both location options open, there are pros and cons to both.

Commissioner Mall said the Commission has been talking about this a long time and said she did not understand why the Orizaba location is still up for discussion, based on all of the modifications that would be necessary to make that location work, when there's a perfectly good site across the street that the Library could partner with that would make people's lives easier, safer, it would cost the city less money. And because one supervisor has chosen this outcome and it's an outlying area as his personal pet project., why is the Library hijacked by this?

Michael Lambert, City Librarian responded that on June 18th the Supervisor reintroduced his legislation that failed to pass earlier this year, which would preclude the Library from building anywhere except 100 Orizaba.

Commissioner Bolander asked the original estimates on the cost of the ocean view project, which was \$47 million back in 2019 and is that 30 % materials increase in the last two years and asked if it is common for a Supervisor to introduce legislation to limit a project.

Andy Sohn, Public Works, said materials increase was 75% in the last four years.

Lambert said it was highly unusual to limit a project like this.

President Wolf said she agreed with Commission Mall but noted the other site required a lot of the Library's control and while there's a real sense from the community and the city about how to bring housing, community centers and libraries altogether, it requires everything lining up and we are just one piece of the puzzle. We have these two sites and will to plan both at the same time, until the point where a decision has to be made.

Vice President Huang asked about the timeline for the project.

Lambert said the election, in which a state funding ballot initiative is on the November election and that funding is essential for the viability of that option.

Commissioner Lopez asked what we get for investing in either site.

Lambert said the Library can continue to build that budget and work with public works on what's called a design to build option and leverage the available funds to build as large of a library as possible. The Library wants to adhere to the Planning Department recommendations to consider joint use and locating the library with other services and other amenities to bring greater benefit to the community, and keep all options open, and whether they build on Randolph or Orizaba, the Library is committed to delivering a 21st century library with all the bells and whistles.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

President Wolf acknowledged that Michael Lambert is the newly sworn in President of the Public Library Association.

Christina Mitra, Program Manager, Hormel Center gave an overview on Pride Month programs and events and Hormel Center Activities. Mitra said programming was system-wide, including the Main and Branches and outreach included Pride in the Parks and Trans March, where they gave away books and hosted a contingent in the Pride Parade.

Natalie Enright, Literacy Manager, presented about the Career Online High School, which is an accredited fully online high school diploma program free to SF residents and SFPL Patrons. The program launched in 2015, with the goal to help adults achieve their educational and career aspirations. The program has more than 100 graduates.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian presented on the Public Library Association and his recent election as its 2024-2025 President.

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said he had some problems with what did not happen and what is not present and the deemphasis on books. He said he had a lot of trouble with the kind of lack of publicity about the library and about materials and the collection, he had trouble finding information about Pride and no mention of what is available, the gay materials are hidden away.

Commission Discussion

President Wolf said she and Commissioner Lopez enjoyed participating with the Library in the Pride Parade.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 ADJOURNMENT of THE JULY 18, 2024 COMMISSION MEETING in MEMORY OF MARCIA POPPER

Michael Lambert spoke about the contributions of Marica Popper to the Library and her leadership with the Council of Neighborhood Libraries.

Public Comment

Katherine Hsieh, volunteer CNL co-rep CNL rep. for Chinatown submitted public comment in which she extended her heartfelt condolences to the family of Marcia Popper. Marcia truly loved life and lived it in an authentic way. She will be missed by those whose lives she touched and the causes she championed it looks like too.

Peter Warfield said he has limited awareness of Marcia Popper and felt that she was devoted to what she was doing with respect to the library and cared and the Commission should not adjourn until they have an item on items the Commission wants to see on future Commission agendas.

Nora Dowley, Glen Park CNL representative, said in 1997 Marcia Popper welcomed her to the Council of Neighborhood Libraries, Marica was a voice of reason, had a great perspective and a wonderful sense of humor, she will miss her very much.

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner **MALL** seconded by Commissioner **LOPEZ** to adjourn the meeting.

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

The meeting adjourned at **6:25 PM**

Margot Shaub, Commission Affairs Analyst

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

Please note: These are draft minutes subject to revision by the San Francisco Public Library Commission. Copies of the minutes and handouts are available in the office of the Library Commission Affairs Analyst, 6th floor, Main Library, 100 Larking Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4733.

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).