

**PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED VIA EMAIL FOR THE 08/20/20 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING**

**From:** Dezurick-Badran, Emily

**Sent:** Friday, July 31, 2020 7:47 PM

**To:** City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB)

**Subject:** Public Comment for the August 2020 Library Commission Meeting

The following questions were compiled by SFPL staff members who wished to remain anonymous, and given to me to convey to the Library Commission. I hope that you will consider these questions and suggestions.

- We know each library location can safely open because another city agency asked to use all library locations for Community Hubs meaning the City felt it was safe to be inside those buildings. Will the Library Commission go on record saying to the public and the Mayor that they want all library locations open even if only for one day per week?
- Will the Library Commission go on record saying to the public and the Mayor that they want to put all librarians back to work as librarians as soon as possible?
- Will the Library Commission go on record saying to the public and the Mayor that they want to bridge the digital divide in San Francisco by having the library adopt services similar to Denver Public Library's computer stand and other outreach services?
- Will the Library Commission go on record saying to the public and the Mayor that if there is another crisis that uninterrupted library service is a top priority due to digital access, virtual community building, and the ability to act as a neighborhood information center.
- If we ask the Mayor, would she agree that it was her decision not to open all library locations, not to make librarians essential, not to bridge the digital divide?
- Because the library failed to convince the Mayor to open all library locations, to make all librarians essential, or to bridge the digital divide, do you think patrons should start writing letters/making calls/social media posts to the Mayor in order to convince her of the essentialness of every aspect of the library? If so, I've attached a template for my fellow concerned citizens to fill out and pass along:

Dear Mayor Breed,

Please make all librarians essential because they build and bridge communities like no other profession in the City. Please provide access to computers, power outlets, and WiFi hotspots, because the internet is a lifeline to work, services, and family and friends.

Please open all library locations because access to books is essential to mental health, physical and financial wellbeing, and the education of young people.

Thank you,  
Citizen Name

Yours Sincerely,  
Emily Dezurick-Badran, on behalf of other SFPL staff

From: Library Users Association  
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:53 PM  
To: City Librarian, City Librarian (LIB); Lambert, Michael (LIB)  
Cc: Castillo, Almer (LIB); Blackman, Sue (LIB)  
Subject: Urgent Communication for LIBRARY COMMISSION PRESIDENT, AND EACH COMMISSIONER

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PLEASE FORWARD TO LIBRARY COMMISSION PRESIDENT AND ALL COMMISSIONERS\*\*\*

Dear President Wardell-Ghirarducci and Each Member of the Library Commission:

1. Please Ensure Public Comment Opportunity Works Well 2. We Want to Comment on Every Agenda Item - Always

Public Comment opportunity at public meetings is a vital part of our democracy, and is explicitly provided for in our laws. But, unfortunately, at last month's Library Commission meeting, I was unable to make public comment on the most important item on the agenda, despite my best efforts to do so under the remote meeting system the Library is using.

Of course, it is a concern that we and others may have the same, or other, difficulties with the new COVID-19-era remote meetings and their implementation.

I have not been the only person who has had difficulties. But whatever your understanding of the quality of the system and its implementation, we ask you to take some effort to improve it, including determining what happened in my case, and finding out what other difficulties others may have had with respect to participation, of any kind, in the meetings.

For your information, (a)Library Users Association intends to participate in every meeting, and to make public comment on every agenda item; (b)we ask for continued notification of any future meetings, on the same basis as the Commission and any majority of commissioners.

And, we also ask you to be alert:

If we are not clearly on your list of those wishing to make public comment on any agenda item, or are going to be omitted from making public comment -- something is wrong, and \*\*\*\*\* we ask you to make some effort to fix and/or mitigate possible issues for us and others \*\*\*\*\*

We would be glad to discuss and/or make suggestions if you would find it beneficial.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Warfield  
Executive Director  
Library Users Association

From: Library Users Association  
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 2:54 PM  
To: Lambert, Michael (LIB)  
Cc: Castillo, Almer (LIB)  
Subject: 1. We Want to Comment on Every Agenda Item - Always 2. Please Ensure Public Comment Opportunity

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\*\*\*\*\* Please forward this to the President and Vice President and each Member of the Library Commission \*\*\*\*\*

Dear City Librarian Michael Lambert:

Public Comment opportunity at public meetings is a vital part of our democracy, and is explicitly provided for in our laws. But, unfortunately, at last month's Library Commission meeting, I was unable to make public comment on the most important item on the agenda, despite my best efforts to do so under the remote meeting system the Library is using.

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If we are not clearly on your list of those wishing to make public comment on any agenda item, or are going to be omitted from making public comment -- something is wrong, and we ask you to make some effort to fix and/or mitigate possible issues.

We would be glad to discuss and/or make suggestions if you would find it beneficial.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Sincerely yours,

Peter Warfield  
Executive Director  
Library Users Association

To: citylibrarian@sfpl.org

From: LIBRARY USERS ASSOCIATION

PLEASE NOTE: Library Users Association plans to make in-person comment via telephone at this meeting -- on every agenda item. We have called the stated number as well to let City Librarian's Office

Comments on August 20, 2020 Library Commission Meeting --

Library Users Association makes these comments In accordance with the Library Commission Agenda notice which reads as follows:

"Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely. If you want to ensure your comment on any item on the agenda is received by the Commission in advance of the meeting, please send an email to citylibrarian@sfpl.org by 5pm on Wednesday, August 19 or call 415-557-4236. Emailed comments will be posted on the Library Commission webpage."

1. General Public Comment.

Library Users Association is concerned that the Agenda for this and the prior remotely-conducted meeting gives lengthy instructions for participating in the meeting, and that is appropriate (although we think the instructions are not complete). **But mixed in with these instructions about the meeting is the paragraph above which describes making public comment in a way that has nothing to do with public comment in a meeting**

1. General Public Comment

2. Community Learning Hubs Discussion

(This is a discussion on the Library's partnership with the Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) to activate library locations as neighborhood-based community learning hubs.)

Explanatory documents: City Librarian Memo dated August 17, 2020 – Community Learning Hubs, and Press Release – Community Learning Hubs. and Community Learning Hubs Presentation

3. SFPL Reopening Plan Update Discussion

4. City Librarian's Report Discussion

(This item is to allow the City Librarian to report on recent Library activities and make announcements.) The City Librarian will give updates on: Youth Engaged in Library Leadership (YELL); One City One Book: San Francisco Reads; VIVA: Latino Hispanic Heritage Month and Public Library Data Alliance (PLDA). Explanatory documents:

5. Approval of the Minutes July 9, 2020 Action

6. Adjournment