



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 2, 2012

(As approved at the regular meeting of March 15, 2012)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, February 2, 2012, in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm.

Commissioners present: Breyer, Gomez, Kane, Munson, and Ono

Commissioner Nguyen arrived at 4:53 pm.

Commissioner Randlett was excused.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous citizen said the Executive Director of the Friends has resigned. Apparently the Friends are so private you don't need to know. He said he often points out that the public and democracy are the victims but the Commissioners are also the victims. He said what the Commission thinks is controlled, not by reason, but by whom you support and that is the people who give money. He said the bigger issue is that if you can't change your mind; your opinion does not matter. He said it is the Commission that is powerless. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the previous speaker has made some good points and it fits into something he has asked for and that is that the subject of new business should be on the agenda. He said is it that the people who make up the agenda are afraid to hear from Commissioners about what they would like to have discussed at the Commission meetings. He said this does a disservice to your appointing authority and to the public. He said you should insist that new business is on every agenda.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said at the last meeting Commissioner Randlett suggested that having new business on the agenda might be something to consider and she was rapidly

overridden by the President. He said there has not been a presentation from the Friends in over a year now. He said if the Friends were able to refute some of the comments that I and some of the other members of the public make they would have done so long ago. He said the only thing we get is condemnation of our comments. He said you have to be here a number of meetings to see the Commissioners lack of interest in the Friends and you are greatly deficient in your oversight with regards to the Friends.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 ELECTION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS FOR 2012

President Gomez asked for nominations for President and Vice-President of the Commission.

Commissioner Munson nominated Jewelle Gomez for President and Commissioner Ono seconded the nomination.

Commissioner Ono nominated Lee Munson for Vice-President and Commissioner Kane seconded the nomination.

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said when he saw this on the agenda he thought he is going to expect the worse possible outcome and if it turns out to be what he expects, he won't be disappointed and if it should happen by some strange freak of nature that it turns out differently he might be pleasantly surprised. He said the elections are kind of like the old Soviet bloc in that there are nominees and everyone knows better than to challenge the nominees because they are the ones delegated to win the election. He said he doesn't understand why that is. He said there are certainly other members of the Commission who are capable, but maybe everyone just knows who is in charge. He said maybe you should do what they used to do in the old Roman republic, elect Ms. Gomez to the position of dictator for life and then at least the rest of us could hope that an assassination might result in a change in leadership.

President Gomez asked the speaker to please be careful about his speaking because there might be people in the audience who do not appreciate that kind of violence.

An anonymous citizen said this is wonderfully emblematic. He said the President's conduct was found to be outside the standard for public officials and the Ethics Commission voted unanimously that she be removed from office. This was after the Sunshine Task Force found her guilty of willful misconduct. He said no one asked the Mayor to remove your president and the fact that she is still your president is a beacon of your contemptuousness for public process, open government and for the responsibility you are supposed to have for the public but don't have. He said the Commission will always do the opposite of what we recommend.

He said please return Ms. Gomez to the presidency so that that will confirm what we charge you with. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said there was a nomination for president and vice-president and no one was asked whether there were additional nominations. He said he would not endorse the suggested action of one of the speakers, but he said the process does resemble the old Soviet Union, the one party system. He said he expects there will be 100% support for these nominations. He said the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force found a very grave violation of the public's right to speak here in this room. He said the Ethics Commission, who had not heard previous complaints from the Task Force, heard this one and found unanimously that this person should be sacked from the Commission.

Ellen Egbert, Bernal Heights, said she would like to express her appreciation to Commissioners Gomez and Munson for their willingness to serve in somewhat untenable positions once again and she appreciates the time they spend in representing the library.

Clarice Moody, library user, also wanted to commend the Commissioners for their fortitude, intelligence and forbearance and she wished the Commission Godspeed.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Ono to elect Jewelle Gomez as President of the Commission.

Action: AYES 6-0: (Breyer, Gomez, Kane, Munson, Nguyen, and Ono).

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Kane to elect Lee Munson as Vice-President of the Commission.

Action: AYES 6-0: (Breyer, Gomez, Kane, Munson, Nguyen, and Ono).

Commissioner Munson said some of our critics do not see all the work we do. He said he is sorry if some people don't like certain historical incidents that have occurred. He said an outburst can occur. He said our Librarian was just selected as the foremost librarian in the United States by the Library Journal and that is a measure of the accomplishments of him and our Commission.

President Gomez said thanks to everyone for their support. She said despite a suggestion that assassination might be my better end; she said she does serve with pride on this Commission. She said if anything happens to her, you know who to go after.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. PERSPECTIVES ON THE FUTURE OF LIBRARIES

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said at past meetings we have discussed strategic priorities and in the conversation there have been questions

about looking towards the future and hearing different voices. He said he is delighted to introduce Stacey Aldrich, our State Librarian, who will give us her perspective on the future of libraries. He said Stacey was sworn in as State Librarian of California on November 19, 2009 and gave a little more biographical information on her.

Stacey Aldrich, California State Librarian gave a presentation on libraries of the future. She said we can look back and see what people in the past thought the future would look like. She said the more we change the more we stay the same. She said the core things the library has done for over 100 years is to collect, preserve and connect. She said there is something new we are doing now and that is to create. She said many things impact what our future will look like such as trends, uncertainties, wildcards and discontinuities. She said we need to consider information, the human factor and the virtual and physical. She said information contains content, everywhere, graphic/visual and literacy. She said the human factor includes communication, aging/longevity and life stages. She said the physical and virtual include hubs, connections and content. She said she believes the future of libraries is a positive one.

Explanatory Document: [Biography of Stacey A. Aldrich](#), State Librarian of California

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said this was a complex presentation that operates on a number of levels. He said it would be nice if the citizens had access to the graphics. He said apparently it is not so impossible to let other people have access to the graphics. He said if libraries are about communication and learning, why would we want libraries that are more exclusive rather than inclusive. He said this library among all libraries has been abused by the promise of the futurists. He said the visionaries felt that it was necessary to sweep away the old to make room for the new. He said this futurology was a metaphor for destruction and it turned out to be a con. He said libraries are not only about lowering barriers to communication, but preservation of the culture that we have inherited. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he thought that 'collect, preserve and make available' was the usual saying. He said there is a lot to consider particularly the electronic world which raises questions about the integrity of the content and the ease from which things can be tampered with. He said the question of preservation is a very serious one especially with DVDs. He said there is a question of privacy and surveillance. He said there is a problem of commercialization and central control.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said the question seems to be do we preserve everything. He said YouTube is having a

problem with determining what to save. He said the library has always been the place that he has gone to find information. He said there is still a part of the culture that does not read or write and maintains an oral record and it seems we forget about that. He said as a result we lose an appreciation of that. He said people are having difficulty applying for jobs because they do not have access to computers and we have to remember these people. He said change is occurring at a rapid pace.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane said he wants to make sure that when we approve our budget that we are not going down the wrong path. He asked Stacey Aldrich if she had examples of other libraries that she would see as a role model.

Stacey Aldrich, California State Librarian, said most people like to find things on their own but then if they need some help they like to connect right away, so what we need to be asking is how to help someone connect to someone who can help and what does that look like. She said there are many examples of innovative libraries all over the world. She said libraries are looking at how to use space. She said there are a lot of innovations that happen where you are because you look at the community and its needs. She said the social worker piece in San Francisco is very visionary. She said London has changed their libraries into “idea stores,” but they are having a problem with funding.

Commissioner Kane said he would like to hear more about the London “idea stores” at a future date. He said when he talks to people in the community some of them say libraries are archaic and no longer needed. Other people focus on libraries being a community place. He said he is worried about the access issue. He would like to have access to the books in the stacks available by e-readers. He said he would like to know more about how we are planning to archive local blogs and local content. He said it is critical that we continue training our librarians in the digital world and in locating resources.

Commissioner Ono said she appreciates the presentation and wants to know how best to budget for these items.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we have been giving deliberate thought to these ideas and how we prepare staff for the future. He said we are looking at technology on a daily basis. He said we will come back to the Commission with updates and continue to share information with you.

Commissioner Munson said when he was a child the first place he would go to is the library and talk to the librarians when he was looking for information. He said it is important to have a place where people are available to help people find information.

President Gomez said it is interesting to look at the parallel life of traditional books and the digital world. She said the tactile experience will

always be important and she thinks both aspects are important. She said she is interested in symbols and how people will be educated in the use of symbols. She said physiology will also be an interesting thing to look at.

Stacey Aldrich said it seems librarians are becoming life coaches and more people are looking for people to direct and assist them.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, thanked Stacey Aldrich and said her budget has been affected and he appreciates her hard work with the state librarians in looking forward to the future.

Commissioner Breyer said we are developing our budget and want to know about best practices and how San Francisco compares with other libraries. He also asked about the iPhone and how libraries are adapting to their use. He asked about archiving local blogs.

Stacey Aldrich said there are concerns that e-readers are not accessible and coming up with solutions. She said there are apps being developed by private parties and libraries are working with them. She said apps need to connect people to our collections in interesting ways. She said the YouMedia labs in Chicago are important to create content and digital history. She said those kinds of spaces are very important to the community. She said there has been a lot of discussion on archiving local blogs.

There was a discussion about archiving and looking deeper into finding information.

Commissioner Breyer said he would like to know about any things going on in other libraries connecting libraries together through video conferencing. He said it is important to learn about the future by looking at the past.

Stacey Aldrich said some libraries only check out VHS because people in the community do not have DVDs so libraries are community oriented and providing information based on the needs of community. She said that is why the spaces in libraries are so important.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. FISCAL YEAR 2012-13 AND 2013-14 BUDGET

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there has been a good discussion at the last couple of meetings on the budget. He said he has provided a cover memo that addresses some of the changes in the revised budget.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, explained the process and the calendar for the budget. She said the revenue picture is looking good over the next two years. She showed a chart of the FY 12 Budget and the FY 13 and 14 Base Budgets and explained the different categories. She said there are five strategic priority areas of literacy and learning, digital strategy, youth engagement, strategic partnerships, diversity in

programming. She said other investments will be in facilities and BLIP Post Occupancy Evaluation, and support services, efficiencies and personnel adjustment. She explained the charts that have been prepared in each of the different categories. She explained the details of the chart on Literacy and Learning Resource Investments specifically pointing out the bookmobile technology outreach upgrade.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, explained the five year trend for literacy and learning: collections budget. She said they are providing a larger increase to the eBook collection.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, explained the details in the charts for digital strategy resource investments and youth engagement resource investments.

Jill Bourne explained the strategic partnerships resource investments highlighting the Civic Center Community Benefit District Assessment, the Writers' Corps program enhancement and the Youth Works program enhancement.

Maureen Singleton explained the details in the Diversity in Programming Resource Investments.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian said that assistive technology equipment and software upgrade and maintenance and interpreter services for the hearing impaired are investments to look at tools and technology for the future.

Maureen Singleton explained the details for the facilities and BLIP Post Occupancy Evaluation. She said a new investment is in the teen center design.

Luis Herrera said there is an opportunity to leverage the dollars for the teen center with grants or private support. He said the BLIP Post Occupancy has been increased and we will make the Commission aware of the outcome of the evaluations.

Jill Bourne explained the Support Services Investments, Efficiencies and Other Adjustments and said that there is a new line that adds the savings from the library patron print notification.

Commissioner Nguyen left the meeting at 6:53 pm.

Maureen Singleton explained the support services efficiencies and said there is a new item on Wi-Fi Upgrade efficiencies. She said the personnel adjustments have not changed from the last meeting. She said the goal is to get to a 7% salary savings. She explained the Summary of Resource Investments chart. She explained the draft five year forecast with the investments we have outlined for this year.

Jill Bourne explained the hours of operations in 2006 and 2007 and the hours of operations 2010 - 2012. She said the hours increased from 2006 – 2012 by 12% (+108 hours per week). She said SFPL provides 1,314 operating hours weekly, which is 103 hours or 8.5% above the threshold requirement set by Prop D. She explained how the library designated the additional hours. She said the costs for increased hours are basically reflected in staff. She said the open hours review is to be completed in FY 13. She gave expanded hours cost estimates for opening two more days of service at two branches, six more days of service at six branches and costs estimates for opening the remaining 15 branches at seven days a week.

Maureen Singleton said the last chart is a review of the FY 12 budget and proposed FY 13 and 14 budgets. She said this does not include the addition of any additional hours. She said there are still city budget impacts that are not yet clear including 27 open labor contracts, retiree health cost adjustments and additional work order changes. She said they will return at the next Commission meeting on February 16 for further review and approval.

Explanatory documents: [Memo from the City Librarian](#) on FY 2013 and 2014 Budget Proposal Revisions; and [FY 2012-13 and 2013-14 Budget presentation](#).

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said at the January meeting he figured out in his head the percentage increases for books and materials and he got it egregiously wrong. He said we are now being shown the percent changes so that we don't have to do them in our heads. He said as expected, between 2009-2010, an increase in dollars was still a slight decrease as a percent of the budget and the same between 2011-2012. He said the real dollars showed a slight increase but the percent showed a decrease. He said with graphics he might be able to show a comparison with actual materials acquired and show an even greater loss of purchasing power over the same period. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said there are many questions that this presentation raises. He said the numbers of branches on the hours of operation do not add up. He said the pages in the report are not numbered. He said it was his group that originally fought for more open hours when the Board of Supervisors gave additional money for open hours and the City Librarian did not support it. He said the presentation did not acknowledge the severe reductions when the branches were closed. He said there are a range of problems and he takes it investments mean expenditures so it would be nice if it was in plain English.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said the two prior speakers talked about the content and he is going to talk about the

process. He said this budget was in front of the Commission two weeks ago and this report seems to answer a lot of questions with new maps, charts and information. He said you now have another two weeks to look at it before approval is required. He said one piece of the budget that is missing is taking this year's projections and comparing them to this year's actuals.

Melissa Riley, from the labor union, said she urged the Commission to continue to ask questions about how money is being spent. She would like to know what we are actually getting for the Community Benefit District. She said she would also question whether asking for more hours with every branch open on Sunday is an optimal use of our money. She said the pairing of branches on hours works pretty well. She said you might end up with inexperienced staff and adding programs to justify the extra hours. She said sometimes additional money in the book budget is not the best way to spend money. She said we need to look at the ecology of the system. She said she would urge the Commissioners to go out and visit the branches. She said she is not sure about the salary savings.

Edmund Juicy said Mayor Ed Lee said the mid-Market area will become a 24 hour area. He said he noticed there is a lot in the budget for teens and he would like to see more for baby boomers. He said it should always be teen/elders.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Munson said he would like to see the prior forecast next to the column of actual figures. He said Mr. Hartz made that suggestion and he thought it was a good one. He said we could then see how close we are coming on the forecasting part.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the Controller's Office does tracking on forecasts.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said the Controller's Office does this at the six-month and nine-month time frame. She said it would be at the macro level but we could bring that back to the Commission.

Commissioner Breyer said that historically it looks like the deficit is reduced in the five year forecast.

Commissioner Ono asked where the funding for the additional hours would come from. She said she would like to understand better the branch pairing.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said there is flexibility with the branch pairings and it has to do with staff availability and previous studies done.

Commissioner Munson said we are not out of the recession yet, so he would urge a possible two additional days and not more.

Commissioner Kane asked Brian Bannon about the technology investment side.

Brian Bannon, Chief Information Officer, said we did a 5-year technology plan about a year ago and it was a solid and aggressive plan. He said as part of the study they learned that there were also some reductions that they were able to make. He said there is an opportunity to look at next year and see where we are at that point.

Commissioner Kane asked if there is flexibility in the budget to have one iPad at each branch.

Brian Bannon, Chief Information Officer, said they are looking at that and how they can introduce new technologies.

Commissioner Kane asked about the amount of money being spent on facilities and asked if this budget provides enough money to maintain a good condition at the Main and branches.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said that he appreciates the support from the Commission and that this is a good increase to the budget.

Commissioner Kane asked about Post Occupancy Evaluation review of the BLIP.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the amount will need to be adjusted if there are more changes to the branches needed.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said there will be a very systematic review of each of the branches.

Commissioner Kane said he does not know why we are paying for Writers Corp and had questions about Youth Works interns.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian said there are approximately 30 slots per year for interns under Youth Works.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said they are a true partner with the Arts Commission on Writers Corp.

Commissioner Kane asked about the teen center design and he would like more information on what the amount in the budget will pay for.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian said the amount in the budget is a placeholder. She said they are looking at a space of approximately 5,000 sq. ft.

Commissioner Kane asked about the capital amount in the budget.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said the capital amount is both for the teen center and the POE.

Commissioner Kane said when he talks to people they want open hours especially on Sundays. He said he would encourage us to get every branch open on Sundays. He said when you look at the macro budget it will increase about \$5 million this year and there will be no extra hours. He said he would like to see the additional two days added and more if possible. He said he would not cut maintenance or technology, but he would look at things like joint ventures. He said he would like to see additional hours at Portola and Visitacion Valley and he would like to see two additional branches.

President Gomez said she thinks this is actually a community decision and she would like to hear from the community before making these decisions on hours.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said they will bring this back to the Commission, but they will be going out to the community to hear from them on the hours for the branches. He said we need to do this cautiously.

Commissioner Munson said if the economy straightens out that would be a time to look at more hours. He said he would be happy with adding two more days.

Commissioner Breyer said the consensus seems to be cautious expansion of the hours. He said the long term forecast seems much better than last year. He asked if we are confident about the revenue growth.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said we rely on the Controller's Office for those numbers.

Commissioner Kane left the meeting at 8:01 pm.

Commissioner Breyer asked about the benefits of the Community Benefit District (CBD).

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director said the CBD is up and running and there has been a lot of cleaning done in the area. He said he has noticed a definite benefit to the library.

Commissioner Breyer said he would like more information on the direct impacts to the adult and youth catalog and he said he is concerned that the print notification costs are going up. He asked about the costs for the teen center

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said they are working with the vendor on the print notification costs and they will bring back additional information on the teen center.

Commissioner Munson asked about opening branches on Sundays and if branches would prefer the Sundays to Monday.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said they want to fill the vacancies that the library currently has.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5. CITY LIBRARIANS REPORT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, announced that Brian Bannon has been appointed as Library Commissioner for the Chicago Public Library. He said Brian will succeed a great librarian, Mary Dempsey, who has been there 18 years. He said Brian will do a great job there and it is a tremendous loss to us. He said he wanted to give an update on the Presidio Branch and some concerns that had been brought up by a member of the public at a previous meeting. He said there was nothing out of the ordinary with the fans at the branch and there have not been any other issues brought at the branch. He said that same person brought up some issues about the task lighting in the Main and work orders have been issued to correct that. He said there has been a call for nominations for the San Francisco Poet Laureate. He said Jewelle Gomez sits on the selection committee. He said you have copies of the nomination form in your packets and nominations are due February 29, 2012.

Explanatory Document: [Call for Nominations for San Francisco Poet Laureate](#) Press Release; and [San Francisco Poet Laureate 2012 Nomination Form](#).

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said he wanted to thank Brian Bannon and wish him well. He said he has been a noteworthy addition to the staff. He said he is gratified that we have taken the complaints about noise pollution seriously and it is a serious concern. He said he is looking forward to the next poet laureate like everyone else.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said it would be a lovely idea to have Mr. Bannon make a speech or say something. He said he is glad the public's comments about the Presidio Branch were taken seriously. He said lighting is always an issue and he wishes he knew which lighting in the Main was being discussed. He said the library did a survey in each branch and the patrons almost overwhelmingly said that they wanted Sunday hours. He said the public has been asked and people want evenings and weekends.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6. LABOR UNION REPORT

Melissa Riley, from the labor union, said congratulations to Brian Bannon for becoming the head of such a huge library system and to congratulate Luis Herrera on his being named Librarian of the Year. She said referring to Stacey Aldrich's presentation what used to be called Vanity Press is now called self-publishing. She said when we focus on new things and new priorities we have to be sure that we use the current technologies and the staff that we currently have to best advantage. She said we need to prioritize the good things we are already doing. She said if you want better service and a better library system, she would not open additional hours at this time in this economy. She said we need more security, more custodial, more people in the processing department, and we need in-house cataloging, and more lighting. She said the new teen center sounds very exciting. She said we need to look at the whole library system not just books and hours.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said we do have to take a comprehensive look at the library and that mean balancing new priorities vs. the old strategies.

Due to a loss of quorum, the Commission recessed at 8:27 pm and reconvened at 8:34 pm.

An anonymous citizen said when you have a comprehensive strategy and the promise of something new, it seems glittering because someone can take credit for it. He said those visions sometimes turn out to be broken promises. He said it is more important to be mature about not leveraging things, if they are not worth being leveraged. He said if you remember that technology discussion with Brian Bannon it was all about really being able to do what you were planning. He said that is the point, to be realistic about it.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he appreciates the labor union comments. He said it is important not to be seduced by glamour and glitz and then ignore the older and not glitzy things. He said there are times when we hear about great programs but then they do not produce what they promised. He said many years ago he was involved in stopping the use of RFID in the library.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he appreciates the comments by the union representative. He said adding hours will require additional staff and careful planning. He said he did not appreciate, when he was using a literary comment, having a reaction to it as if he was actually suggesting assassination. He said historically that it was what the Romans did; they had a dictator for life and then the people would get tired of that person and say maybe someone would bump him off. He said it was not a literal statement and he did not appreciate the comment and he did not mean literally assassination.

Commission Discussion

President Gomez said we are about to lose our quorum so she would recommend trailing the Minutes to the next meeting.

Commissioner Breyer said basic services are key. He said security is a critical matter.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Munson to adjourn the regular meeting of February 2, 2012.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Breyer, Gomez, Munson, and Ono).

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Sue Blackman
Commission Secretary

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the commission secretary/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's website <http://sfpl.org>. 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).

ADDENDUM

These summary statements are provided by the speaker: Their contents are neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by, the San Francisco Public Library Commission.

Item 1: General Public Comment

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate & Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

The Executive Director of the Friends has resigned. The Friends are so private you don't need to know.

I often point out that the public and democracy are the victims, but the commissioners are also the victims.

People change their minds, but commissioners never do. What you think is controlled, not by reason, but by who you support – the “good people” – those who give money. They give the money so their status is unquestioned.

The bigger issue is that if you can't change your mind, your opinion does not matter. It is you who are powerless.

"If you are poor, you are guilty until proven innocent –
If you are rich, you are innocent even after you are proven guilty."

You could send the message that you want to know the truth, but you have not done so.

Item 2: Election of Commission Officers

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

This is wonderfully emblematic.

Your president's conduct was found to be outside the standard for public officials and the Ethic Commission voted unanimously that she be removed from office. This was after the Sunshine Task Force found her guilty of willful misconduct.

No one asked the Mayor to remove her because the fact that she is still your president is a beacon of your contemptuousness for public process, open government and your irresponsibility to the public.

Her continuance as your president represents your corruption, and we want her to continue.

At the same time, you always want to do the opposite of what we recommend. Returning her to office is shocking to all responsible citizens of San Francisco.

Please return Ms. Gomez to the presidency, because it will confirm what we charge you with.

Item 3: Perspectives of the Future of Libraries

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

Many times I have said, wouldn't it be nice if the citizens had access to the graphics. If communication is expanding to include graphic and digital communication, it should be accessible to all. Apparently it is not so impossible to let others besides yourselves use the graphics.

If libraries are about communication and learning, why would we want libraries that are more exclusive rather than inclusive?

This library, more than any other, has been abused by the promise of the futurists. This library was built by "visionaries" who felt that it was necessary to sweep away the old to

make room for the new. This futurology was a metaphor for destruction. It turned out to be a con.

Library are about, not only lowering barriers to communication, but preservation of the culture that we have inherited.

Item 4: Fiscal Year 2012-13 and 2013-14 Budget

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

Last time I figured out in my head the percentage increases for books and material expenditures and got it egregiously wrong. I hope it is not my age, but because I am less accustomed to it.

No one else did it in his head and I said was wrong. We shouldn't have to do it in our heads, and the materials now show percent changes.

As expected, between 2009-2010, an increase in dollars was still a slight decrease as a percent of the budget. The same between 2011-2012.

With graphics I might show a comparison with actual materials acquired and show an even greater loss of purchasing power over the same period.

The staff has acknowledged orally that open hours were in remodeled branches, but that is not shown in the written materials.

Item 5: City Librarian's Report

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

We want to thank Brian Bannon and wish him well. He has been a noteworthy addition to our staff. I remember when we went to the Eureka Valley Branch Opening and he was standing with Jill Bourne and couple of friends who were even better looking that they were and it looked like it was staged by Vogue Magazine.

I am glad that we have taken the complaints about noise pollution seriously. Perhaps not as seriously as we could have. It is a serious concern. People do want to come to the library and feel that they can sink themselves into their studies without being distracted by mechanical noises. That gentleman was just one reflection of the concern.

I am looking forward to the next poet laureate like everyone else.

Item 6: Labor Union Report

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

When you have the promise of something new, it sounds glittering because someone can take credit for it. Then they sound like movers and shakers. The term used to be “visionary.” In fact all of those visions turned out to be broken promises.

It is more important to be mature about not leveraging things, if they are not worth being leveraged, and not accepting false promises until you know what your resources are and what your capabilities are.

If you remember that technology plan discussion with Brian Bannon. it was all about really being able to do what you were planning.

That is the point, to be realistic about it.