



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 5, 2012

(As approved at the May 3, 2012 regular Library Commission meeting)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 5, 2012 in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm.

Commissioners present: Breyer, Munson, Nguyen, and Ono

President Gomez arrived at 4:39

Commissioner Kane arrived at 4:48 pm.

Commissioners Randlett entered at 5:13 pm.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous citizen said maybe Ms. Gomez should be elected to the position of dictator for life and then at least the rest of us would have the hope an assassination might result in a change in leadership. He said that that is a brilliant and important comment. He said 2012 may be the year of the assassination metaphor. He said for the Commission's President the Golden Rule might be that other people's psychology might be as sick as hers. He said people used to resign when it looked like they might be removed from office. He said in this case Ms. Gomez has been found guilty and tried to ignore the charges, tried to lie her way out and when found guilty ignored accountability itself. He said the point of the comment made by another citizen at another meeting is that ignoring accountability is a heavy thing to do. He said a police complaint for purposes of political retaliation is beyond unconscionable. He said you all should resign. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Steven Krolik, President of Presidio Heights Residents for Public Safety, said at the Presidio Branch it appears there are more people sitting at

tables at computers than reading books. He said he would appreciate it if there could be one table at that branch where there are no computers so that people who are sensitive to either microwaving or radio frequencies could sit. He said the increase in technologies is disturbing people who are not subscribing to the technology. He said we are slowly destroying the soundscape in our library system. He said he brought this issue up in January about the fans on the security systems at the Presidio Branch and nothing has been done. He said if you cannot hear it, it is because we are slowly losing our hearing.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director Library Users Association, said he hopes the Commission pays close attention to the previous speakers' comments. He said not on today's agenda is the action by the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF) relating to the Bernal Heights Branch Library mural destruction and replacement. He said he is referring to the mural on the Branch, which reflects the history of Bernal Heights and has many significant figures represented on it. He said Supervisor Campos started the community process by appointing the mediator, who then appointed a committee to come up with a recommendation for the artwork on the building. He said he received a lot of heavily redacted materials from Supervisor Campos' office, when he asked for the mural file. He said the SOTF found that the redactions were unlawful. He said there were two complaints against the Arts Commission on the access to audio recordings and their failure to allow public comment at Visual Arts Committee meetings.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he appreciates the first speaker's quotation of his comments at the February 2 meeting. He said he is strongly tempted to read from the San Francisco Examiner's article of March 28 the quotations from the President of the Commission, but he has previously been told to not use bad language so he will not. He said he could do some quotes from the audio in which he was basically threatened. He said someone asked if he was going to file a police report and he said no. He said he thinks that would be an abuse of the purpose of a police report. He said it is not for the use of intimidated the public, it is intended to be used for serious crimes. He said he was tempted to wear sunglasses so that his "wild eyes" couldn't be seen and used in police reports. He said the discussions on the Bernal Heights mural has been done, up to now, out of sight of the public. He said the public has no idea how the Committee made their decisions on the mural. He said they simply showed up with their results and the Commission adopted it. He said he dared the Commission to take a hiatus and let the public have two months to consider the options for the building.

A person from the public said there is a problem with the tunnels at the BART stations.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the Bernal Branch Library Artwork Project has been under discussion for several years and the approval of the artwork rested with the Arts Commission. He said the Library Commission endorsed the project and the resolution and asked that the Arts Commission fully vet the projects. He said this first went to the Visual Arts Committee and they forwarded three resolutions on to the Arts Commission who unanimously approved them. He said the first resolution was the removal of the murals by Arch Williams and others on the Cortland Avenue and Moultrie Street sides of the Bernal Heights Branch Library, which will be replaced by a tile and bronze artwork by Precita Eyes on the Cortland Avenue side of the library and a painted mural by Reuben Rude on the Moultrie Street side of the library. He said the second resolution was to approve final design of the mural by Reuben Rude for the Moultrie Street side of the library and the third was to approve design development of the proposal for a tile and bronze mural by Precita Eyes for the front of the library on the Cortland Avenue. He said there will be a temporary closure of the temporary site for the Bayview Branch Library. He said there are renovations going on at the temporary site and we anticipate about a week closure in which time the area will be served by interim bookmobile service.

Laura Lent, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, said there are three staff members who will be helping to make this presentation.

Alvaro Sanabria, Third Floor Manager and Chair of the International Languages Collections Committee, explained the charge of the International Languages Collections Committee. He listed the membership of the Committee and the different languages and divisions the members represent.

Yemila Alvarez, Program Manager for the International Center, explained the available resources available at the library. She said the Main Library provides access to books in over 40 languages. She said there are two Affinity Centers, the Chinese Center and the Filipino American Center.

Shellie Cocking, Collections and Cataloging Manager, described the international languages collections and usage and the eResources available. She talked about some of the challenges for this collection.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said she was happy to report that the Ethics Commission has approved the revised Statement of Incompatible Activities (SIA). She said the SIA guides the officers and employees of the San Francisco Public Library and the Commission about the kinds of activities that are incompatible with their public duties and therefore prohibited. She said the revised statement is in the packet and available in the back of the room. She explained the changes to the SIA based on the Commission recommendations in October.

Explanatory Documents: [Statement of Incompatible Activities](#).

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said this is the first time the City Librarian has decided it is appropriate when a Commissioner may ask a question. He said the public should have the benefit of the Commission's questions. He said Commissioner Randlett suggested that there might be dialogue and that seems like a long time ago. He said Mr. Herrera works for you and if you want to ask a question you should be able to do that. He said he went to the Ethics Commission to protest the SIA and it did not have much effect, but they listened respectfully. He said he went to the Arts Commission to protest the Bernal Heights Mural and it did not have much effect, but they listened respectfully. He said people are wise to your tactics now and they are not going to work another time. He said democracy needs to be respected. He said the Bernal Mural was not just a betrayal of democracy, but a betrayal of the Commission. He said people thought they could rely on your decision to retain the Cortland Street mural. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the process for the Bernal Heights Branch mural was about the destruction of the mural that exists now in direct contradiction to what this body had determined in 2009 which was to preserve at least the front of the building. He said the Arts Commission had a meeting on this. He said other than people who participated in the committee there were no other community people speaking in favor of the new designs. He said five people spoke against the removal of the mural. He said he was happy to see the International Language Collection presentation.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said the very first meeting he attended at the Library Commission, he stated that his two main reasons for attending the meeting were 1) that members of the public that wanted to speak would be able to do so; and 2) and to assure that the public has access to public records. He said when the Ethics Commission recommended that the President of this Board be removed he promised the Commission that he would not let that drop. He said the person who was found in violation was unwilling to take responsibility for that. He said the Bernal Library Art Project (BLAP) was done in secret. He said Supervisor Campos got involved and appointed a mediator and the public was not involved. He said it is unacceptable that the public was not involved. He said the Commission does not have the courage to have a meeting at the branch library and discuss the options and he dared the Commission to do so.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Munson asked about the indexing of the foreign language material.

Shellie Cocking said all of the records in the Online Public Access Catalog are in English, Chinese and Spanish and within the text it will be in the native language as well.

Commissioner Breyer was interested in more information on the circulation numbers and said he noticed the Korean language circulation number was high.

Shellie Cocking said the South Korean government has put a lot of money into what is called KPOP and it is film, music, etc. and a lot of people are interested in checking out this material.

Commissioner Breyer asked if there is a consideration of expanding some of the higher circulating languages.

Shellie Cocking said they try to keep expanding and there is always the issue of what we can get into the United States.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the approved budget included an increase to the International Languages Collection.

Shellie Cocking said it is hard to compare circulation between the International Languages Collections and the general collection.

Laura Lent, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, said there is approximately 2 million total in the International Languages Collections. She said the total circulation is around 11 million.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. MOBILE OUTREACH SERVICES

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches, said Mobile Outreach Services or bookmobile services started in 1944 for services to the Hunters Point community. He said the need for the bookmobile service has changed according to the needs of the community. He said the four bookmobile services for BLIP, Library on Wheels for seniors, children's and Treasure Island have been combined into one mobile outreach service. He said through the work of the bookmobile area focus team we were able to streamline those services.

Katrin Reimuller, Mobile Outreach Manager, gave a presentation on Early Literacy Mobile, Swing Into Stories @ 4 Parks, Library on Wheels, the Treasure Island bookmobile, and Green Bookmobile Services, the Youth Mobile Pilot. She said they do a lot of outreach events including 19 events so far this year and 15 more planned. She said the newest member of the fleet will be the mobile technology lab. She said they are taking an older bookmobile and will retrofit and convert it into a full technology resource. She said National Bookmobile Day is April 11, 2012 and they decided to have an online contest with a peak of a location and members of the public will be able to guess where that location is. She said the next day the location will be revealed. She said there will also be other information available online. She said some of the members of the team are in attendance on their own time and she wanted to thank all the members of the team.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said he wanted to tie this in with the Mayor's budget hearings and he said Treasure Island residents feel isolated and it is really gratifying that the library is providing some level of service on a weekly basis. He said there is also an increase in the budget for the Tech bookmobile so they are very excited about that.

Explanatory Document: [Mobile Outreach Services](#) Presentation

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said he was pleased with this report. He said wouldn't it be nice if citizens had access to the graphics. He said bookmobiles introduce people to library service and people are informed and have fun. He said the objective of the bookmobile is to bring people into the branches and the library system. He said they are not goals in themselves they are outreach to present the library and get people into the library. He said he is gratified that we are outreaching to the youth and empowering them with media creation. He said perhaps when they grow up they will have access to the graphics at a Library Commission meeting. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Executive Director, San Francisco Open Government, said this was an excellent presentation on an excellent program. He said the bookmobiles not only give access to children but to their caregivers as well. He said this is an outreach program to children and to seniors. He said he wondered about whether the material was modified depending on the event it was attending. He said Treasure Island is an isolated place and having a bookmobile out there will be a great opportunity for the residents.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he heard a mention of net positive charge. He said that is what anybody will get from visiting a library. He said the Green Bookmobile sounds like it would be interesting to visit and there was not any mention on where the Green Bookmobile is located or how to find out where it is. He said the Green Bookmobile raised a question that he has not yet seen answered and that is a serious comparison between computer reading and paper reading. He said the books do not become obsolete and he said he thinks there are hidden costs of electronics which might be interesting to attempt to measure. He said he is a little troubled by the mobile technology services on page 7, which talks about literacy and learning but digital literacy is what is highlighted and no mention of books.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Nguyen said he wondered how April 11th became National Bookmobile Day.

Katrin Reimuller, Mobile Outreach Manager, said National Bookmobile Day is always the Wednesday of Library Week.

Commissioner Nguyen said it looks like San Francisco is in the forefront of the bookmobile movement.

Katrin Reimuller said San Francisco is close to being in the forefront and we have an incredibly robust bookmobile service and with the addition of The Tech Mobile that we will be on the forefront.

Commissioner Nguyen said he has not had a chance to enter a bookmobile and wondered how many people can fit.

Katrin Reimuller said it depends on the size of the person. She said you could probably fit up to 15 small children on the Children Bookmobile. She said 10 is a comfortable number for adults.

Commissioner Ono asked about the selection for Early Literacy and Library on Wheels.

Katrin Reimuller said the locations of the bookmobile depend on economic need and where the senior centers are located.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said in terms of urban libraries because of budget cuts many are not offering bookmobile services any longer. He said we look at other cities to see what they are doing with innovations in bookmobiles.

Commissioner Nguyen said the environmental features are very important and he asked about the older vehicles.

Katrin Reimuller said they are looking at ways to retire the older vehicles.

Commissioner Randlett said thank you to the staff who came to the meeting on their own time and wondered if there was a way to acknowledge the staff for their efforts.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said each year there is a staff recognition event where staff is recognized.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 LABOR UNION REPORT

There was no labor union report at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2012

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said these are the minutes from three months ago and there are some instances where these are very good. He said they track pretty closely his summary of the remarks. He said it now includes Commissioner Nguyen's admission of an illegal meeting on page 11. He

said there is an omission on the North Beach Branch and the fact that he could make the best of a bad situation by dancing at the opening. He said on page 6 the City Hall and the citizens forced the Library to provide additional documents and that was left out. He said we can acknowledge how far we have come. He said the minutes are much better than in the beginning and now they track pretty well to what he actually says. He said the only omission now is his reference to don't give money to the Friends and Foundation or accept money from the Friends and Foundation. He said you might as well include the citizen summaries as the law requires. He said if you weren't so ignorant, he might not have to say it. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the minutes do seem fuller than in the recent past and they have improved over the longer range. He said on page 2 under agenda item no. 1 his comments say that the Bernal Mural was planned for complete destruction and replaced with new artwork. He said he does not refer to the mural as artwork he considers "artwork" a euphemism and a deception when talking about the mural. He said what he has been saying a lot is that the details and specific contents of the murals have not been discussed. He said after he said he would give up his last 15 seconds for an answer, it should state that there was no answer.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said the minutes have greatly improved. He said with the minutes being much more thorough it does give members of the public who have an interest in the library an idea of how the decisions about the library are made. He said it serves as indices to direct interested persons to the tape if there is a part of the meeting they are interested in. He said it is an obligation of Commissions to not only allow public comment but to encourage it. He said you should reach out to the community. He said he wondered if some of the comments you get from us are reflective of the attitude we get when we make our comments.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Randlett, to approve the [Minutes of February 16, 2012](#).

Action: AYES 7-0: (Breyer, Gomez, Kane, Munson, Nguyen, Ono and Randlett).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6. ADJOURNMENT

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said once again New Business is not on the agenda and the Commission is not able to take the suggestions from the members for new items. He said you do not get to hear from the public on what items they would like to have on the agenda. He said often the public has quite a lot to contribute. He said the Commission's responsibility is to do the job you are appointed to do and

not to sit like lumps on a log while the opportunity to give even the suggestion of new items is flattened by a steamroller that refuses to put that item on the agenda.

Motion: By Commissioner Randlett, seconded by Commissioner Munson to adjourn the regular meeting of April 19, 2012.

Action: AYES 7-0: (Breyer, Gomez, Kane, Munson, Nguyen, Ono and Randlett).

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 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

“Maybe what you should do is what they used to do in the old Roman Republic – elect Ms. Gomez for the position of dictator for life and then at least the rest of us would have the hope an assassination might result in a change of leadership.”

That is a brilliant and important comment – 2012 may be the year of the assassination metaphor.

The Golden Rule assumes ascribing our self-respect to our fellow man. For Jewelle Gomez, it posits that other people's psychology might be as sick as hers.

When facing charges of official misconduct Ms. Gomez ignored them, tried to lie her way out, and when found guilty, ignored accountability itself.

Since Roman times damage done by a dictator's graft and vanity has been recognized.

A police complaint for purposes of political retaliation is beyond unconscionable. You all should resign.

Item 2: City Librarian's Report

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

The City Librarian has decided when it is appropriate for you to ask questions. The public should have the benefit of your questions.

Commissioner Randlett suggested there might be dialogue. That seems like a long time ago.

We went to the Ethics Commission to protest your Statement of Incompatible Activities. It did not have much effect, but they listened respectfully. We went to the Arts Commission to protest the Bernal Heights Mural. It did not have much effect, but they listened respectfully.

Like Hetch Hetchy Valley, this may be the one you get. Your tactics won't work again.

People are now educated that democracy and opinions need to be respected.

The Bernal Mural was not just a betrayal of democracy, but a betrayal of you. You ratified it retroactively, but people relied on your original commitment.

Item 3: Mobile Outreach Services

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

Wouldn't it be nice if the citizens had access to the graphics?

I was very pleased with this report. Partly because bookmobiles introduce people to library service. People are informed and have fun.

I am also pleased because I often have a caveat to presentations like this and the presenter preempted my caveat by making it herself. The objective of the bookmobile is to bring people into the branches and the library system. They are not goals in themselves. They are outreach to present the library and get people into the library.

I am also gratified that we are outreaching to the youth and empowering them with media creation. Perhaps when they grow up they will have access to the graphics at a Library Commission meeting.

Item 5: Approval of the Minutes (February 16, 2012)

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

These minutes are from three months ago.

These minutes track fairly closely the citizen summaries, including finally Commissioner Nguyen's admission of an illegal meeting. Omissions include making the best of a bad situation by dancing at the North Beach opening, and that it was City Hall along with citizens that forced the Library to provide additional documentation.

We should acknowledge how far we have come. In the beginning the minutes simple said, "citizen spoke, unintelligible." Then the minutes included things that didn't make sense, or that I didn't say, that bordered on the libelous.

The only omission now is "Don't give or accept money from the Friends."

But for that, you might as well include the citizen summaries as the law requires. If you weren't so ignorant, I might not have to say it.