



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 7, 2011

(As amended and approved at the May 19, 2011 regular meeting).

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2011, in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:39 pm.

Commissioners present: Breyer, Gomez, Munson and Randlett

Commissioners Kane and Ono are excused.

Commissioner Nguyen arrived at 4:43 pm.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous citizen said the Department of Public Works is required to put out a Quarterly Report. The latest Quarterly Report states that the Friends and Foundation committed to provide \$16 Million to BLIP. He said through the end of 2010 the Friends have actually provided 7.1% of its commitment. He said the Friends have not submitted their report to the California Attorney General for June 2010. He said the Friends report that their employee benefits are 79.4% charitable. (See addendum in the Minutes for a 150 word statement submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he had pointed out that the third quarter report from DPW last year showed that the Friends had contributed less than \$1 Million to BLIP. He said it is unfortunate that the Commission never discusses the Quarterly Report. He said it is nice when the library has programs relating to books. He said the library is falling down on some of its basic responsibilities.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 LIBRARY CARD CAMPAIGN AND PARTNERSHIP WITH SAN FRANCISCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said that Alicia Cabrera, our Deputy City Attorney, has joined us for the meeting because we have several action items. He said George Nichols, a former Financial Director for the Library, has joined the staff as interim Finance Director. He said the first item is the Kindercard and Read First Project.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian said this is a joint program of SFPL and SFUSD to ensure that every kindergarten and first grade student has a library card by the end of the school year.

Toni Bernardi, Chief of Children and Youth Services, gave a presentation on the [Kindercard and Read First Program](#). She said staff is recommending that the Commission adopt a resolution endorsing the program and urging the Joint City and School District Select Committee to endorse the Kindercard and Read First Program.

Jill Bourne said she wanted to acknowledge that Hydra Mendoza, who is the Mayor's education liaison and President of the School Board is present to show their strong partnership and support of the program.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said we learned from Effie Lee Morris that you don't allow the school to distribute applications or preempt the library. He said whether it is a win-win situation is a matter of opinion and the Commission should approve a change in the role of the children's librarian before it becomes library policy, not after. (See addendum in the Minutes for a 150 word statement submitted by the speaker.).

Hydra Mendoza said she is the Mayor's Education liaison and President of the School Board but also a proud mother of library users. She said the School Board will be hearing this item as well. She said she cannot emphasize enough the importance of early literacy. She said the School Board hopes to continue to partner with the Library in as many ways as possible.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said as a child it was terrific that the library and librarians were there for him. He said he is concerned that there remain a distinction between the library and the school district. He said he is disappointed in the Library Commission for being in a position of enforcing a policy that is already in place.

Commission Discussion

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said that this is not a new policy but that they are expanding the program to include Kindergartners.

Commissioner Breyer asked about statistics that might be available on the numbers of students who already have library cards and what the goal of the program is.

Jill Bourne said we will begin tracking the information and that the goal is to have all children in public schools in Kindergarten and First grade to have library cards.

Toni Bernardi, Chief of Children and Youth Services, said the packets that are going out are geared towards the teachers along with applications for the students.

Jill Bourne responded to a question from Commissioner Breyer regarding follow up on staff time and any impacts to the budget.

Commissioner Nguyen asked about the number of students involved in this.

Jill Bourne said that 11,264 students are included in the program. She said this includes every Kindergarten and First grade in the public schools in San Francisco.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this is an opportunity to work together with the School District as a citywide initiative.

President Gomez said this is a really amazing collaboration.

Commissioner Randlett had a question about classroom visits to the library.

Toni Bernardi, Chief of Children and Youth Services, said the staff is very accustomed to school visits.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Nguyen to approve the [Resolution endorsing Kindercard](#) and Read First Library Card Program between San Francisco Public Library and San Francisco Unified School District and urging the joint City and School District Select Committee to endorse the program.

Action: AYES 5-0: (Breyer, Gomez, Nguyen, Munson, and Randlett).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 CHINATOWN HIM MARK LAI BRANCH LIBRARY SIGNAGE

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the [memo to the Commission](#) outlines the process undertaken for renaming the Chinatown Branch Library. He said one of the requirements of the Policy for adding the name of a person to the geographic name of a library facility is that the Commission will designate the method of display of the name addition. He said the party who proposed the name to be added shall bear all costs associated with adding the honorific name unless the Commission finds it in the public interest to waive this requirement in whole or in part. He said the library has been working closely with a community group in Chinatown and he thanked them for their hard work.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said it has been a pleasure working with the community group. He gave a presentation on the proposed signage for the branch. He said there would be commemorative signage in both English and Chinese characters on the outside of the building. He said there will be also be biographical plaques inside the branch. He said the existing signage on the transom glass will also be changed to the "Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library."

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said once we have a renaming it should be respected. He said the survey numbers quoted in November were not the same as the ones given in July. He said the July numbers were more balanced. He said the memo references private fundraising and he wondered what type of fundraising was done. He said he was concerned with the plaques which list the donors. (See addendum in the Minutes for a 150 word statement submitted by the speaker.)

Neal Malik, Historian speaking for himself said he supports the new name for the Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch. He said originally this branch was the North Beach Branch Library and he thinks that should be reflected in some way with an historical panel reflecting this and the history of the branch.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the handout does not show the dimensions of the proposed plaques in a size that is easily readable. He said the costs for the signage are being raised by private fundraising. He said there is nothing in the report that reflects who is raising the money for this. He said he would like to know the amount of the nominal costs mentioned which the library will be covering.

Germain Wong, said on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee for the celebration of Him Mark Lai, she would like to thank the Commission for recognizing Him Mark Lai. She said they have been working very closely with President Gomez, Luis Herrera and his staff on the issue of the signage. She said that all names of people who contribute will be made public.

Commission Discussion

President Gomez thanked the Committee for their thoroughness and enthusiasm on the project.

Commissioner Munson asked if there was a date for the unveiling of the signage.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there will be a celebration and it will probably be in the early fall.

Commissioner Breyer said the plaques look impressive. He asked about the total cost of the signage and the nominal cost to the library.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said the costs for the plaque to date have been \$10,000 to \$12,000. Installation costs have not been determined. He said the nominal fee to the Library has been quoted at \$800 - \$1200.

Commissioner Randlett said she is grateful to the President for taking the lead and shepherding the project. She said she is extremely proud to be an Asian American. She said it would be fitting to remember our heritage and that it was once the North Beach Branch Library.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian said some of the branches have archives of their history. He said we are very proud of that fact and the amazing history of the branch libraries.

Motion: By Commissioner Randlett, seconded by Commissioner Munson to approve the staff's recommendation to approve the general design and location of the commemorative [plaques and signage](#) as presented for the Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library and to waive any additional nominal costs to be borne by the Library.

Action: AYES 5-0: (Breyer, Gomez, Munson, Nguyen and Randlett).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 LABOR UNION REPORT

Cathy Bremer, SEIU, said all of the Unions in the City are meeting to come up with a new ballot measure to help solve the pension issue. She said the Commission has the documents in front of them relating to the [Civil Service appeal regarding the Library II and III examinations](#). She said she would like to make sure the next time the tests are given that the tests are fair.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said that the issue of the Library II and III examination was placed back on the agenda at the request of the Commission. He said John Kraus from the Department of Human Resources (DHR) is available to answer any questions from the Commission.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said it is likely that future retirees will receive a letter that states 'We regret to inform you that the pension you were promised has been cancelled.' He said he is very sensitive to what a public issue is and what is not. He said this is borderline not a public issue but an administrative issue. He said you should be cognizant of the fact that the reason the Civil Service system exists is precisely so that there will not be an objection when someone's friends don't get the job.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Munson said he was a Civil Service Commissioner for 16 years and they had lots of items similar to this before them. He said the procedures seem to be quite different from when he served on the Civil Service Commission and he would like to know more about the process.

John Kraus, DHR, said the nature of the appeal was the adequacy of the examination. He said the second process existed of a formal

examination, which is 40% of the total score. He said 60% is based on a training and education rating. He said the adequacy of the exam is determined by the Director of DHR. He said other issues can be appealed to the Civil Service Commission but this falls under the new rules which were adopted in 2006.

Commissioner Munson asked for additional information about the process of developing the exam.

Donna Marion, Library Human Resources Director, said it is routine that when you have an examination on a particular classification that you would have job experts familiar with that classification participate in the analysis. She said the Library's HR Department is there to provide guidance as well.

Commissioner Munson said he is aware that there is concern about the training and that it was not reflected in the examination. He said he understands that the training is leadership training and not associated with any particular job classification.

John Kraus, DHR, said the librarians as a whole did very well on the exam. He said on one of the exams 119 people took the test and 113 passed. He said on the other there was 28 candidates and 25 passed.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said for upcoming tests they will be encouraging participants to take some of the training offered by HR.

President Gomez said she wanted to thank the Union for bringing this issue to the Commission. She said it is important for the Commission to hear issues that are of concern to the Unions.

Commissioner Randlett said perception is important and she said it is clear that there are obviously very bright people that are not good test takers.

Commissioner Nguyen said we should remember to recognize multiple intelligence.

Commissioner Breyer asked about the errors in the compilation of the test scores.

John Kraus, DHR, said it was a clerical error and was corrected right away. He said the computer scores the tests automatically and the test taker receives their score at completion of the test.

Commissioner Breyer said the Gen PL training does not relate to the test. He said he would like to see input from more people in the library on the creation of the tests.

Donna Marion, Library Human Resources Director, said we get as much input as possible for the exams. She said there are sample Civil Service exams that people can take to prepare for the exams.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said there are City-wide management training classes.

Commissioner Randlett said it would be nice to have more information on the next round of tests.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said it is a virtue to talk about things out loud and the library doesn't commonly recognize that. He said the Sunshine Task Force has found the Commission Minutes not in conformance. He said they sent the issue into virtual limbo. He said the summary statements for the February 17 Minutes are actually the citizen summary for the January 20, 2011 Minutes. (See attached 150 word statement submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force did find the Library Commission in violation for not including the summary statements in the body of the Minutes. He said on page one the summary his comments are not correctly represented. He said on page 2 there is great difficulty understanding the budget. He said the motion as it relates to the book budget are not clear and that there is still a cut to book budget.

Commission Discussion

Sue Blackman, Library Commission Secretary, said it does appear that the incorrect summary statements have been added to the Minutes so they would need to come back at the next meeting for approval.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6. ADJOURNMENT

Public Comment

There was no public comment on this item.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Breyer to adjourn the regular meeting of April 7, 2011.

Action: AYES 5-0: (Breyer, Gomez, Munson, Nguyen, and Randlett).

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 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.

Library Commission Meeting of April 7, 2011

Item 1: General Public Comment

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't accept money from the Friends & Foundation

Make sure to laugh at me while I am talking. It always worked before.

The Quarterly Report from Public Works and the Library states that the Friends & Foundation committed to provide \$16 Million to BLIP.

Through the end of 2010, a year after the scheduled finish, the Friends have actually provided \$1.143 Million, or 7.1% of its commitment.

The Friend's Report to the California Attorney General for June 2010, required by law to be filed November 15, 2010, has not been filed. This report from June 2009 shows that the salaries of the two highest paid employees are considered 79.4% charitable.

The other employees with benefits make over \$2 Million, 79.4% is charitable.

The documents that are designed to promote accountability are not considered. The public thinks that its interests are protected by this forum and the right to raise questions.

Item 2: Library Card Campaign and Partnership with San Francisco Unified School District

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends & Foundation.

In earlier days people often stood up in a movie and said, "This is where I came in" and left. If I wanted to do that, this would be the time.

My first great scandal was one of these attempts by the School District to co-opt the role of the children's librarians.

We learned from Effie Lee Morris that you don't allow the school to distribute applications or preempt the library. The mandate of the Children's librarian was independent learning and the children had to be introduced to the library as individuals.

You are asked to approve this retroactively. Whether it is a "win-win" is a matter of opinion and you should approve this change in the role of the children's librarian before it becomes library policy, not after.

The distinction from the schools must be protected.

Item 3: Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library Signage

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends & Foundation.

I was not in favor of this in the beginning, but once done it should be respected.

I dislike rewriting history. The second paragraph of Mr. Herrera's memorandum represents the July discussion, but the survey numbers quoted are from the November meeting after it had become a petition. The July numbers were more balanced.

The memorandum references "private fund-raising." What sort of private fund-raising?

If people are hanging out on street corners asking people to give, and raising thousands of dollars for a ten-dollar plaque, the library bears some responsibility.

My question is answered by the plaques which list the donors. Not only are we commemorating Mr. Lei, we are commemorating those who donate to the plaque.

The library didn't sign up for that. Are the donors told they are legally disclosed anyway?

Item 4: Labor Union Report

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends & Foundation.

I have relatively little to say about this. Of those sitting behind me, a few are my age and will die of a heart attack soon after retirement. The rest will get a letter that states, "We regret to inform you that the pension you were promised has been cancelled." I would love to be a fly on the wall while they explain to themselves that they knew it was all lies anyway.

Since I frequently make public comment, I have a finely-tuned sense of what is a public issue, and this is borderline an administrative issue and not a public one. We should be cognizant of the fact that the reason the Civil Service system exists is precisely so that there will not be an objection when someone's friends don't get the job.

Item 5: Approval of the Minutes (February 17, 2011)

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends & Foundation.

It is a virtue to talk about things out loud. The library doesn't commonly recognize that.

This issue carries with it a profundity which is almost poetic.

The Sunshine Task Force has found your minutes not in conformance. Instead of following up they sent the issue to administrative limbo. We each derive some vindication from those events and it is a classic standoff.

The anonymous citizen's comment on the first page tracks pretty well the summary I submitted. Then it states, see addendum. Looking somewhere else and "include" are not logically consistent.

The summary in the addendum does not track at all. That is the summary that I submitted for the January 20 minutes. This confirms our contention that the

summaries are consigned to a place where no one would notice, and, thus, are not included.