



## *San Francisco Public Library*

### **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION**

#### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 19, 2012**

(As approved at the regular meeting of May 17, 2012)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, April 19, 2012 in the Koret Auditorium Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:41 pm.

Commissioners present: Breyer, Gomez, Kane, and Nguyen

Commissioners excused: Munson, Ono and Randlett

President Gomez said that Item No. 3 Jobs and Career Online Video and eLearning Resources will be trailed to the next meeting.

Explanatory document: Jobs and Careers Online Video and eLearning Resources [Presentation](#).

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 PUBLIC COMMENT**

An anonymous citizen said maybe we should do what we did in old Roman Times and appoint Ms. Gomez for life then at least the rest of us can hope that an assassination might result in a change of leadership. He said the beauty of that statement is to remind us of the damage that is done when you appoint someone for life. He said it is that you disenfranchise people and make people powerless. He said that is not a nice thing to do and history has taught us that it is a damaging thing to do. He said at a recent meeting the State Librarian made some comments about the emerging importance of graphics in communication. He said he got up and made the point that the public should be allowed to use the graphics. He saw Commissioner Breyer was laughing because he recognized that was an effective point. He said we have a democracy so that it won't be necessary to kill someone to empower people. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

A man from the audience said he has always loved the library but last year a friend visited and there was a run in with one of the employees. He said the people that work in the library should have a little more compassion and get a security guard when it seems like someone has a

mental illness. He said people should go by a name. He said sometimes it seems like you are walking into a bar because the security guards are using curse words.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said it would be nice if we had access to the graphics and if we were able to use these we would be more effective in our presentations. He read the following statement: "I spoke recently before the Board of Supervisors regarding the latest report of the Friends to this Library Commission. Using the figures provided to this Commission, the Friends listed "Revenue by Source" of \$3.767 Million and "Program Support" of \$750 Thousand. That left just over \$3 Million unaccounted for in the FYE June 30, 2011. In addition, from the Friends audited financial statement for that period, there was a "Change in net assets" of \$2.222 Million. So that only leaves \$5.230 Million unaccounted for during that fiscal year, according to the figures provided by the Friends to the Library Commission. That means the report accounted for just over 12.5% of the funds expended during that fiscal year. That also means the report did not account for almost 87.5% of the funds in question. Is it really unreasonable to question why this Library Commission doesn't even seem interested in the facts?" He said there has been a lot of hostility from the Commission and the public has every right to come here and speak. He said the anger of the Commission is misdirected and it should be directed at the Friends.

Deborah White said she backed up the previous speaker and supported the Bill of Rights. She said she goes to the Western Addition Branch library and she said there are a lot of kids that go there. She said it is very crowded in the library and wondered if the courtyard could be used for the children. She would like to see overstuffed chairs. She said it needs more photos in the library.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he would like to echo the words of the previous speakers and he wanted to know what the Commission's record is of accountability. He said only 1/5 of the \$3.7 Million raised has been donated to the library. He said one of the Commissioners asked for a fuller accounting of that when it is brought back next year. He said the mural on the Bernal Heights Branch Library representing the history of Bernal Heights, featuring Victor Jara and Holly Near and which honors working women, is going to be wiped out completely. He said it seems in some respects that the mural is coming alive. He said Holly Near has sent a letter to the Mayor urging him not to let the mural be wiped out. An expert on murals is working on support for the mural and is supporting retaining all three sides. He said the Library has always had a policy that events be open to the library at no charge and as he walked in this afternoon he saw an advertisement for IMBIBE which will be at the Western Addition Library and only open to the members of the Friends, which is not consistent with the policy of everything being free and open to the public.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT**

Lena Chen, Bond Program Manager, said the approved budget is \$196,259,350 as of February 16, 2012. She said the supplemental appropriation was signed by the Mayor and filed on April 12, 2012. She said the North Beach branch is in the bid and award stage and the Bayview Branch is in construction. She said they are coordinating with other agencies and have pulled all the permits for the North Beach Branch. She showed photographs of the Bayview Branch construction. She showed design and site plans for the completed design for the North Beach branch. She said that four branch libraries received LEED certification. She said the Park and Anza branches received LEED Gold and the Presidio and Parkside branches received LEED Silver.

Explanatory document: Current [Budget Report](#), [Manager's Report](#).

### Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said he suspects one of the reasons the citizens don't have access to the graphics is to prevent us from showing you your own old slides. He said what is going on, and what was promised at various times is of the essence. He said this is particularly true with respect to North Beach. He said the history of the North Beach branch has not completely been told, even though it is highly contested. He said he wonders if the commissioners who are not here are tired of the irresponsibility of the commissioners who come here to do their homework. He said there are San Franciscans who would like to be library commissioners who would be anxious to replace you. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the report is not listed on the explanatory document list. He said the Current Budget Report is listed but not the Bond Program Manager's Report. He said since this comes every month it seems to him that it could be ready to go out with the agenda packet. He said he would like to see this included in the agenda packet. He said this gives you less time to provide the review that you are in place to provide. He said at the previous meeting it does not list the Bond Manager's Report as a document. He said there is a lawsuit which may cause doubt on whether the North Beach Branch will go forward. He said left out of the report is that the North Beach Branch Library is the best preserved on the Appleton Wolford Branch libraries and has historic value and you are going to knock it down. He said left out of the report is that at the Bayview Branch there was a terrific mural knocked down so that you could build a new building. He said the new buildings have cost multiple times what the renovated buildings would have cost.

Ray Hartz, Executive Director, San Francisco Open Government, said the budget report was included in the backup for the meeting but it was not discussed in the Bond Program Manager's Report. He read the following statement "I am curious where the figures for "Furniture and Equipment Reserve" in this report come from. The \$16 Million is clearly the monies pledged by the Friends for the BLIP program. The

Expenditures/Encumbrances” figures show just over \$8.8 Million, yet, I have in my hand a statement entitled “16M Gift from Friend for BLIP,” which covers the time frame from the beginning of the contributions through February, 2012. The “Total Revenue & Allocated Expenditures” posted through 11/15/2011 are just under \$3.63 Million dollars. Footnote #6 does have two figures for SFPL and DPW which add up to the \$3.63 Million, but the listing for “Friends” for \$5.171 Million has absolutely no basis in any documentation I have been provided. Neither have I seen any supporting documentation for this sum presented to this Library Commission and wonder why no member of the Commission seems the least bit interested.”

Deborah White, Western Addition, said there is a teenage area that is very tiny and she is wondering if the BLIP money can go for some of the interior area for teen space at Western Addition. She said there is not enough seating for mothers in the children’s area. She said it would be nice to have more plants and seating in the courtyard area.

#### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane asked about the budget and schedule for the Bayview Branch.

Lena Chen, Bond Program Manager, said we are doing well with both the budget and the schedule for the Bayview Branch. She said the contractor is very proactive working with the City Construction Management staff. She said some delays were caused by unforeseen conditions at the site, and the contractor has been able to make up some time. She said they have already started framing at the site. She said there were a few days rain delay but the contractor is trying to make up those delays as well.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we meet monthly with DPW and we are watching the schedule and budget very closely.

Lena Chen said the Bayview Branch is scheduled to open in February.

Commissioner Kane said the Commission has asked that the \$16 Million from the Friends be included in the report. He said the \$5.1 Million was paid directly from the Friends.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we have had conversations with Mr. Hartz and are trying to reconcile the numbers for him. He said it is a work in progress and we are being responsive.

Commissioner Kane said his understanding was that the Friends agreed to raise up to \$16 Million to cover Furniture, Fixture and Equipment (FF&E). He said his understanding is that there was money fronted by the Library.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the Friends are committed to making good on the amount the Library put forward for some shelving,

Commissioner Kane asked about where the money from the Friends would go to and when we might expect to receive it.

Luis Herrera said the Friends are committed to raising the funds for that and the money would go back to the Library Preservation Fund. He said they have also committed to completing the FF&E for the last two branches.

Commissioner Kane said he would like to have a report at a future meeting on the fundraising the Friends are doing on this.

Commissioner Nguyen asked about the LEED certification for the branches.

Lena Chen, Bond Program Manager, said the last ten branches are required to be LEED Silver.

Commissioner Nguyen said congratulations on receiving the two Gold and two Silver LEED certificates.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2012**

##### **Public Comment**

An anonymous citizen said it must be getting embarrassing that you do not include citizen summaries but attach them at the end. He said it proves how immune you are to embarrassment. He said your recalcitrance and stubbornness simply reinforces your mistakes of the past. He said under public comment he talks about Jewelle Gomez and the flagrant violation of the law, the French Revolution and how people are going to cut your throats. He said the citizen summaries of these minutes are from February 2 and not March 1. He said it is amusing that you have insulted and degraded us again. He said he suggests that the Commission members resign since there are responsible people who would like your positions. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Sue Blackman, Commission Secretary, said it appears that the citizen summaries are from the wrong meeting so she would suggest that the Commission trail these Minutes to the next meeting.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said his comments under public comment include the statement that he would like to ask with 20 seconds remaining what is the schedule to get rid of the existing Bernal mural. He said he would like the minutes to reflect that there was no answer to his question. He said on page 3 there is a grammatical and somewhat confusing phrasing for what he said regarding RFID for which the Library Users Association stopped the funding. He said he would like to see that more clear. He said there was an omission of the Vice-

President's comments about the public though there is a hint of it under his comments on page 7 and his comments should be added.

President Gomez said these [Minutes](#) will be trailed to the next meeting.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 15, 2012**

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said that President Gomez said that the Arts Commission would take a detailed analysis of the Bernal Heights Branch mural removal and replacement plan. He said the item was on the Visual Arts Committee's agenda and the full Arts Commission as a consent item. He said if the public had not requested pulling those consent items it would have been passed without any discussion at all. He said the minutes should have the 150 word summaries included in the minutes as the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF) as ruled. He said it is very sad and ugly that the Commission is not following the law and the interpretation of the SOTF.

An anonymous citizen said he thought the Chair was about to call for public comment when Commissioner Kane interrupted her. He said if that is wrong, he is glad to be corrected. He said the citizen summaries should be included in the Minutes. He said he did not have the time to go through these minutes as he might have done, so he is not objecting to anything in particular. He said when you put something on an agenda, it may be practical to simply continue it and cut off public comment, but as a legal matter citizens have responded to the notice and may not be willing or able to come back. He said as a practical matter, we will be back, but the law is for everyone, not just ourselves. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said once you open public comment and allow someone to speak; telling someone else they cannot speak is not a sensible thing to do. He said in the Minutes he talks about the police report that was filed against him from the February meeting. He said all of you have probably read the Examiner article and there was a link to the tape of the comments made after the February 2 meeting. He said in the police report it states that he made hateful and challenging comments. He said the comments of the members of this body were much more hateful and hurtful. He said he did not threaten anyone with a switch blade, or tell people a dozen people could bury the speaker or threaten to garrote anybody with a microphone cord, what he said he did was use one word "assassination" in the middle of a historical analogy. He said if you just keep on electing the same person over and over again and give us no hope of change of leadership that is a problem. He said he is glad that Ms. Gomez has recognized that most of the comments are directed at her.

Motion: By Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Breyer to approve the [Minutes of March 15, 2012](#).

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

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6. ADJOURNMENT**

### Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said once again New Business has not been included on the agenda and you have disenfranchised the public and it is not carrying out your duty to the public and the library.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm.

Sue Blackman  
Commission Secretary

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the commission secretary/custodian of records, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 reminds us of the damage done by electing people for life and rendering others powerless.

For example, recently the State Librarian talked about the emerging importance of graphics in communication. I commented that denying citizens access to the graphics was a sort of disenfranchisement. Commissioner Breyer was laughing because he recognized that was an effective point. He knows being unwilling to kill him until now, my access to reason is ridiculous.

We have a democracy so that it won't be necessary to kill someone to empower people.

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#### Item 2: Bond Program Manager's Report

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

I have been ill with flu-like symptoms. I have medicated myself to be here and if I am not as focused as usual, I apologize.

I suspect the reason the citizens don't have access to the graphics is to prevent us showing you your own old slides. What is going on, and what was promised at various times is of the essence.

In North Beach the history has not completely been told, even though it is highly contested.

I wonder if the commissioners who are not here are tired of the irresponsibility of the commissioners who come here to do their homework. There are San Franciscans who would like to be library commissioners who would be anxious to replace you.

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#### Item 4: Approval of the Minutes (March 1, 2012)

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

That you do not include citizen summaries but attach them at the end proves how immune you are to embarrassment. Your recalcitrance has lost any justification at this point.

For example, under public comment I spoke about Jewelle Gomez, the flagrant violation of the law, the French Revolution and how people are going to cut your throats. In the citizen summaries, my comments are about the resignation of the director of the Friends and the commissioners being victims. These citizen summaries are from February 2, which is easy to tell because election of officers is item 2.

You find it amusing that you have insulted and degraded us again. What did you do before you were library commissioners to display this level of cruelty?

I suggest you resign. There are responsible people who would like your positions.

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Item 5: Approval of the Minutes (March 15, 2012)

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

I believe that the chair was about to call for public comment when Commissioner Kane interrupted her. If that is wrong, I am glad to be corrected.

I am among those who are grateful this is a short meeting. I did not have time to go through these minutes as I normally would, and am not objecting to anything in particular.

It is time for you to recognize reality and include the citizen summaries in the minutes.

Parenthetically, if you call an agenda item, it may be practical to simply continue it and cut off public comment, but as a legal matter citizens have responded to the notice and may not be willing or able to come back. As a practical matter, we will be back, but the law is for everyone, not just ourselves.