



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 5, 2011

(As amended and approved at the June 16, 2011 regular meeting)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, May 5, 2011, in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:51 pm.

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

Commissioners excused: Nguyen, Munson and Randlett.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous citizen said the public comment fund was created by the Friends so that whenever anyone said something unsupportive of the Friends, money was given so that those comments could be humorously dismissed as “just raising money for the Friends.” He said your president donates. He said he has been chastised by former Commissioner Lonnie Chin and was told “If you are not giving money I would tell you to shut up.” He said the implication is that he does not belong in the meeting and if he doesn’t give money elsewhere he doesn’t belong anywhere. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he remembers former Commissioner Lonnie Chin saying if you don’t give money to the Friends you should shut up. He said the Chronicle recently has been calling those who oppose library policies as meddlers. He said a memo from the City Librarian at the April 25 meeting excluded Library Users Association as an organization listed in groups that have been opposed to the new North Beach Library.

Deborah Doyle, President of the California Library Association Trustees and Commissioners, said it is budget time in Sacramento and library advocates are gathering there Wednesday, May 18. She said library advocates will also be in Washington D.C. in a couple of weeks.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2. CITY LIBRARIAN’S REPORT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said staff has been working with the Controller's office on the budget submitted by the Library Commission. He said the Mayor will be introducing his budget on June 1. He said the budget hearings for the Library have been scheduled for June 22 and 29 before the Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee. He said in previous meetings a speaker from the audience had requested additional ADA seating in the front of the Koret Auditorium and there is a [memo addressing the concerns](#).

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, gave a presentation on the [Koret Auditorium ADA seating](#). He said there are six transfer seats with operable armrests; four wheelchair spaces in the front row; two wheelchair spaces plus additional accommodation. He said they are making improvements in signage for these areas.

Karen Sundheim, Program Manager of the Hormel Center, gave a presentation on the [James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center](#). She said it was established in 1996. She said the Hormel Collection has more than 13,000 books, films, archival collections, periodicals, music and other items. She said current projects include Frameline LGBT International Film Festival Archive and Program Partnership, the Freedom to Marry Archive and fabled ASP e-catalog of exhibition. She said they have several newly acquired archives and went over some of the older ones as well. She said they have many exhibits and programs through the year. She said they have the Lambda Literary Awards every year. She said they also participate in the Gay Pride Parade. She said the Hormel Center has a website, a Facebook page and a blog.

Toni Bernardi, Chief of Children and Youth Services, gave a presentation on the [Summer Reading Program](#). She said this year's theme is Power Your Mind: READ! She said this year the program will include children teens and adults. She said this year they will count hours read. A grand prize will be given to children who have read for 10 hours, teens who have read for 30 hours and adults who have read for 40 hours. She said registration will be online this year and explained the registration process. She said there will be programs, prizes and raffle prizes for participants.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said Lurilla Harris was not cc'd on the handicapped memorandum and Commissioner Breyer should be thanked for asking for a follow up. He said City Librarian Herrera said at a Board of Supervisors meeting that appearing before the Historical Preservation Commission was a waste of time and resources. He said that Mr. Herrera also told the Joint City and School District Committee that the library distributes tickets to museums rather than commercial entities. He said the Hormel Center is important and said that the Summer Reading Program previously was only for children to teach them to increase their attention spans and the satisfaction of finishing a book. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, gave the definition of “reasonable accommodation”. He said the City Librarian’s memo addresses general ADA compliance and mentions better signage, it completely misses the point. He said a member of the public asked for a reasonable accommodation and this response disregards the actual substance of the request and fails to address whether or not a change to the seating in rear of the auditorium would impose a disproportionate or undue burden upon the library. He said the Commission needs to specifically address the substance of the request. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said when you enter the auditorium there is no indication of where the handicapped seating is in the auditorium. He said there is a great deal of necessary signage that needs to be addressed. He said it would be very useful to hear more about the processing for the collections in the Hormel Center.

Val Pescador asked if it was possible to get stools for express computers. She said she saw pornography on a computer at the Mission Branch and thought that it should be censored.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Breyer asked about the last two questions.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian said there is open access policy on the internet and that is part of the Board of Supervisor’s policy as well. He said the express terminals are for a very limited time, so they have not provided stools.

Brian Bannon, Chief of Information Technology said there is some seating at the express terminals but that they have to provide a balance with accessible seating.

Commissioner Breyer asked about streaming of films on the website and wanted to know if there would be savings through the online registration for the summer reading program.

Toni Bernardi, Chief of Children and Youth Services, said there may be some savings for the summer reading program. She said that bringing the three groups together will help to increase participation in the program.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said that through the Library’s partnership with the Recreation and Park Department they hope to double or triple participation in the Summer Reading Program.

Jewelle Gomez, President, said Roberto Lombardi’s report did specifically address the patrons concerns regarding seating in the back of the Koret Auditorium and additional signage.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said in prior budget discussions information technology has been one of the priorities for the Commission in the budget.

Brian Bannon, Chief of Information Technology, gave a presentation on the [priorities for the Division](#). He said those priorities are library collections, public technology, virtual users/web and enterprise technology. He went into more detail on those priorities and said in the future they will make a presentation on the broader digital services.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said he has a new respect for Mr. Bannon because he acknowledged the flaw in his own report and that is the shiny truck and it doesn't do any good if it crashes. He said this report is a very nice pile of buzzwords. He said he hopes we hear about the specifics while they are still in the planning stage. He said we have heard nothing about whether we have the commitment and the resources to implement these things. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he hopes we can have a slowed down version of the presentation in the future. He said the presentation was filled with buzz words and very little about what the library user is going to get from this. He said there was a mention of a big expense up front but was interested in what the savings would be. He said the word books does not show in the what's next slide and books are what most people come to the library for. He said the library is far too eager to endorse technology.

Ray Hartz, Director of San Francisco Open Government, said this agenda item is clearly in violation of the Sunshine Ordinance, which requires a meaningful description of each item. He said this item fails to meet any of the requirements under the law and should be continued to a future meeting. He said this will permit members of the public to more effectively participate in the discussion before the commission. He said there was nothing in the packet on the background of the item. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

A member of the public said yes the library is for books but thank goodness we have the technology bringing us into the new age. She said because of this library we are not stuck in the 17th century. She said thank you very much for bringing us forward.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane said he enjoyed the report and wanted more information on the cloud.

Brian Bannon, Chief of Technology, said the City is looking at ways to streamline technology, so that all the email systems are migrating to a cloud based exchange. He said cloud computing is not owning your own machines. He said in order to get to the point you need to go through a process of virtualization and the City is currently weighing the pros and cons.

Commissioner Ono asked about back up processes and security.

Brian Bannon said the library is fortunate to have a data center that has redundancy systems for the data. He said they are looking at the cloud for storage as well. He explained the process for reserving a computer. He said they are looking into processing online library cards.

Commissioner Breyer asked about the Wi-Fi systems and any limits on time or bandwidth.

Brian Bannon said the Wi-Fi system is always available and said there are limits to the amount of download availability. He said they will be reporting back on computer usage and performance standards. He said they are looking at virtual desktops and other types of technology.

Commissioner Breyer asked about the use of 15 minute terminals and the amount of time a patron can use a terminal.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said one of the goals of the performance measures is to track the percentage of time a terminal is actually being used.

Commissioner Breyer asked about media and technology for teens.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said they will be bringing back to the Commission some of this information because there are funding issues as well.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. LABOR UNION REPORT

Cathy Bremer, SEIU, said everyone on staff is working very hard

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said the impact on training and staff should be considered very carefully. He said the staff is part of your resources too, and the impact should be weighed carefully as you were urged to do so. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said one of the things omitted from the Information Technology report was the need to inform both the public and the staff of any changes. He said holds have become somewhat automated. He said there is a shocking ignoring of patron

privacy through that program. He said hundreds of names are in view to the public.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said the single most important expenditure is your personnel. He said he doesn't hear a genuine openness to input from employees.

Ruth Maginnis said she disagreed with the last comment. She said her experience with the library since the 1960s is that this is the most open administration to listening to employees. She said she hears this from many employees in the library.

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

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said he appreciates when there are improvements to the minutes. He said his comments on page one where he reported the friends report is not just late but illegal was not represented accurately and he quoted the Government Code that was violated. He said on page 6 it says that President Gomez has questions but the questions were not listed. He said on page 6 there is a typo that says Commissioner Randlett "let" the meeting. He said on page 7 he had some serious comments about how the changes to the minutes were retribution to the speakers. He said his comments about Carolene Marks emphasized the campaign to rename the Richmond Branch, not the vote. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said his comments were not reflected accurately on page one under public comment. He said on page three his comments were about book budget cuts. He said it is useful to give as much information as you can. He said it is sad the Commission is taking so much effort to not include the 150 word statement in the body of the Minutes.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said the placement of this summary, as an attachment to the minutes, violates the clear wording of the Sunshine Ordinance. He said the Library Commission has made specious arguments to justify this variance from the law. He said the actions of the Commission violate the Brown Act. He said the placement of public comment summaries, in variance with the law, is intended to relegate those comments to a position of secondary validity. He asked "Does anyone believe that a member of the Commission would, objecting to how their comments were reported in the minutes, be denied the opportunity to correct the record?" (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Kane to approve the Revised [Minutes of February 17, 2011](#) adding a missing bracket to the action on the bottom of page 7.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 17, 2011

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said the citizen's comments on the first page do very well but the explanation was about the influence of "le mot de Coulter" and that was not indicated. He said after his statement it says see addendum for 150 word statement, but there is no title to the Addendum so many people may think that their copy has no addendum. He said on page 4 it acknowledges that Commissioner Breyer asked for a report on the handicap seating but requests from Commissioners used to be bolded and this is not. He said on pages 8 and 9 it was reported that the Sunshine Task Force determined that attaching the citizen summaries as an addendum was a violation, but his comments expanding on that was not included. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the word censorship has been used again and unfortunately it looks like the library has gone to considerable efforts to twist and contort its interpretation of the law to allow once again the 150 word statements to be stuck at back of the Minutes. He said he thinks that is very sad. He said Ruth Maginnis name is misspelled.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said this Commission doesn't like anything that would result in members of the public participating in its discussions and/or questioning its actions. He said that is why this commission, in particular its President, evades any and all polite requests that it adhere to the law. He said the Commission evades its responsibility under the law to respond to questions raised regarding its compliance with the ordinance. He said this is not only disrespectful to members of the public, it is unlawful. He said he would request that the Commission arrange for the training of all members in its responsibilities under the law. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Commissioner Comments

Motion: By Commissioner Breyer, seconded by Commissioner Kane to approve the [Minutes of March 17, 2011](#) with an amendment to the statement about the 150 word statement to read "See addendum for a 150 word statement submitted by the speaker included in the Minutes"; correcting the spelling of Ruth Maginnis name and to add a bracket to the bottom of page 9.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7. ADJOURNMENT

Public Comment

There was no public comment on this item.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Kane to adjourn the regular meeting of May 5, 2011.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 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 May 5, 2011

Item 1: General Public Comment

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

When former Commissioner Chin was honored, she stated, "If you are not giving money I would say shut up."

But, the ugliest thing she ever said to me was, “Why don’t you find something else you care about and give them money.”

Comments should be directed through the chair. The implication is that I don’t belong in this meeting because I couldn’t give as much as the Friends. Also, that if I am not giving money, I don’t belong anywhere.

Thus, the Public Comment Fund was created and administered by the Friends so that whenever anyone said something unsupportive of the Friends, money was given so that those comments could be humorously dismissed as, “just raising money for the Friends.” Your president donates.

Private money undermines the premise of democracy. This means that decency itself is for sale.

Item 2: City Librarian’s Report

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

Lurilla Harris was not cc’d on the handicapped memorandum and she deserves the follow-up. Commissioner Breyer should be thanked.

City Librarian Herrera told the Supervisors that appearing before the Historical Preservation Commission was a waste of time and resources after claiming he welcomed working with them. There was no respect for preservation issues until he was prodded.

Mr. Herrera told the Joint City and School District Committee that the library distributes tickets to museums rather than commercial entities. Regarding the Hormel Center, archiving the gay community is important. A few years ago there was a scandal about cataloging failures and we must respect those materials by making them accessible.

Formerly, the Summer Reading Program was for the children, ended with a party, and taught the children to increase their attention spans and the satisfaction of finishing a book.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government: “Reasonable accommodation” means necessary and appropriate modification and adjustments not imposing a disproportionate or undue burden, where needed in

a particular case, to ensure to persons with disabilities the enjoyment or exercise on an equal basis with others of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. While the City Librarian's memo addresses general ADA compliance and mentions better signage, it completely missed the point. A member of the public asked for a reasonable accommodation and that request needs to be specifically addressed. In this case, the request was made for seating toward the rear of the auditorium. This response disregards the actual substance of the request and fails to address whether or not a change to the seating in the rear of the auditorium would impose a disproportionate or undue burden upon the library. This is the specific point that the members of this commission need to address.

Item 3: Information Technology

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

I can assure you that all members of the public listen to the reports, which the president would know if she listened to the public. How would she know we aren't listening, if she doesn't listen to us?

I have a new respect for Mr. Bannon because he acknowledged the flaw in his own report which is that it does not do any good if it crashes.

Former City Librarian Ken Dowlin in selling this building suggested that it would be better to have half a 747 than a DC-10. But it is no good if it doesn't fly.

This is a pile of buzzwords. I hope we hear about the specifics while they are still in the planning stage. We have heard nothing about whether we have the commitment and the resources to implement these things.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government: This agenda item is clearly in violation of the Sunshine Ordinance. Section 67.7, AGENDA REQUIREMENTS, requires a "meaningful description of each item," and then proceeds to lay out specific points regarding the requirement. The way in which this item has been placed on the agenda clearly falls short, in every respect, of what the law requires. The law specifically states: "a description is meaningful if it is sufficiently clear and specific to alert a person of average intelligence and education, whose interests are affected by the item that he or she may have reason to attend the meeting." This item fails to meet any of the requirements under the law and should be continued to a future meeting, where it can be placed on the agenda in a lawful and meaningful way. This will permit members of the public to more effectively participate in the discussion before the Commission.

Item 4: Labor Union Report

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

For no report that was a little bit of a report.

In line with what I said before, the impact on training and staff should be considered very carefully. The staff is part of your resources too, and the impact should be weighed carefully as you were urged to do.

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

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

We can always point to a time in the past when it was immeasurably worse.

I regret the absence of the April 7 minutes because they are of a piece with these minutes. These minutes have significant flaws but I appreciate some improvements even so.

The financial reporting of the Friends is not just late but illegal and I quoted the Government Code that was violated.

Page 6 states president Gomez has questions, but what questions?

“Commissioner Randlett let (sic) the meeting.”

Page 7, alienating the citizen summaries as retribution for successful enforcement is the point, which was also the point in the underlying minutes but ignored here.

The president mentioned Carolene Marks' contribution to the Commission on the Status of Women.

My comments on Carolene Marks emphasized the campaign to rename the Richmond Branch, not the vote.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government: The placement of this summary, as an attachment to the minutes, violates the clear wording of the Sunshine Ordinance. The Library Commission has made specious arguments to justify this variance from the law. The Brown act clearly states, “. . . any attempt to restrict the content of such speech must be narrowly tailored to effectuate a compelling state interest.” It goes on to say, “. . .that prohibiting critical comments was a form of viewpoint discrimination.” Further, “such a prohibition promoted discussion artificially geared toward praising (and maintaining) the status quo, thereby foreclosing meaningful public dialogue.” The placement of public comment summaries, in variance with the law, is intended to relegate those comments to a position of secondary validity. In reality, it serves no other purpose. Does anyone believe that a member of the commission would, objecting to how their comments were reported in the minutes, be denied the opportunity to correct the record?

Item 6: Approval of the Minutes (March 17, 2011)

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

These minutes are even more interesting.

The comments of the anonymous citizen explained the influence of “le mot de Coulter” and how it became the context for the commission, so you have the explanation but not the topic.

Then the reference to the citizen summaries “see addendum” but there is no title to indicate where the addendum begins. Any number of people might think that their copy has no addendum because it is not included.

Commissioner Breyer’s request for a report on the handicap comments is included but not in bold as the Commission once mandated.

On pages 8-9, what was said was that the Sunshine Task Force determined that attaching the citizen summaries as an addendum was a violation. Commissioner Kane asked if these minutes conformed to the Task Force’s advice, not the City Attorney’s advice.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government: I get it, believe me, I do! This commission doesn’t like anything that would result in members of the public participating in its discussions and/or questioning its actions. That is why this commission in particular its President evades any and all polite requests that it

adhere to the law. To go one step further, it evades its responsibilities under the law to respond to questions raised in a completely lawful manner regarding its compliance with the ordinance. This is not only disrespectful to members of the public, it is unlawful! I would encourage members of this body to demand of its leadership that they comply not only with the letter of the law but with its spirit! I would request that this body contact the SOTF Education, Outreach and Training Committee to arrange for the training of all members in its responsibilities under the law.