



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 21, 2011

(Approved at the regular Commission meeting of October 6, 2011)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, July 21, 2011, in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

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

Commissioners present: Breyer, Gomez, Munson, and Ono

Commissioners excused: Kane and Randlett

Commissioner Nguyen entered the meeting at 4:38 pm.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous citizen said the Commission lost and he hopes you will be gracious in defeat as others have been. He said everyone in the City knows how sleazy this Library Commission has been for decades. He said Mr. Herrera and Ms. Gomez attended the Ethics Commission and Ms. Gomez was found in violation of the Sunshine Ordinance. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Executive Director of Library Users Association, said once again the most important thing is what is not on your agenda and that is the fact that the Ethics Commission found your President Jewelle Gomez in willful violation of the Sunshine Ordinance when she silenced Sue Cauthen two years ago at this Commission. He said the Ethics Commission sent a letter to the Mayor essentially recommending that she be sacked. He said the silence the Commission has maintained on this issue has been shameful and has endorsed the behavior.

A woman from the audience said she would like to see a halt put to the Bernal Heights Library mural.

President Gomez asked the speaker to hold her comments until the next item when that issue will be discussed.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he has just handed the City Librarian an Immediate Disclosure Request for assistance in identifying records regarding the financial relationship of the San Francisco Public Library with the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library during the fiscal years 2008-09 and 2009-10. He said there doesn't seem to be any interest by the Commission in looking at hard numbers of how much the Friends of the Library takes in every year and how much of it makes it into the coffers or into the materials of the Library. He said the Ethics Commission found the President of the Commission in willful violation of the Sunshine Ordinance. He said the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF) met and voted 8-0 that the 150 word statements should be in the body of the Minutes as the law states and they are sending a letter to the City Attorney asking that they quit advising City Departments that these comments should be placed as an appendage. The SOTF has sent this to the Ethics Commission for further action. He said the action he has taken has nothing to do with race or sexual orientation as the Bay Guardian has implied.

Charles Higuera, former Library Commission member, said he felt compelled to come out this afternoon because his former colleague is being somewhat tarred as someone who has a history of egregious behavior in the past. He said this Commission's regard for public comment has been consistent and has very much tried to understand the public. He said he is certain President Gomez would not repeat her action again and he said he finds that her good service is being sullied by this one moment of human frailty. He said who among us has not lashed out and later regretted it. He said it is simply a part of being human. He said removing President Gomez is not warranted or in the best interests of the Library or the community.

Ellen Egbert, Bernal Heights, said she is a library supporter and has attended many Commission meetings. She said the public is not always gracious as we address you. She said sometimes we are far away from being gracious. She said we need to acknowledge that you are human and you have the same right not to be gracious as what we see here constantly.

Donna Bero, Executive Director Friends of the Library, said she would like to echo some of the comments by former Commissioner Higuera. She said she would like to say thank you and I'm sorry because all of the Commissioners work so hard to do the important business of the Library. She said you put your time, your heart, your efforts, and talent into it and you are constantly barraged by negative comments from anti-library activists and she said she feels very badly about that. She said she has worked very closely with Commissioner Gomez and has seen her inspire crowds of people and heard her speak about the role of libraries in her life. She said she has seen her work countless hours and worked her damndest to make sure that this Department is well stewarded and well

governed. She said on behalf of the Friends and herself personally she wants to thank President Gomez for the work that she does and hopes that this will come to resolution soon.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 BERNAL HEIGHTS BRANCH LIBRARY ARTWORK PROJECT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this item is to discuss and possibly take action to endorse the [Bernal Heights Branch Library Artwork Project](#) and forward endorsement to the San Francisco Arts Commission. He said there are several explanatory documents before you. He said at the last Commission meeting there was a discussion of the process for the proposed art work for the Bernal Heights Branch Library. He said since the last meeting the art work designs were revealed to the broader Bernal community to allow for [comments](#) and feedback. He said as part of the packet there is a significant amount of feedback for your review. He said in the resolution it says the Library Commission endorses the Bernal Artwork and understands that final approve on [design](#) and locations of all artwork on public structures rests with the Arts Commission, as set forth in Charter Section 5.103. He said the Committee is having discussions with the Bernal Merchants Association about funding future maintenance costs associated with ongoing maintenance of the artwork. He said Supervisor David Campos is in attendance, who initiated the mediation process with the community. He said Beth Roy, who led the mediation is also available.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said this is a happy ending. He said we need to remind ourselves how rancorous, hostile and antagonistic this whole process has been. He said there are profound lessons to be learned. He said all segments of the community have to live in it. He said outside forces from the Board of Supervisors came in and arranged for a mediation of the issues. He said these institutions reflect the community they are situated in. He said if they do that there is a positive synergy that flows back to the community.

Darcy Lee, Former President of the Bernal Business Alliance (BBA), said she has been a member of the task force since its inception. She said the BBA is the local Merchants Association in Bernal Heights. She said the BBA is committed to assist with the maintenance of the artwork once the project is complete. She said she started out with a very strong opinion that the mural should be removed and the building returned to its original WPA glory. She said it was fair to hear from the other side. She said Beth Roy set up a mediation process and she spent countless hours listening to both sides. She said they could not have done this without David Campos. She said she is now in full support of the artwork.

A woman from the audience said symbols are very important and putting this artwork of male bonding on the library is sexist. She said she would like the Commission to put a stop to this artwork. She said two men

holding hands have very little to do with a library. She said the library is about progress and she takes it as an offense.

Supervisor David Campos said he has the honor of representing District 9. He said he wanted to thank the Commissioners for their commitment to the City. He said the City values diversity of opinion and it tells you that people really care. He said what is before you is a remarkable process. He said this came from a process that he and then Mayor Newsom started. He said the process enabled people from all over the community to come together. He said it came together because of the remarkable skills of Beth Roy. He said the most overarching feeling was that there was a sense of community. He said he is proud to ask you to support this project.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he wondered if when this had originally started if the Commission had been more active in soliciting input from the community this whole process would not have been necessary. He said it is important to look to the future and solicit input from the community. He said you might want to consider adding women to what appears to be a sexist mural.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he is glad there has been an extensive process to try to resolve this. He said he is troubled by the inclusion of a document that appears to be comments and opinions about the artwork. He said he doesn't see included comments that were made before this commission including his own, which had to do with words and the importance of words on a library. He said some time ago there was some moving testimony who said that it was a source of pride to her that there were words in Spanish on the wall.

Ellen Egbert, Bernal Heights, said the artwork was available a couple of days before the last Commission meeting and the community was invited to respond with comments and questions. She said there has not been any response to those comments. She said the Moultrie Street design is one dimensional and the side of the building is multi dimensional and she would like to know how that is being handled. She said there is molding on the building. She said the design does not show anything about the vegetation. She said the community has not seen an application for the \$50,000 grant and she was wondering what that was based upon. She suggested a change to the Resolution to say instead of endorsing the Artwork the Library Commission has reviewed or endorses the process for the artwork. She said she would like the word endorses taken out of the last paragraph and simply have it say the Library Commission forwards the artwork to the Arts Commission.

Roseanne Liggett, Bernal resident, library user and advocate, said she has been before the Commission many times. She said she hopes the Commission had a chance to read all of the comments. She said there has been no neighborhood meeting where the artwork was presented and discussed. She said this is not real dialogue. She said communication since the first two community meetings has been minimal. She said what

is before you does not constitute anything close to a neighborhood mandate. She said the consensus that was signed by the 12 people on the committee was presented in a public meeting, but people in the neighborhood did not vote approval on that consensus statement. She said the artwork is very disappointing. She said she counted 17 comments against, 15 for and 6 neutral and 19 comments that were mixed. She said this controversy has not been settled and she said the best action by the Commission would be to only approve artwork on the rear wall. She said no other branch has artwork on the building.

Brendon Powell, member of the task force, said thank you to the other task force members. He said it was heartwarming to hear from other neighbors in the neighborhood he loves so much. He said one of the key elements the task force wanted to address was the existing mural and is represented on the Moultrie side. He said the design for the front of the building respects and enhances the existing architecture and represents the diversity of the community. He said he hopes the Library Commission will endorse this so that we can move forward to the Arts Commission.

Beth Roy, the mediator for the process, thanked Supervisor Campos and everyone involved and said a very special thank you to President Gomez for her civility, respect and openness to the considerable number of dialogues that we have shared. She said she agreed that there is no consensus in the neighborhood and many differences in opinion. She said what we did in Bernal was both very much about the library and the art and also not at all about the library and the art. She said there are means to move forward and she hopes we will continue the dialogue about who we are as a community and how we relate to each other.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Breyer said we appreciate everyone who participated in this effort and it should be looked at as a model that hopefully will be applied to other disputes as well. He said one of the comments we have heard is about the number of women in the artwork.

Gia Grant, Project Manager, said they have spent the last month reviewing the comments and they have worked on feminizing the women that are in the artwork.

Commissioner Ono said she appreciates the community getting together on this issue and trying to come together to a resolution. She said when she was looking at all the comments given to us. She said she still has questions about the process.

Gia Grant, Project Manager, was not involved in the initial mediation, but as they had two community meetings that were very well attended. It was explained that the Task Force would be working with the artists and deciding on the artwork. She said this will get to the Art Commission in September. She said some of the funding does have time constraints so

they are trying to get it through as quickly as possible. She said it will take approximately a year to complete the artwork once it is started.

Supervisor Campos said in terms of the mediation process, it is one that we began in consultation with the Mayor's office after talking with a number of people from the community. He said when the Task Force was formed it had to be large enough to have a wide representation but not so large that it was not manageable to mediate. He said he has been very impressed with the process and he urges the Library Commission's support. He said this has been going on for a long time and at some point there needs to be a resolution.

Commissioner Ono said this is Phase 1 and she wanted to know what the process would be for Phase 2.

Gia Grant said a lot of the information from the comments will be incorporated into the Phase 2 artwork. She said there will not be additional community meetings.

Supervisor Campos said they will continue to work with the people opposed to the artwork and to address the comments from all the members of the community. He said it has been very important to have the support of this Commission and that of the City Librarian throughout this process.

Commissioner Munson said that there were a number of comments opposing the artwork and there were comments that the artwork had been shown only a few days before the Library Commission's last meeting. He said maybe there should be a way to have some flexibility.

Gia Grant said all of the comments will be taken into consideration by the Arts Commission.

Commissioner Munson said his understanding is that the Library Commission is not saying this is the right piece of art.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian said the endorsement by the Library Commission is an important part of the process and the Arts Commission will be looking for that endorsement prior to proceeding with any artwork on the building.

Commissioner Ono said it appears the Library Commission is being asked to approve the process and could that be done without endorsing the artwork.

President Gomez said the Arts Commission is very explicit about art on public buildings having to be approved before the Arts Commission will take action.

Commissioner Munson said we should give the Arts Commission some flexibility on whether the artwork should be on all sides of the building.

Supervisor Campos said he respectfully disagrees and said that the process has brought about this resolution on the issue of which sides of the building and how much artwork there would be.

President Gomez said the Arts Commission has the power to ultimately decide on the artwork. She said they would prefer to hear that the Library Commission endorses the project.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said that the Resolution does state that the final approval on designs and locations of all artwork on public structures rests with the Arts Commission.

Commissioner Munson said he wants to make sure that the community has had sufficient input.

Gia Grant said the artwork has been available to the public for comment for approximately five weeks.

Commissioner Breyer was curious about how the comments will be included in the artwork.

Gia Grant said they will continue to look at the comments and will make minor changes as needed. She said the artwork design has not been completed for the back side of the building so those comments will be taken into consideration for that as well.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Ono to approve the draft [Resolution](#) endorsing the proposed Bernal Library art project and forwarding the endorsement to the San Francisco Arts Commission for approval.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. BRANCH LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET TRANSFERS

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said that there is a [memo](#) before the Commission recommending that the Library Commission take action to transfer \$239,783 in surplus funds from the Portola Branch and \$261,925 in surplus funds from the Eureka Valley Branch to the Program Reserve.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said this memorandum states “various program accounts.” He said that could mean a lot of things. He said suddenly we have over \$500,000 and no real indication how it was saved. He said one of the alternatives for the Visitacion Valley branch included saving money to put back into the reserve. He said a member of the public said we have a neglected minority neighborhood and the fact that we are going to save money and spend it on the rest of the city is not a good message.

He said the City Librarian told the Board of Supervisors that the BLIP can be completed out of the reserve. He said I think he was talking about the Library Preservation Fund reserve. He said the issue here is where the money is coming from and why the library is pleading poverty.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the previous speaker asked where these savings are coming from. He said he would like to know when these savings were realized. He said the library has cried poor, particularly when the library claimed it didn't have \$30,000 to rent a storefront while the Park Branch was closed for a year. He said Moving and Interim Services in the budget has been budgeted for \$4,360,000 and only about an eighth has been expended so far.

Ray Hartz, Executive Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he would like to echo the remarks of the prior speakers. He said if he was a Commissioner he would like to know where the money was coming from.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Munson said we have large projects and we have to make sure we don't over commit to projects.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there is a built in contingency for each project. He said at the end of the day when the projects are closed out it is a good news story when there are funds available to transfer into the Program Reserve.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said that many of these budgets were actually increased during the height of the escalation so we were fortunate to actually have the bids in some cases come in lower than projected. She said as you know the program is not fully funded so the program reserve will help us to complete the last two projects.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Breyer to approve the budget transfers from closed out projects of \$239,783 from the Portola Branch Library and \$261,925 from the Eureka Valley Branch Library for a total of \$501,708 to the Program Reserve.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Lena Chen, Bond Program Manager, said this month there will be a [special report](#) on the [Potrero Branch Library Waterproofing Project](#). She said the approved budget is \$188,910,119. She said there are copies of the [budget report](#) and the Quarterly Report in the back of the room. She said the Bayview Branch is in the demolition and pre-construction stage and the North Beach Branch has started the construction document phase. She said the Visitacion Valley Branch will be opening on July 30, 2011. She said the Ortega Branch is [scheduled](#) to open in September, 2011 and the Golden Gate Valley Branch is scheduled to open in

September or October. She said 19 projects are completed and open to the public. She showed photographs and gave reports on projects in construction including: Visitacion Valley, which is scheduled to open next week; Ortega; and Golden Gate Valley. She said the groundbreaking for the Bayview Branch Library will be held tomorrow, Friday, August 22 at 9:30 am. She said they are tracking higher bids than estimated for the Bayview Branch.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we are very pleased about the groundbreaking tomorrow and hope all of you will attend. He said we continue to work with the contractor and the issue of local hire has been successful. He said some of the competitive bid packages are not as good as in the past so the project is trending higher. He said they will be returning back to the Commission next month asking for a budget transfer for the project. He said it will be between a \$1.5 and \$2 million dollar increase, but he said that is within the program reserve that will cover that amount.

Lena Chen, Bond Program Manager, said the architects have restarted the design process for the North Beach Branch Library and will be working on construction documents. She said the public art selection process has been restarted.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said the appeal on the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the North Beach Branch was heard by the Board of Supervisors on June 7 and they upheld the Planning Commission's certification of the EIR unanimously. She said they also approved the street vacation, the rezoning and on June 28 they passed a resolution of necessity that allowed utilizing the triangle project for the library.

Lena Chen gave a summary of public outreach activities and said the Bernal Heights Library renovation has won the Historic Preservation Award from the National American Public Works Association and that the Ingleside Branch Library won the Kirby Ward Fitzpatrick Prize for Best New Building by the Architectural Foundation. She showed some slides from the Anza Branch opening.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, gave a special report on the Potrero Branch Library Waterproofing Repair Work. He said we are requiring a brief four day closure for the branch library for waterproofing repair. He said the branch opened on March 6, 2010 and water leakage was discovered in an interior wall in the library. The work is being scheduled to repair the leak in August before entering another rainy season. He said the closure of the branch will be from Tuesday, August 16 through Friday, August 19. He said during the closure a bookmobile will be there every day and programs have been relocated.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said he is concerned that we don't have a narrower window for the opening for Ortega. He said the amount encumbered for the total BLIP budget is just under 80%. He said there should be some projections about how the other 20% will hold up. He said he was at the opening at Anza and he has some nice photographs he wishes he could show you. (See addendum for a 150 word statement submitted by the speaker.)

Edmund Juicy said he wanted to correct that Friday is the 22nd.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he has been to almost every opening but he has never seen himself in the Library's publicity shots. He said he is glad the library administration is willing to mitigate a library closure for 4 days. He asked if the contractor is paying for this or the bond program paying. He said he wishes that there had been as much consideration given to the branches that were closed during their renovations. He said he would like to know what the savings are in the Moving and Interim Services line item and if that was based on not providing interim services. He said he would like to know what happened to the art on the wall at the Bayview Branch.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Breyer said he wondered if there was any neglect on the part of the contractor for the water leakage issue.

Lena Chen, Bond Program Manager, said half of the wall is existing and half of the wall is a new wall and without taking the wall apart there is no way to determine where the water is coming from. She said they will determine who is responsible after they open the wall and fix the problem.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5. CITY LIBRARIANS'S REPORT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said that the budget hearings went very smoothly for the library. He said the great news is that we have an approved budget of \$83.4 million and the second reading before the full Board of Supervisors will occur next week. He said the budget represents about a 3.7% increase. He said we only lost one position which was a Library Technical position. He said with that budget it is important to comment that we are maintaining service levels and we have a robust library collection budget for this year. He said we also have a very strong IT budget. He said SFPL received through the Urban Libraries Council the top [Innovation Award](#) for the Library's leadership development program. He said we won the same award last year for the Library's Green Stacks Program. He said the Mayor's Department of the Environment gave out its Blue and Green Awards which are given to Departments in recognition of their sustainability and environmental initiatives and we received two of those awards. He said we received the Green Building Leader award. He said we also won an award for Green Purchasing and Sustainability.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said the Library provides [copying and printing services](#) at the Main and all branch locations. She said these services are contracted through a third party vendor and a new contract has been entered into.

Kathy Lawhun, Chief of Main, said there has been an enhancement to public service with our new printing and copying contract. She explained the process for entering into the new contract with Konica Minolta. She said there will be a color copier, printer and scanner in every library. She said patrons will be able to use credit cards and they will have all ADA improvements. She said there are seven languages. She said they are proposing a reasonable fee of \$.10 each for black and white and \$.40 for color.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said the next update is on [Changes in Media Borrowing Limits](#). She said at the November 4, 2010 meeting staff provided a detailed report of the work of the Collection Management Area Focus Team through their recommendations a Media Borrowing Policies Task Force was formed. She said Shellie Cocking and Terry Gwiazdowski from the Task Force are here to present their recommendations.

Terry Gwiazdowski presented the key highlights from the Media Borrowing Policies Task Force. She said they researched various policies and found trends that led to their recommendations.

Shellie Cocking said their recommendations are to institute one loan period of 21 days for all types of materials – books, magazine issues, music CDs, audio books on tape and CD, language learning tapes and CDs, videos VCDs and DVDs. She said they recommended instituting the same number of renewals (3) for all items. She said they recommended eliminating specialized item limits based on item type and instituting one limit of a total of 50 items across all our item types.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said at the budget hearing on June 22, Luis Herrera said he shockingly stated “We want to be sensitive to the public” regarding the discontinuation of mailed notices. He said the City Librarian has recognized that the politics is no longer there for the contempt and that people want respect for their participation in society. He said the staff copies have always been included in the copying costs.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said yes things went smoothly in the Budget and Finance Committee because the Committee didn’t ask questions too toughly of the City Librarian. He said he thought the response from the City Librarian on mailed notices was highly misleading. He said the robust library material budget is highly misleading because the book and materials budget is shrinking in proportion to what the library was spending money on. He said it is unfortunate that a library subsidy should be targeted because copies are crucial to how the library

functions and maintains the integrity of the collection. He said he is happy that a number of coping costs are going down.

Ray Hartz, San Francisco Open Government, said he wanted to complement the City Librarian, the Deputy City Librarian and the staff on the two reports: Changes in Media Borrowing Limits and Copying and Printing Service Enhancements. He said they were short, concise, saved paper and were fairly explanatory and easy to understand.

Commission Discussion

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said in response to a question from Commissioner Nguyen that we do have a separate contract for staff copies on printers.

Commissioner Breyer said our five year forecast shows we get a greater and greater deficit over time. He asked the City Librarian whether he had contemplated keeping the color printing costs the same.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian said they did look at how it would impact the budget if the color copies remained at \$.50 a copy. She said we have heard that students are sometimes requested to provide color copies so we are trying to keep the costs down.

Kathy Lawhun, Chief of Main, said if we increased the color copies to \$.50 then the total revenue would go up to \$339,426 so then we would only be subsidizing around \$20,000. She said they want to make sure that the costs are equitable throughout the branches. She said scanning copies is also available for free.

Commissioner Breyer said he wondered if other Commissioners are interested in keeping the color copies at \$.50.

President Gomez said she feels like the librarians know their patrons and have created a program that will suit their patrons. She said I hate to tell them their business. She said it will be fine to charge \$.40 rather than \$.50.

Commissioner Ono said she would rather keep the price low and see what the options are later.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we always have the opportunity to measure the revenues coming and then make changes accordingly.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian said this is a base line year so we will be monitoring it closely this year.

Commissioner Breyer asked about the breakdown on the DVDs versus books.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there are many factors and there is a growing demand for a variety of media, rather it be DVDs or audio books, etc. He said there is obviously still a strong constituency for the printed book.

Terry Gwiazdowski said another trend is that we are now listening to what our patrons want and then purchasing those items for them. She said we leave it up to the public to see what they want in their libraries.

Commissioner Breyer wanted to commend the library on having clear reports and the idea of continuously looking for ways to improve.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, commended staff for their efforts in this area.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6. THE LABOR UNION REPORT

There was no labor union report.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2011

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said reviewing the tape shows that Commissioner Randlett was expected but that she is now shown as being excused. He said Commissioners' arrival used to be noted and some of the Commissioners are late 90% of the time and you don't want to embarrass them. He said under the anonymous citizen's comments on page one that his comments of tyranny of injustice was actually a fair account of his remarks but not that they exemplify the Minutes of April 7. He said he said on May 19th he was misquoted and misrepresented and this was the cheap trick he had talked about being characteristic of Steve Coulter. He said he should be able to speak with his own words as the Sunshine Ordinance guarantees. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he is glad that on pages one and two Ray Hartz' statement is entered into the minutes. He said it was the wording of Section 67.16 of the Administrative Code and that was included. He said on page three under agenda item number two under his comments regarding the Quarterly Report his point was that no one would know about the Quarterly Report unless they attended the meeting because it is not listed as an explanatory document. He said his comments on page five are incomprehensible and incomplete.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force had a meeting and voted 8-0 that the law means what it says. He said 150 word summary if submitted by the citizen should be included in the body of the minutes. He said they also indicated that they were going to send a letter to the City Attorney's Office recommending that he quit telling Departments they could put the

summaries as an addendum because they cannot. He said he does not want Ms. Blackman as well intentioned as she might be to paraphrase what he said, so his political speech was censored. He said the Task Force said the Library Commission is in violation and they have sent it now to the Ethics Commission for them to hear. He said things change and if the Sunshine Task Force said to place them in the minutes they need to be in the minutes.

Sir Edmund Juicy said his birthday was May 15 and these are the Minutes of May 19.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Munson to approve the [Minutes of May 19, 2011](#).

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2011

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said his comments on page one were not complete and should have included the statement “And, they ran into the same stonewall of denial that I or anyone would run into” after mentioning that Commissioners Kane and Breyer have made suggestions that the minutes of the Library Commission might be reasonable. He said you can’t leave the second half of the statement off without it being the opposite of what was intended. He said under Sue Cauthen’s remarks First Amendment should be capitalized. He said on the bottom of page seven he referred to an Incompatible Activities policy. He said his statement does not make senses unless you change the “the” to an “an”. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association (LUA), said small things make a difference and there is a book about it called “Eats, Shoots and Leaves.” He said on page two under his statement is a rather general statement. He said on page three his comments are not complete and an important element is missing in that they do not include his point that the new artwork does not have words in the Spanish language included.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said his objection to these minutes are now the same as the last ones in that the 150 word summaries are not included in the body of the minutes. He said if you look at the action of the Commission regarding Sue Cauthen and the minutes is that you seem to feel you are above the law. He said you don’t care what the law says and you are not willing to have an open discussion about it.

Edmund Juicy said he would like to remind people that a mind is a terrible thing to waste. He said this city has a high literacy rate and he hopes we will continue to share and discuss things.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Nguyen to approve the [Minutes of June 16, 2011](#).

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9. ADJOURNMENT

Public Comment

Peter Warfield said it is inappropriate to have adjournment without having new business which has not been on the agenda for quite some time. He said this should be on future agendas and gives the Commissioners the opportunity to suggest future items.

Sir Edmund Juicy said he would like to remind people that District 6 has the number one black population so the Main Library is going to be very important for black people.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Munson to adjourn the regular meeting of July 21, 2011.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 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 & Foundation

You lost. You could be gracious in defeat, but I doubt it.

Your president and your city librarian thought they could lie their way out, but this Library Commission has been sleazy for decades.

City Librarian Mr. Herrera explained you are “down for your set,” but you should be concerned about creating an institution with social values that will allow a community to live and function together.

Not just illegal, it was dishonesty beyond what was reasonable. Your actions are inexcusable because they break the social covenant. You can't send the message this is alright?

The bigger scandal is that the Library Commission never made the least effort to clean its own house.

If the Friends & Foundation were not thieves, your “dirty work” would not have to be so dirty.

That is why the lies cost more than the money.

Item 2: Bernal Heights Branch Library Artwork Project

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

It has been a long road and there are few happy endings. We need to remind ourselves how rancorous, hostile and antagonistic this all started. It would have been fortunate if you had learned some of the lessons that led to the mitigation of that hostility and adopted a community-wide process from the beginning, rather than what you did initiate, and for the most part always have always initiated.

Fortunately outside forces from the Board of Supervisors came in, provided an active mediation process, so we have a nice resolution.

When we recognize that these institutions reflect the communities they are situated in, and the community is included, there is a positive synergy that flows back into the community.

Item 3: Branch Library Improvement Program Budget Transfers

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

This memorandum states, "various program accounts" which could mean anything.

Conserving money is good, but where we save or spend money has been controversial. This is particularly true with whether we have money to provide alternative service. Suddenly, we have \$500,000, and no real indication how it was saved.

An alternative considered for Visitacion Valley included saving money to put back into the reserve. A member of the public cogently pointed out that saving money in a neglected minority neighborhood might not be a good message.

Your City Librarian told the Board of Supervisors that the BLIP can be completed out of the reserve. He was not specific. Was he talking about the Library Preservation Fund reserve?

The point here is, why are we pleading poverty if we suddenly found half a million dollars?

Item 4: Bond Program Manager's Report

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

As part of that preamble, I used to say, "We who cannot eat or drink salute you." Perhaps I will go back to that.

I am concerned that we don't have a narrower window than August or September about when Ortega will open.

We are just at the point of 80% of the BLIP budget being encumbered. There ought to be some indication of how the other 20% will hold up, even though the projects left are among the most problematic.

I was at the last opening at Anza and I have some nice photographs. It is a pity that I cannot show them to you.

I have been to all of these branch openings but one, I believe, and I never seem to see myself in the crowd shots. I don't know how that happens.

Item 5: City Librarian's Report

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

The City Librarian's appearance before the supervisors went very smoothly because it took place in secret. He was scheduled to return, but everything was resolved behind closed doors. Not the standard I was hoping for.

When he appeared on June 22, he shockingly stated regarding the discontinuation of mailed notices, "We want to be sensitive to the public."

Former City Librarians, who are turning over in their graves, would have said, "only troglodytes resist chance," "when you get them by the balls their hearts and minds will follow," and, "we don't negotiate with bibliophiles."

He has correctly recognized that the politics is no longer there for that contempt. People want respect for their participation in society.

In the past, staff copies have been included so that it is difficult to determine who is paying for what.

Item 7: Approval of the Minutes (May 19, 2011)

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

The minutes state that Randlett is present. A review of the tape reveals the announcement was that Randlett was "expected." Commissioners' arrival used to be noted. Some commissioners are late 90% of the time and you don't want to embarrass them. Burying history is not an option.

My general public comments about the tyranny of injustice was intended to create a context for the approval of the Minutes of April 7, and what those minutes exemplify.

Approval of those minutes of April 7, contains no reference to what I said about being misquoted, misrepresented and non-existent motives being assigned to me.

This was the cheap trick I had talked about being characteristic of Steve Coulter and I knew Steve Coulter. You are no Steve Coulter.

I should be able to represent myself as the Sunshine Ordinance requires.

Item 8: Approval of the Minutes (June 16, 2011)

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

The comments of the anonymous citizen include, Commissioners Kane and Breyer have made suggestions that the minutes of the Library Commission "might be reasonable." And, they ran into the same stonewall of denial that I or anyone would run into. You can't leave the second half of that statement off without it being the opposite of what was intended.

Regarding Sue Cauthen's comments. She believes in "our first amendment right." First Amendment is capitalized.

On page 3, the long and interesting controversy, was actually the long, antagonistic and adversarial controversy and you should have learned principles of cooperation without being forced to.

Bottom of page 7, that the article "the" should be "an" in the phrase "the Incompatible Activities policy" is critical because that policy is different from the policy that you approved and was never rescinded.