



# *San Francisco Public Library*

## **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2017**

#### **(Approved at the regular meeting of September 21, 2017)**

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on August 17, 2017 at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 pm.

Commissioners present: Dunning, Lee, Ono and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi

Commissioner Mall was excused.

The Commission currently has two vacancies.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi announced that this meeting will be adjourned in memory of Alexander Munson a former Vice-President of the Library Commission. She said she understands that there are people in the audience who are not able to stay until the end of the meeting who would like to speak on this item. She said she will allow public comment on Item 6 Adjournment and she will call the item again at the end of the meeting. She said members of the public will only be able to speak once on the item, either at this time or the end of the meeting.

#### Public Comment on Item No. 6 Adjournment in Memory of Alexander Lee Munson former Library Commission Vice-President

Ellen Egbert, Bernal Heights, said she knew Lee Munson through the Library Commission and all of the library events he attended. She said he was always gentle and kind. She said he always attended the Big Book Sale and she hopes the current Commissioners will attend as well.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said the Commission acted illegally in hearing this time out of order because you

cannon hear adjournment at the beginning of the meeting. He said if you are going to adjourn in someone's memory there should be at least an explanation of what that person did to deserve the honor and in this case the Commission did that. He said he wanted to give a strong condemnation of Lee Munson's service on this Commission. He said Lee Munson was a knowing and willful deceiver of the public. He said he was a knowing and willful collaborator in the scam perpetrated on the citizens of San Francisco as it relates to the financial dealings of the Friends.

*The following written summary was provided by the speaker, Ray Hartz. The content is neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by the Library Commission.*

I want to acknowledge that the Library Commission paid attention, at least in this instance to comments made by the public, regarding this type of agenda item. That being said, I would like to voice a strong condemnation of Lee Munson's "service" on this commission! With the many, many years of experience noted here in business, management and finance there can be no doubt that Lee Munson was a "knowing and willful" deceiver of the public. He was a "knowing and willful" collaborator in the scam perpetrated on the Citizens of San Francisco as relates to the financial dealings between the SFPL and "The Friends." Rather than using his extensive knowledge to protect the interests of the SFPL he chose to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to corruption! While some may condemn this statement as disrespectful, I submit it is simply an accurate reflection of the facts!

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he agrees with both of the previous speakers. He said it is preposterous to take adjournment at the beginning of the meeting. He said Lee Munson did try to listen to the public and for that he is appreciative. He said the background does not include the dates he served on the Commission and once he left the Commission he was never recognized by this Commission again.

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

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said John Updike, San Francisco Director of Real Estate, said there were several years the Library did not secure statements from the Friends showing proof of their lease agreement abatement for the Friends bookstore at the Main. He said this is another example of Luis Herrera's gross negligence regarding financial dealings with the Friends and the Commission's gross negligence in failing to protect both the good name and financial interests of the San Francisco Public Library.

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The following is from John Updike, San Francisco Director of Real Estate, regarding "The Friends" bookstore lease: "As one can see from reviewing the entire lease file that was provided to the complainant upon request, there were several years in which the Public library staff did not secure the statements from FFPL, and thus did not have anything to provide Real Estate to insert into the file relative to rent abatement. There are several instances of requests from Real Estate to Library seeking such information, but limited response." This is another example of Luis Herrera's gross negligence regarding financial dealings between SFPL and "The Friends!" This is also another example of this Commission's gross negligence in failing to protect both the good name and financial interests of the SFPL! Thomas Aquinas teaches: "Willful ignorance of what one ought to know is a mortal sin." You choose to be willfully ignorant!

An anonymous citizen said he used to complain that we had Commissioners who were arrogant, apparently now we have Commissioners who are lacking in self-respect. He said between the year 2000 and the year 2014 the Friends collected \$52 Million. He said the Library got not one red cent of that money. He said the Friends spent down their assets during that time. He said a serious Library Commission would be monitoring the activities of this private nonprofit very carefully. He said your President received \$200 from the Friends to attend an event, even though the event was \$150. She did not claim this on her Statement of Economic Interests.

Brent Paradise said he is concerned about computer availability. He said he has been told after you use your two hours of computer time a day that you are no longer able to use a computer. He would like the Library to allow users to use computers at the end of the day when they are not being used. He said he also wanted to express his condolences for the recent suicide. He thanked all of the Commissioners for their hard work.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director Library Users Association, said he hopes the Commission pays close attention to all of the previous public comments. He said the Friends giving money to Commissioners is a conflict of interest in the Commission's monitoring of the Friends. He said Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is a danger to the privacy of patrons especially under this administration. He said the commission should be fully participating in whether or not to go forward with this technology. He said there is a letter from the ACLU and the Electronic Frontier Federation strongly opposing this.

Patrick Flanagan said there is a lot of discussion about taking down statues these days and right next to the Library we have Pioneer Monument, which depicts a Native American on the ground with a pioneer and a Franciscan friar towering over him. He said many of his Native American friends are upset with this statue and it really needs to go.

Alvin Diserro asked if people who are disabled could be allowed to keep one or two or three books within the library so that they don't have to carry them home. He said that flexibility would be greatly appreciated.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2. MAYA ANGELOU STATUE AT THE MAIN LIBRARY**

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there is a memo in the packets outlining the background of this item. He said there is also a proposed Ordinance and Resolution introduced by Supervisor Mark Farrell affirming San Francisco's commitment to 30% non-fiction female representation in the public realm through works of art on public property, names of streets and right-of-ways, parks, public buildings and Department websites and publications. He said the Ordinance directs the Arts Commission to erect a statue of Maya Angelou in front of the Main Library. He introduced an aide from Supervisor Farrell's office.

Margot Kelly, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Mark Farrell, said she has been working on this legislation and explained the idea and inspiration for this legislation. She gave some additional background on Maya Angelou and why she was chosen for this honor.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said representatives from the Arts Commission were also available to answer any questions.

Explanatory documents: [Maya Angelou Statue Memo: July 17, 2017](#); [Maya Angelou Statue Draft Legislation](#); [Maya Angelou Statue Resolution](#)

### **Public Comment**

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said Maya Angelou is certainly worthy of a statue. He said he is puzzled by the relationship of the Library to this presentation. He said he has a problem with quotas and questioned where the 30% comes from. He asked about other groups that might want to be represented. He said he would support a statue of Maya Angelou near the Main Library.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he could not think of a single person who would deserve this honor more. He said having her on the property adjacent to the library is appropriate because the statue will be seen by a lot of people. He said having said that he thinks this is a political stunt by Mark Farrell who would like to become the Mayor. He said putting up a statue doesn't do anything to help the disparity between men and women in the workplace.

An anonymous person said maybe there could be an inscription on the statue telling about the scope of Maya Angelou's work. He said this would give life to the statue.

### **Commission Discussion**

Commissioner Dunning said she is supportive of this legislation.

Commissioner Ono said she is also supportive of this legislation.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi thanked Margot Kelly for representing Supervisor Farrell. She said symbolism is highly important not only for aspiration but for inspiration purposes.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the Commission will be updated as the legislation moves along.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 OPEN HOURS STUDY**

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this study is required every five years. He introduced Ryan Hunter from the City Controller's Office and Carol Anne Carroll from the consulting firm working on the project.

Ryan Hunter, Project Manager City Performance Unit with the Controller's Office said the last open hours study was done in 2012. He said he is working with the Library on the 2017 assessment. He gave the presentation on the usage analysis.

Carol Anne Carroll, Corey, Canapary and Galanis, the consultants on the project, gave a presentation on the survey background, the survey fieldwork details, the questionnaire, implementation, other project tasks and the schedule.

Luis Herrera, said the schedule is such so that any additional hours can be discussed during the budget process.

Explanatory documents: [Open Hours Study](#); [Open Hours Survey](#)

#### **Public Comment**

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he is experienced in conducting surveys for the Navy. He said there is nothing in the At the Library about the survey and he said the survey size is not a statistically valid number. He asked why this is being hidden from the public.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the last time this was done the Library came up with hours that were extremely problematic and a scam. He said the survey does not have any questions asking patrons about what hours they would like to see. He said the public has repeatedly said they want evenings and weekends. He said the last time the Library cut every 9:00 pm hour back to 8:00 pm and the Library had to roll back and change that after he objected to the hours.

Dr. William Leff said he does a lot of surveys and said he would like to see more late hours at the library. He asked about how people other than those that already come into the library will find out about the surveys.

#### **Commission Discussion**

Commissioner Ono asked about the usage analysis and the time frame. Ryan Hunter, Project Manager City Performance Unit with the Controller's Office, explained how the usage analysis was determined.

Randy McClure, Chief Analytics Officer, explained the additional analysis that has been done this year from the last time this study was done.

Commissioner Ono asked about the survey and the breakdown at the branches and the Main.

Carol Anne Carroll, Corey, Canapary and Galanis, said the sampling is predicated on the number of visitors per branch.

Commissioner Ono asked about the online survey and how that will be marketed.

Carol Anne Carroll, Corey, Canapary and Galanis, said the surveys will be taken with typical users of the library.

Commissioner Lee asked about why the survey is limited to 2500.

Carol Anne Carroll, Corey, Canapary and Galanis said that they have internal controls and they try to get a good cross section.

Randy McClure, Chief Analytics Officer, said the 2500 is supposed to be a representative sampling of our users across the system. He said there will be a separate piece for non-users and others at the public hearing.

Commissioner Lee said he has a different opinion and he said we are not including a segment of San Francisco non-users. He said it would be good to include them in the data.

Randy McClure, Chief Analytics Officer, said because the budget was limited they decided to not include non-users in the analysis.

Commissioner Dunning said she is concerned about not hearing more from the non-users and about the survey for staff.

Carol Anne Carroll, Corey, Canapary and Galanis, said the survey to staff will be available to all staff.

Luis Herrera, said that branch managers have a good pulse on where some of the gap hours are. He said we need to reassess how we can look at the non-users.

President Wardell-Ghriraduzzi asked about the marketing strategy.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief Community Programs and Partnerships, said we will be doing a considerable amount of marketing for the public hearings.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said each Supervisorial District will be making information available about the public hearings as well.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there is a memo to the Commission outlining the background of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) and the Friends and Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library (Friends). He said there is also a copy of the draft MOU. He outlined the key segments of the MOU including the annual support fund, capital campaigns and special fundraising projects and meetings and reporting. He said they have worked with the Deputy City Attorney on developing this MOU.

Marie Ciepiela, Executive Director of the Friends, said she is happy to have the MOU in place. She said all of the Friends' financial documents are on their website. She also said this year's Big Book Sale will be September 20 -24. She said she would be available for any questions.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief Community Programs and Partnerships, gave the Program and Exhibition Highlights. She said Kim Shuck is the new San Francisco Poet Laureate for 2017-19. She said the Summer of Love and Haight exhibit continues in the Jewett Gallery at the Main Library and that there are three other related exhibitions.

Explanatory documents: [City Librarian Friends MOU Memo: July 17, 2017](#); [Friends of the Library MOU](#); [Friends Sunshine Ordinance Compliance Agreement](#); [Programs & Exhibitions Highlights- July 20, 2017](#); [Kim Shuck Named Poet Laureate](#); [Summer of Love 2017](#)

#### **Public Comment**

Ray Hartz, Director of San Francisco Open Government, asked if the Commissioners would ask the representative of the Friends about why the Friends give the Library \$410,000 and they get 3.6 Million. He said this MOU has already been found invalid by the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force because it does not agree to abide by the Sunshine Ordinance. He said the members of the Commission should resign while their reputations maintain some level of credibility.

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“The Friends” placement on the homepage of the SFPL, inclusion in ‘At The Library,’ and Commission members participation in events sponsored by them are a full throated endorsement of the group and its fundraising. This deceives the Public into thinking their contributions actually go to ‘Support the Library!’ In 2015 ‘The Friends’ were authorized to give the SFPL just over \$410,000, which is 10% of what they spent in that year. WTF happened to the other 90%? You do not know and do not care, as long as you

get your share! Members of this commission, should resign before 'the shit hits the fan,' and while your reputations maintain some level of credibility! However, as dupes and lackeys of the City Librarian and the Mayor, that's highly unlikely, isn't it? The members of this Library Commission have no shame regarding their collusion with Luis Herrera to blatantly deceive the public!"

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he hopes the Commission and the public pay attention to the outstanding research Ray Hartz has done on the Friends and it's relationship to the Library. He said in general the MOU is way too lacking in specific oversight and reporting with more and more activities. He said the Library is tremendously rich and does not need any donations. He read part of the MOU relating to programs and there is no specificity. He said the information from the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force has been left out.

Commissioner Dunning wanted to make sure that the MOU is still in draft form.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the MOU is in draft form and he has not signed it yet.

Commissioner Dunning asked about how the Friends and Library will meet the requirements of Article 3.f. She said if it is in writing she wants to make sure we abide by it.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the Library has discussed this with the Friends and are confident we can meet those requirements.

Commissioner Dunning asked if there is a mechanism for the Commission to be updated. She said she wanted to make sure the public was aware that the Friends are a separate organization from the Library and it is a 501.c.3 organization.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said they would be happy to come to the Commission once or twice a year.

Commissioner Lee said that the Friends are a 501.c.3 and they operate on their own. He said the Commission does not oversee this organization.

Marie Ciepiela, Executive Director of the Friends, said the Friends are a non-profit organization and one of its functions is direct financial support, she said they have an advocacy piece and have many volunteers promoting reading and literacy. She said their book operations is enormous. She said the Friends do more than just give cash to the Library and she said the numbers that have been represented by the public are incorrect.

Commissioner Lee asked about the effect that compliance with the Sunshine Ordinance will have on the Friends.

Marie Ciepiela, Executive Director of the Friends, said she does not believe that the Friends have to comply with the entire Sunshine Ordinance.

Brad Russi, Deputy City Attorney, said the advice that the City Attorney is giving is to the Library on its relationship with the Friends and the Sunshine Ordinance and that they do not give advice to the Friends.

Commissioner Lee said he loves the Summer of Love program.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said she agrees the Summer of Love is quite wonderful and showed a snapshot in time.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2017**

#### **Public Comment**

Ray Hartz, Director of San Francisco Open Government, said all of the information he uses on the Friends is a matter of public record. He said his 150 word summaries are included in the minutes to ensure that the commission is unable to censor, abridge, misrepresent, or otherwise compromise his First Amendment rights. He said the Commission does not question the Friends and as long as it is getting paid off the Commission is not going to ask.

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Inclusion in these minutes are four, 150 word summaries of my public comment at that meeting. There will be four such summaries in the minutes of today's meeting. There is never a response to any such public comment! You will 'bitch and moan' about what I say but never even attempt to respond or refute any of my comments. You will simply sit there with blank stares, your willful ignorance readily apparent to anyone with open eyes and open mind! Consider the fact that I submit the summaries to ensure you are unable to censor, abridge, misrepresent, or otherwise compromise my First Amendment rights! I would like you also to consider the old saying 'Silence gives consent!' These minutes, along with those of years of prior meetings, are a tacit acknowledgment of your gross negligence in carrying out the responsibilities of your positions. Be ashamed of yourselves, be very. Very ashamed!

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said we did not get an answer from the Friends on how they spend the other 90% they don't give to the library. He said on item 1 of the minutes he talked about the Summer of Love programs and that it is finally being presented today with most of the programs over. He said he is concerned that the Commission has not been consulted in any way about RFID. He said his

comments regarding RFID were greatly understated in the Minutes. He said his comments on Item 4 need to be clarified.

Motion: By Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Ono, to approve the [Minutes of June 15, 2017](#).

Action: AYES 4-0: (Dunning, Lee, Ono and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi).

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF ALEXANDER LEE MUNSON FORMER LIBRARY COMMISSION VICE-PRESIDENT**

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said he attended the Memorial Services for Lee Munson and is sharing the program with the Commissioners. He said he served the Commission at a pivotal time when the Branch Library Improvement Program was taking place. He said Lee Munson's expertise was invaluable and he recommends adjourning in his memory.

Explanatory document: [Alexander Lee Munson](#)

#### Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said thank you for the additional information provided about Lee Munson. He said he appreciates the opportunity to speak on adjournment. He said New Business should be added as an agenda item to the agenda because there is no formal way for others to add items to the agenda. He said he is concerned about the surveys for open hours and that they are not reaching enough people.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government said what the Commission did was illegal by having the same agenda item for adjournment heard twice. He said it would have been a good public service if the Commission would have adjourned before it began.

#### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said she had the honor of serving with Lee Munson on the Commission and one of the things she always remembers that she was such a snappy dresser, and that he was sweet and gentle. She read some comments from former Commissioner Larry Kane with memories about Lee Munson about how Lee was warm, kind and generous and how he will be sorely missed.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian read a statement from former Commission President Jewelle Gomez "It was my honor to serve as President of the San Francisco Public Library Commission a joy to have Lee Munson by my side as Vice President. He had a wonderfully perverse sense of humor, which is how he endured some of our meetings. As a tireless supporter of the Library he poked and prodded at budget projections to make sure we got it right. He was always available to provide his financial overview and expertise. As a creative writer, not a business person, no one needed that expertise more than I did. Because of his diabetes, he was an endless source of snacks so I was grateful he sat next to me for

more reasons than the budget. There's no day I come into the Library that Lee and his work don't cross my mind. In that we he'll always be with us."

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Dunning, to adjourn the meeting of August 17, 2017 in memory of Alexander Lee Munson.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Dunning, Lee, Ono, and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi)  
The meeting adjourned at 6:30 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).