



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 3, 2011

(As amended and approved at the regular Commission meeting on December 1, 2011)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, November 3, 2011, in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

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

Commissioners present: Breyer, Gomez, Munson and Randlett

Commissioner excused: Ono

Commissioners Kane and Nguyen arrived at 4:45 pm.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous citizen said at the last meeting a Commissioner endorsed civility and decorum. He said he often refers to “Le mot de Coulter” which is the tip of the iceberg of vile stuff that he hopes you can barely imagine, including laughing while we are serious. He said the “barriers to the truth” is what is truly harmful. He said never mind the “public comment fund” to which your president contributes. He said if the Friends were not such thieves you would not need to be so aggressive to protect them from accountability. He said the Ethics Commission found against your president and you could have supported the standard of decency, irrespective of persons, but you did the opposite. He said basic reason and decency is reserved exclusively for the donors. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he hopes the people in the room are listening to what the public has to say because it affects the library in a number of ways. He said when you look up an item in the catalog sometimes you get additional information but sometimes you get additional information that is not available. He said the back button does not work in the catalog. He said the printing and copying machines are an atrocity and the branch librarian could not help

him with the copying. He said the Bernal Branch library mural community process was appallingly bad and closed.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said during the October, 2011 meeting the staff identified just under \$750,000 in savings and at the same time immediately identified a need for just over \$750,000 in additional needed expenditures. He said the Commission had questions and received only vague answers and when the Commission asked about delaying the action they were warned of dire consequences if just over \$500,000 wasn't immediately transferred. He said the Commission when ordered to jump paused only long enough to ask "how high"? He said the additional funds were authorized and, typical of many similar situations in the Commission's past will probably never be mentioned again. He said he has a funny feeling the Commission has seriatim meetings and discusses things before the meetings. He said he recently asked for assistance and was not given any and it is clear that information has been withheld. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2. COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES (CNL) REPORT

Laura Bernabei said she is the Ingleside Branch representative for the Council of Neighborhood Libraries (CNL). She asked that other members of the CNL in the audience please rise and be recognized. She said CNL is a group of volunteers from each of the branch libraries. She said there are one or two members from each branch. She said members are recommended by branch librarians and appointed by the Chief of Branches. She said we have 39 members at this time representing 27 branches. She said the CNL mission is: "In order to create a public library system that best meets the needs of San Franciscans, the CNL promotes dialogue among and between Branch Libraries, San Francisco neighborhoods, and library and City decision-makers by promoting public awareness about the library system and its services; identifying and championing branch needs and working to resolve issues; and acting as a conduit for neighborhood input." She said CNL meets once a month and the Chief of Branches chairs the meeting. At the meetings we discuss any new topics that we need to work on and learn new things about the library. We also get to share with each other what is happening at the different branches. She said Sue Blackman also attends the meetings representing the Commission and lets us know what happens at the Commission meetings.

Ellen Egbert, represents the Bernal Branch at CNL, said one of the major issues has been the Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP). She said even before BLIP many of the members were working hard to collect signatures to get the initiative on the ballot. She said Luis Herrera has been with us through every single branch opening and we appreciate his efforts. She said CNL has been very active in the BLIP activities

attending all community meetings and they have attempted to mediate when issues have arisen. She said they have participated in fundraising efforts for the branches. She said CNL members participate in closing and opening parties. She said one CNL member participates in the Furniture, Fixture and Equipments meetings for the branches. She said with the branch managers CNL members have helped to design brochures for the branches. She said just before the opening CNL members help out with the pizza party for all the staff involved in the opening and Luis graciously thanks everyone involved. She said CNL members have devised a lessons learned checklist for post occupancy evaluation. She said all of us at CNL are proud to have been part of the BLIP program and are proud to say 22 down and only 2 to go.

Harriet Solis said she represents the Merced branch at CNL. She said basically CNL provides basic support for the libraries. She said elected official outreach is one of our official tasks. She said during election periods they make sure those running for office know how important the libraries are to the communities. She said they attend other community events, attend Library Commission meetings, do new member recruitment and have a Steering Committee that meets once a month with Luis and the Chief of Branches.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said he is gratified to see some members of the Council of Neighborhood Libraries and he hopes they will continue to come to the Commission meetings. He said the CNL has been a source of people who support not only the library, but San Francisco and Democracy in general. He said he hopes they will follow in the footsteps of their former members who got active and serious about the library system, and were hungry for more than pizza. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said this item is agendized in a way that makes it impossible for members of the public to understand the content. He said there is no meaningful description and no explanatory documents are supplied. He said the Sunshine Ordinance 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 or seek more information on the item." He said the Library Commission seems intent on suppressing public comment and he wonders if this is done with the intent of suppressing public attendance. He said the public won't know to attend if they don't know their interests are affected by the item. He said the Commission treats the public like mushrooms by keeping them in the dark and feeding them BS. He said he appreciates the CNL, but those of us who choose to raise issues are treated poorly and intimidated. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Director Library Users Association, said it is nice to have people come who do support libraries. He said it would be nice to do some joint projects together. He said the CNL may not know but the administration came to the Commission with a proposal of a cut to the book budget. He said thanks to the Library Users Association's efforts the plan was ultimately rejected by this Commission so that there was no cut to the book budget. He said he has been trying to understand what has been going on with the Bernal Branch and the artwork project and if there is a calendar about the history of Bernal it seems like the Branch would have access to it.

Commission Discussion

President Gomez thanked the members from the CNL.

Commissioner Kane said the Commission appreciates the work of the CNL.

Commission Nguyen said he would like some background on the history of the CNL.

Ellen Egbert, member CNL, said CNL began prior to the opening of the new Main. She said the branches were in trouble and with the assistance of the Chief of Branches the group was formed. She said they report to the Commission about once a year.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the group came about at a grass roots level due to fiscal issues and lack of attention to the branches. He said their leadership has helped on many issues.

Commissioner Breyer said he is interested in how the CNL is engaging in the neighborhood.

Ellen Egbert said CNL members are all part of the communities they represent and they share information with the community and ask for input from the community.

Commissioner Randlett said CNL's work is invaluable and she thanked them for acknowledging the work of the City Librarian because he does do a lot of good work and deserves recognition. She said the Commission admires the work that CNL does.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said he wanted to make a couple announcements on some key positions that will round out his Management Team. He said Edward Melton is the new Chief of Branches. He said Edward comes to us from the Houston Public Library where he oversaw 10 library locations and oversaw their mobile technology lab. He said Edward was responsible for managing and planning the new technology libraries in Houston. He said he wanted to

thank Martha Neves for the work she has done as interim Chief of Branches. He said the second appointment is Toni Cordova as Chief of Communications, Programs and Partnerships. He said she comes to us from Tucson, Arizona with over 25 years of experience in communications and public relations primarily in the area of public education and the non-profit and business sectors. He said most recently she was Director of Government and Community Relations for a school district in El Paso, Texas and prior to that she was the Chief of Staff for the Tucson Unified School District, the second largest public school district in Arizona. He said Toni has led key initiatives to position the districts as key partners in their respective communities through engaging diverse communities. He said he would like to ask to table the [Controller's 2011 City Survey](#) and a discussion can take place at a future meeting. He said with the support of the Commission, the Library has continued to identify new and innovative ways of serving our communities. He said prior to today there have been updates on earlier digitization efforts including laptop lending, website enhancements and e-book collections. He said [topics to be discussed](#) at this meeting include: upgrades to public wireless access in SFPL facilities; enhancements to patron email notices; and progress on digitization projects that are creating greater public access to San Francisco documents, San Francisco History Room materials, and unique analog video collections.

Brian Bannon, Chief Information Officer, gave a presentation on the Wi-Fi upgrades.

Michelle Jeffers, Public Information Officer, explained the new email notifications and showed the difference between the old email notifications and the new notifications which highlight upcoming activities at the library.

Christina Moretta, Photo Curator, and Trent Garcia, Electronic/Digital Services Librarian gave a presentation on a pilot program called Analog to Digital. She said the Library has received a California State Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant. She said the library has digitized 2,395 minutes of analog audio visual material. She said the material will be accessible via the SFPL website. Trent Garcia said the next steps will be public access, cataloging and preservation.

Susan Goldstein, City Archivist, said she is co-managing a program with Kate Wingerson who helped to put this presentation together. She said the grant provided One Scribe machine and one IA scanner on-site at each location. She said a second machine is run by volunteers, with IA staff training and oversight. She said the priorities for scanning are things that are unique, local, fragile, non-circulating and copyright-free. She said this includes government documents, local history, and city directories. She said 2019 items have been scanned that have had 321,894 hits on the Internet Archive site. She said these books are used all the time. She said they are doing partnerships with other organizations. She said they are looking at sustainability beyond the one year of the grant.

Christina Moretta said they have developed a partnership with Dan Vanderkam who geocoded 13,257 images. She said this resulted in a website www.oldsf.org where specific sites can be clicked on and historical photos and information will appear.

Toni Bernardi, Chief of [Children and Youth Services](#) gave an update on some major programs. She said on October 6, 2011 the library participated in Read for the Record with 46 library programs and 2,030 attendees. She said the Tricycle Music Fest West had 7,208 attendees with 2 Main Stages and 6 branch concerts. She said this morning there was an event in the Children's Center with 186 Fifth Graders celebrating mythology. She said on Saturday, November 12, Chris Van Allsburg and Lemony Snicket will be in discussion from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

Michelle Jeffers, [Public Information](#) Officer, said last night the library hosted Mary Roach in conversation with Adam Savage as part of the Library's One City One Book. She said as part of the American Sabor exhibit, this Saturday will be a teen Latin dance showcase at 2:00 pm in the Koret Auditorium. She said the Marjorie G. and Carl W. Stern Book Arts & Special Collections Center annual holiday lecture will be held Saturday, December 10 at 2:00 pm. She said on January 18, 2012 at 6 pm Richard Bolles will be holding a program celebrating the 40th anniversary of "What Color is Your Parachute."

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said over the years he has become the institutional memory, and he said he assumes that if you wanted to know the history you would ask him. He said welcome to the new staff members. He said the e-mail overdue notice looks like a generic junk mail and not something personal and important to the patron. He said he hopes some of the images from the PowerPoint on the Digital Services Strategy do not indicate its user-friendliness. He said the first sentence from the explanatory document is ungrammatical gobbledegook. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he is glad to see programs mentioned that include books and reading. He said regarding the Wi-Fi update there is no mention about the potential health risks. He is particularly worried about those that work in the library and with the patrons. He said the e-mail notification does not show at the top of the e-mail what type of notification it is. He said the disastrous installation of the copier machines was apparently installed without any input from the patrons of the library.

Ray Hartz, Director of San Francisco Open Government, said there is no denying that we have a marvelous resource in our public libraries and our staff that works in them. He said it is out of concern of that institution that I and the other speakers do what we do. He said if there are soft ball questions staff will come back with answers but when there are questions about the money those responses are evasive. He said he has not heard

what has happened to the paper notices. He said historical preservation was important in what was presented but the history of the Bernal Branch has not been preserved. He said when the mural goes down at the branch there will be a loss of history and he hopes that the library will somehow maintain that history.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane asked if there were plans to digitize newspapers.

Susan Goldstein, City Archivist, said there are copyright issues and it is very difficult to digitize newspapers.

Commissioner Kane said a lot more people would be interested in newspapers than some of the other things mentioned. He said he is glad it is funded for another year. He said on Digital Strategy he would like to see a report at least once a quarter and he would like to see a report on long term strategy. He said books are changing fast. He said he is happy we have the new Chiefs on board. He asked about the search that was done.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the searches were all done nationwide through a recruitment firm and it included internal and external candidates. He said there will be more [updates on the Digital Strategy](#). He said they will be looking for additional money to digitize newspapers.

Commissioner Breyer asked about the limits on use for Wi-Fi. He asked if a computer is available can a user use it for longer than an hour.

Brian Bannon, Chief Information Officer, said the Wi-Fi is available 24-7 and he said the loaner laptops are wireless. He said laptops are subject to the same requirements as are the desktop computers.

Commissioner Breyer said he appreciates the updates. He asked about the rollout for the new printers.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said any major change in equipment will have some bumps in the road so they are working closely with the supplier to work out the kinks.

Commissioner Nguyen said he is very excited about the oldsf website. He said he also wanted to follow up on the health issues related to wireless. He asked if the library had any additional information related to this.

Brian Bannon said there have been no substantive changes to Wi-Fi other than upgrading it. He said he does not have any additional research on the health issues.

Commissioner Kane said the work Dan Vanderkam did on the geocoding was amazing and the library owes him a huge thank you for that work.

President Gomez thanked staff for a great report. Commissioner Randlett said she is extremely appreciative of the high quality hard work by the staff.

Luis Herrera said Susan Goldstein will be recognized as one of the Heroes by the California Historical Society in a couple of weeks.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. LABOR UNION REPORT

Cathy Bremer, Local 1021, said she was happy to report that Governor Brown signed AB 438 into law safeguarding against the privatization of libraries. He said the last meeting at the Visitacion Valley Branch was especially painful to survive the nasty comments that were being made by the public at the meeting. She said there was no civility last month. She said she understands about watchdogs, but there is such negativity on every topic three times that it is very tedious. She said she would like to hear comments from the public with an eye towards making things better.

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said Voltaire said "I may not agree with what a man has to say but I will defend to the death his right to say it." He said bottom line is the union representative doesn't like our comments either. He said she is free to come up and say she doesn't like our comments just as the Commission is free to say that as well. He said the fact that you don't like our comments does not mean that they are not true. He said one of the reasons there is the desire to keep the 150 word statements out of the Minutes is the fact that you want to silence public comment. He said he is exercising his rights under the First Amendment. He said you would like to have meetings where the public is excluded. He said some comments make people uncomfortable but the bottom line is the Commission has a fiduciary responsibility and he sees the Commission do nothing.

Andrea Grimes, Special Collections Librarian, said there is a difference between disagreeing and being abusive and we have seen both of it and we are familiar with the abuse that took place 20 years ago. She said she believes it is time to move on and be productive and yes sometimes disagreeing. She said we need to hear from our public when they have important criticisms but on the other hand no staff member, no library administrator or Commissioner should have to endure verbal abuse. She said that is just not o.k. She said she would like to see the public agree and disagree but let's knock off the incivility.

An anonymous citizen said he realizes what has been going on for the last twenty years and that has been a fraction of his tenure. He said he knows what civility and decorum means and he has been an advocate for decent treatment at the Library Commission for more years than he cares to remember. He said the ball is in your court. He said you can't feel yourself pushed, you can only feel yourself pushing back. He said you

can't hide behind masks and propagate the kinds of dishonesty and abuse you have propagated then blame it on the citizens. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he is very disappointed that we heard the report that we did. He said these are very long term and venerated members of the staff that have spoken. He said in 1996 and 1997 there was a lot of contention about a variety of things and he heard about the incivility by the public. He said he hasn't called anybody names or questioned anybody's motives. He said he has spoken about facts and two of your Commissioners followed up on two issues he raised at this meeting. He said the concerns he has brought up like the book budget and paper notices have also been addressed by the Commission.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Breyer said he wanted to thank the labor representatives for keeping the Commission up to date on the legislative actions and said he and the Commission are very appreciative of the staff's work.

Commissioner Randlett thanked the labor representatives for their comments about the manner in which public comment takes place.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 2012 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

Sue Blackman, Library Commission Secretary, said the [draft 2012 meeting schedule](#) is similar to this past year. She said there will be four months with only one meeting: January, July, August, and December due to the holidays and the regular summer break.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said last year there were 22 scheduled meetings and this year's schedule only has 20. He said you need to look and see if this is a schedule that can be met. He said this year there have 18 scheduled meetings, five cancelled meetings and one was replaced by a special meeting so there have been 14 meetings. He listed the Commission's attendance records for those meetings. He said historically there were many more meetings. He said Commissioner Nguyen has testified to one Monday meeting, but we don't know how many more Monday meetings there have been. He said the public's business gets done here and you should have at least as many meetings as last year and the Commissioners should attend the meetings. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the attendance by the Commissioners has not been exemplary. He said former Mayor Newsom set what he considered attendance standards which he urges the Commissioners to look at. He said quite a number of the Commissioners fall below those attendance standards. He said if the public's comments

are not factual he would expect the Commissioners to address this. He said the meetings used to be at 5:30. Some other Commissions meet at 6:30 or 7. He said he would urge you to change the hour of the meetings to a later time such as 5:30.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said you need to consider what is going on here. He said he appreciates the anonymous citizen keeping track of the Commission attendance and it should be your responsibility not members of the public. He said as far as the criticism goes, he said dealing with this Commission is like dealing with a fort under siege. He said you sit behind the desks and we never get any response. He said people who damage institutions are typically not the people on the outside trying to get in they are the people on the inside trying to keep others out. He said how many members of the public bother to come to your meetings? He said people don't come to the meetings because they see the push back the Commission gives to public comment. He said everything comes down to your resistance to looking at the money.

Commissioner Discussion

Commissioner Munson said they had been asked in the past to change the date to a little later and they agreed to change it to 4:30. He said the Commissioners have a great deal of dedication and he does not appreciate it when members of the public make things personal.

Motion: By Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Munson to approve the 2012 Library Commission Schedule.

Action: AYES 6-0: (Breyer, Gomez, Kane, Munson, Nguyen and Randlett).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2011

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said his comment on the first page reflects his comments on the POE but omits the conclusions you were supposed to draw about the underlying reality and ridicule of the public. He said on page 3 his comments were not reflected accurately. He said on page 10 his comments about the labor union report do not include his comments about the blackmail of the Friends of the Library. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said his comments on page 1 are not reflected accurately and his point is not made in the description in the Minutes. He said in certain respect these Minutes are quite good, but just before item 4 on page 7 he said his comment on the Bond Program Manager's Report should read "money to be spent on the operation of the library and not on *construction*" not on structures as it currently reads.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he has reviewed past minutes and has raised concerns about how he is being misrepresented and what he got was silence. He said when he asked the Commission to read the law about the 150 word summary being included in the minutes, you say you are following the City Attorney's advice, but the City Attorney has changed his advice in the past. He said when members of the public point out that there are inaccuracies what we get is ignored. He said the Sunshine Task Force has ruled twice against you and for me to keep my statements in the body of the minutes. He said you violate my free speech rights and then you are surprised when I get uncivil. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Randlett said she did want to acknowledge that Mr. Warfield has been quite dignified and civil and she has not specifically directed comments towards him.

Commissioner Breyer said on page five under his comments the word costs should be added after "perception is that \$1.7 million is due to higher construction **costs**."

Motion: By Commissioner Breyer, seconded by Commissioner Munson to approve the [Minutes of August 18, 2011](#) as amended with the correction by Commissioner Breyer to add the word costs on page 5.

Action: AYES 6-0: (Breyer, Gomez, Kane, Munson, Nguyen, and Randlett).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

An anonymous citizen said these minutes are so instructive of the various themes that have been addressed today. He said on page 3 his comments are not reflected accurately. He said the point he was making was that the public was defending itself because of its advocacy of open government. He said on the bottom of page 9 this is a situation where Mr. Hartz spoke for 3 minutes and 21 seconds. He said the summary only represents the first 52 seconds and ignores everything he said after that point

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the harshest social cut you can give someone is to ignore them. He said there is a range of ways that you express disapproval. He said in that respect when you ignore the public you are playing a very harsh cut against the public. When you ignore a request for a correction it makes it appear that he is wrong in what he is saying. He said on page 7 under public comment he is quoted as saying "he asked about how that

compares with the overall collection which he believes is around 200,000.” He said there are more than 2 million books in the collection that last he saw and the titles are in the 700,000 range.

Ray Hartz, Executive Director San Francisco Open Government, said his interest is two things 1) that members of the public are allowed to speak and 2) members of the public are allowed to access public records, which are the property of the citizens of the City and County of San Francisco. He said he watches the abuse and ignoring of the members of the public by the Commission. He said he is just trying to do the right thing and he has the right to come up here and question the things that you do.

Commissioner Randlett left the meeting.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane requested that the secretary check the tape for the number that was stated by Mr. Warfield on page 7 and correct that number if it is misrepresented.

Motion: By Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Munson to approve the [Minutes of September 1, 2011](#) with the amendment to Mr. Warfield’s comments on page 7 if needed.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8. ADJOURNMENT

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he does not recommend adjourning when the agenda does not include New Business as he has requested. He said that gives the Commission the opportunity to add items to future agendas.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Breyer to adjourn the regular meeting of November 3, 2011.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 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 of the Library

A Library Commissioner endorsed civility and decorum, but did not clarify she was chastising your president, and thanking the citizens, so I will set the record straight.

"Le mot de Coulter" is the tip of the iceberg of vile stuff that I hope you can barely imagine, including laughing while we are serious. Barriers to the truth is the harm known in psychology as "psychic assault." Your president contributes to the "public comment fund."

This is how wealth maintains exclusive influence for themselves and disenfranchises the citizens. If the Friends were not such thieves you would not need to be so aggressive to protect them from accountability.

At the Ethics Commission, you could have supported the standard of decency, irrespective of persons, but you did the opposite. Basic reason and decency is reserved exclusively for the donors.

Ray Hartz, Executive Director San Francisco Open Government: During the October, 2011 meeting of the Library Commission, the Library Staff identified just under \$750,000 in savings for two completed branches in the BLIP program. Just in time, too! After identifying the savings, they immediately identified a need for just over \$750,000 in additional needed expenditures. Following very vague explanations for these needed amounts, the Commissioners asked questions and received only very vague answers. When mention was made about delaying the authorization until these questions were answered, representatives of the Library went into crisis mode and warned of dire consequences if just over \$500,000 wasn't immediately transferred. Typical of their usual handling of things placed before them: the Library Commission, when ordered to "JUMP!" paused only long enough to ask: "HOW HIGH?" The additional funds were authorized and, typical of many similar situations in the Commission's past, will probably never be mentioned again!

Item 2: Council of Neighborhood Libraries (CNL) Report

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

I am glad to see members of the Council of Neighborhood Libraries and I hope they will continue to come.

The Council has been a source of people who support not only the library, but San Francisco and Democracy in general. I hope they will see the need to continue to come to Library Commission meetings not just when they are invited.

I hope they will follow in the footsteps of their former members who got active and serious about the library system, and were hungry for more than pizza.

Ray Hartz, Executive Director San Francisco Open Government: This item is agendized in a way that makes it impossible for members of the public to understand the content. There is no "meaningful description" and no "explanatory documents" are supplied. The Sunshine Ordinance states: "Sec. 67.7(b) 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 or seek more information on the item." As the Library Commission seems intent on suppressing public comment, particularly "meaningful" public comment, I don't think it unfair to "wonder aloud" if this is done with the intent of suppressing public attendance. After all, the public won't know to attend if they don't know if their "interests are affected by the item." The Library Commission treats the Public like mushrooms: keep them in the dark and feed them B.S.

Item 3: City Librarian's Report

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

Over the years I have become the institutional memory, and I assume that if you wanted to know the history, you would ask me.

Welcome to the new staff members and I hope they have been warned what they are getting into.

Thanks to the City Librarian for giving us a warning of the Controller's report.

The e-mail overdue notice looks like a generic junk mail and not something personal and important to the patron.

I don't want to be too critical of the digitization project because it is a work in progress, but I hope the PowerPoint does not indicate its user-friendliness.

The first sentence from the explanatory document includes "to ensuring" which must be a difficult error for a native speaker to make. We all recognize this as ungrammatical gobbledegook.

Item 4: Labor Union Report

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

Twenty years has been a fraction of my tenure. I know what civility means. I have been an advocate for decent treatment at the Library Commission for more years than I care to remember, in some cases, before you were born.

The staff should remind you of what the citizens have endured. I said before, the ball was in your court and I have had no response. You can only feel yourselves pushing back.

There are commissions and public bodies in this city that have supportive relationships with their public. If you want to know why that is not true before the Library Commission maybe you need to examine your own consciences.

You can't hide behind masks and propagate the kinds of dishonesty and abuse you have propagated and then blame it on the citizens.

Item 5: 2012 Library Commission Meeting Schedule

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

This year's schedule had 22 scheduled meetings and next year only 20.

So far there have been 18 scheduled meetings, five cancellations, one of which was replaced with a special meeting. So there have been 14 meetings.

President Gomez and Mr. Breyer have both perfect attendance and perfect punctuality.

Mr. Munson attended 13 meetings and late 3 times.

Ms. Ono attended 12 meetings and late once.

Mr. Kane attended 11 meeting and late 5 times.

Mr. Nguyen attended 9 meetings and late 5 times.

Ms. Randlett attended 7 meetings and late once.

Some commissioners have never been here for adjournment.

Historically there were many more meetings. Commissioner Nguyen has testified to one Monday meeting, but we don't know how many more Monday meetings there have been.

The public's business gets done here and you should have at least as many meetings as last year and come to them.

Item 6: Approval of the Minutes (August 18, 2011)

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

I want to acknowledge, Le mot de Coulter; feels like old times.

The anonymous citizen's general public comment reviews the incident after the POE but omits the conclusions you were supposed to draw about the underlying reality and the ridicule of the public.

On page 3, the expectation the money would not go back was what your administration told the Capital Planning Committee and the "two betrayals" that were omitted, were betrayal of the purpose of the Library Preservation Fund and of public disclosure.

On page 10, after the phrase "if you don't take their deal of private fund-raising and private influence peddling" has no "then" clause, because that was about the blackmail of the Friends of the Library and you can't have that.

Item 7: Approval of the Minutes (September 1, 2011)

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

These minutes reflect issues addressed today where meaning has been drained out or perverted.

On page 3, the point was that the public was being attacked for its defense of open government and the commentor was the chair of the Sunshine Task Force and an author of the Sunshine Bill of Rights. Mr. Munson robs us of this positive context, and the minutes rob us of it again.

So that this won't seem self-serving let us use Mr. Hartz as an example. On page 9, the summary, slightly garbled, reflects the first 52 seconds and then ignores everything said after that point. He had opinions and points to make, including the minutes containing viewpoint discrimination, Ms. Blackman carrying your water, and a dishonest discussion.

Parenthetically, the Ethics Commission didn't find me below the standard of decency.