



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 7, 2013

As approved at the January 16, 2014

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2013 in the Koret Auditorium Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:39 pm.

Commissioners present: Gomez, Munson, Ono and Randlett.

Commissioner excused Lee and Nguyen.

Commissioner Mall arrived at 4:40 pm.

President Gomez said because there are a lot of items on the agenda, the clock for public comment will be set for two minutes.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous citizen said here it is November and the cop has not shot me yet. He said you are the dystopian future that fiction has been predicting. He said the forces of dehumanization would make immorality completely shameless and disconnect us from social values. He said at the last meeting your president called attention to an inadvertent violation of the seriatim meeting provisions and then confessed that there had been an illegal meeting and illegal action that was apparently both deliberate and malicious. He said this should have been the straw that broke the camel's back. He said you don't understand that support for the City Librarian by the Library Commission that has been pursued with no investigation or no opposing viewpoints as part of an open process is completely worthless. He said there is no resolution of support of City Librarian Luis Herrera on this agenda because if it is not a sneak attack you do not want a discussion at all. He said you do not want an honest discussion and you don't want to fight at all unless you can exploit an unfair advantage. He said the definition of exploiting an unfair advantage is being a bully.

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

Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library "Maybe what you should do is what they used to do in the old Roman Republic – elect Ms. Gomez for the position of dictator for life and then at least the rest of us would have the hope an assassination might result in a change of leadership." It's November and the cop hasn't shot me yet. You're the dystopian future of completely shameless immorality. Your president has confessed to an illegal meeting, illegal action that was deliberate and malicious. Support for the City Librarian with no information, no investigation, no opposing viewpoints as part of an open process is worthless. There's no resolution supporting Luis Herrera on this agenda because if it's not a sneak attack you're not interested. Your only interest is exploiting an unfair advantage; the definition of being a Bully.

Larry Ware said he is a member of the Council of Neighborhood Libraries, a historian, a public advocate and poet. He said he would like to give a resounding and heartfelt thank you to the Commission for all of the beautification of the branches. He said there is a petition being circulated in honor of the late Linda Brooks-Burton by renaming the Bayview Branch in her honor. He said her memorial service was attended by family, co-workers, friends and members of the community. He said it would be the ultimate show of respect, gratitude and honor of her memory.

Tess Welburn, Coordinator for District 5 Action and Treasurer, Haight Asbury Neighborhood Council, said she would like to speak on the subject of the surveys for the expansion of the open hours. She said there is a number of flaws in how the survey was designed and how it was executed. She said there were only about three or four questions in the survey and there was only about an average of 125 responses per branch, which is a very small number. She said the surveys were not in any way conspicuous. She said next time please put a sign on the door of the library and a sign where the surveys are located. She said please do the surveys again in about a year and please do a better job with the surveys.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the publicity for hours is nonexistent in both the branches and at the Main. He said it is almost as if it is a secret process to be kept hidden from the public as much as possible He said when he went to a branch and asked about the survey he was told there was nothing. He said he had some trouble printing the pages from the attachment to the agenda, he asked the librarian if she could help with that and he had to walk her through step by step on the web in order for her to find the information. He said it is most unfortunate that you have taken steps in violation of the law. He said the two minutes for public comment is a violation of the three minute

requirement under Sunshine and if the Commission wants to support the City Librarian, why not have an open and not an illegal meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2. BRANCH LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (BLIP) SCHEDULE CHANGES

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said last month during the Bond Manager's Report, we mentioned that we would be coming back with some more detailed information about the last of the 24 projects with the BLIP program. He said pursuant to our memo with DPW, we are asking for a modification to the schedule for the North Beach Branch Library. He said the dates on the memo in the first bullet should be 2012 and not 2013.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said the North Beach Branch Library is the last to be completed and she showed photographs of the construction of the project. She said they are requesting an adjustment to the North Beach Branch library opening date from December 2013 to April 2014. She said there are several factors that have resulted in this delay. She said the delay in the award of the contract caused the contractor to lose several key subcontractors. She said the contractor also experienced delays in receiving temporary construction power from PG&E due to on-going negotiations between the City and PG&E. She said other factors that impacted the schedule were unforeseen site conditions, the delay in the Mason Street sewer relining project and additional material order time.

Explanatory document: [Memorandum to Commission](#) from City Librarian dated November 4, 2013.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said it looks like four members of the public wanting to speak is now grounds for restricting public comment. He said according to the schedule, the branch was supposed to be opening next month. He said now you are extending it out four months. He said the excuses you are being given is that there was a problem with the excavation contractor and the discovery of an underground tank. He asked about the timing of the delay causing events. He said those delays are only recognized in an open meeting one month before the scheduled branch opening. He said the underlying reality is that if the Commission discussed this earlier, someone in the neighborhood might care, someone in the press might pick it up and some democracy might take place. He said that can't happen so we have to keep it secret until the very last minute. He said I suppose you could have a separate meeting the day before the opening. He said this is not the oversight the citizens hoped for, but it is the oversight the Library Commission watchers expected. He said now we can expect to find that the more crucial the issue the more restricted public comment will become.

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Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. Four citizens desiring to comment is now grounds for restricting public comment. The opening was scheduled for next month and the extension is for four months. The excuses are problems with the excavation contractor and discovery of an underground tank. When did those delay causing events occur? Yet those delays are only recognized in an open meeting one month before the scheduled branch opening. The underlying reality is that if this were discussed in an open meeting before, the neighborhood might care, the press might pick it up, democracy might happen. So it is kept secret until the last minute. Not the level of oversight the citizens hoped for, but the oversight commission watchers expected. The more crucial the issue the shorter the public comment.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said as the previous speaker said the giving of one month's notice and extending it by four months is rather short notice. He said as the speaker said there appears to have been problems for quite some time. He said it says one of the first major subcontractors who was scheduled to start excavation and drilling accepted other work because he did not have a certified contract to proceed according to the original bid schedule of April 2012. He said at that point there was a problem and he doesn't recall that problem being discussed as something that would or could delay the project. He said he is glad to see there are five specific bullet items with five specific reasons given for the continuance. He said that is in stark contrast to the next item which has little detail and no bullet items or specificity that would make it understandable to the public. He said in either event there is little to be said than to go ahead and do the delay.

Commission Discussion

President Gomez said there have been discussions about North Beach and the delays quite often so there has been nothing secret about it.

Commissioner Ono asked if there would be a change to the budget because of the delay.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we should be o.k. within the contingency budget, but if there are any problems we will come back to the Commission.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Mall to approve the change in the North Beach Branch Library opening date from December 2013 to April 2014.

Action: AYES 6-0: (Gomez, Mall, Munson, Ono, and Randlett.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 EXPANDED PUBLIC SERVICE HOURS IMPLEMENTATION AND ADJUSTMENTS TO SEVERAL BRANCHES

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said all of last year we went through a very full and engaged process of public hearings and surveys and a plan was approved for implementation during the course of this year. He said we have also gone back and talked to staff and with the input from the public and the surveys we were able to ascertain that we needed to make some adjustments. He said we will be asking for some action on these adjustments. He said we are looking at a phased implementation based on filling vacant positions.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches, gave a presentation on the expanded public service hours implementation. He gave the background of the public outreach and said the Library Commission approved the expanded service hours on June 20, 2013. He said the increase in library service hours will be at 18 branches and the 3 Main centers.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, added that last year we also added an additional day to three branches so that brought the total hours to 1370.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches, explained the phasing of the implementation of expanded public service hours. He said Phase I will take place in December 2013 with six additional hours/week at six branch libraries. He said Phase II will be 28 additional hours/week at seven branch libraries and will take place in January 2014. He said this proposal includes adjustments from initially approved hours at Noe Valley, Park and Western Addition branches to maintain popular services and hours. He said Phase III will include 5 additional hours at two branch libraries and this includes 3 hours/week adjustments to maintain Thursday morning service at Chinatown, Excelsior, Mission, Richmond, Sunset and West Portal branches.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the additional hours for the Access Services in the Main library will require ramping up of staff for those areas.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches, said the next steps will be phased implementation based on filling vacant positions, public outreach to promote expanded public service hours and a Commission motion to approve the adjusted hours.

Explanatory documents: [City Librarian Memorandum](#) dated November, 4, 2013 and [Expanded Public Service Hours](#) Presentation.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said this must be the item where scores of citizens will want to speak to justify your restriction of public comment. He said somehow he doubts it. He said this is an item where you surveyed public input in September and October of 2012 with no specific information. He said when you passed a schedule in June of this year, a full eight or nine months later you got considerable push back when people became informed about some of the restrictions that they had not been informed about. He said we thought you had learned a little bit of a lesson about

letting people have time to be informed and educate themselves. He said there is a lack of information given to the Commissioners. He said he could tell you, but, of course, you are not listening, so he's not going to tell you. He said he has the opportunity to take his complaints about how uninformed and irresponsible this decision is to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors.

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Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. No doubt this will be the item on which scores of speakers will wish to speak to justify your restriction of public comment. You surveyed public input in September and October of 2012, without providing specific information. When you approved hours in June of 2013, a full nine months later, people pushed back when they became informed. We didn't expect another sneak attack just five months later. We thought you had learned a lesson about letting people have time to educate themselves. There is a lack of information that is being provided to you. You aren't listening so I am not going to tell you. You may consider that a victory. I can take my concern about how uninformed and irresponsible this decision is to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said this is your chance to show some backbone and not pretend you aware of a gigantic scam. He said the Commission approved 56 hours at the cost of \$1 Million in February. He said suddenly in June, poof, 20 hours disappeared and it appears Mr. Herrera had folded in previously funded hours increases at three branches for 20 hours and suddenly the 56 hours was 36 hours. He said today we have no comparisons with what the new adjustments mean with the current hours. He said we don't hear from the administration how many net hours are being increased and we don't hear a lot of details in the expansion of the cuts that are continuing in the evening hours in direct contradiction to what your survey was clear on. He said there is no connection here between what people asked for and what people are getting. He said there is nothing in the written materials that tells you that the availability of evening hours until 9:00 in this city, which is now four nights a week is being reduced by 25% by shifting evening hours around so that now there are only three nights. He said the surveys showed that people wanted to use the library most in the evenings. He said you added zero evening hours. He said he could give you more information if he had three minutes to speak.

Tess Welburn, District 5 Action Committee, said she would like to thank the Commission for putting in some Sunday hours finally at the Park Branch which they had been asking for for years. She said like most residents of the city that work we want to go to the Library in the evening and on the weekends. She said several years ago the Board of

Supervisors gave you funding to put weekend hours in and it didn't happen, but she said she is grateful that it has happened now. She said the Western Addition Library needs service until 9:00 pm. She said the people in that area do not have all the resources that some other parts of town have. She said please restore service to 9:00 pm two nights a week at Western Addition. She said you have eliminated Monday evening service across the city. She said under the current schedule people can go to a different branch on different nights. She said some branch library should be open at least four nights a week.

Robert Livingston said he agrees with everything that has been said previously especially by Mr. Warfield because this has already been discussed in the past. He said the most leading word is expanded and he asked what that means. He said it is expanded to some and taken away from others. He said all across the country library hours are being cut for fiscal reasons. He said this is a wealthy city and there seems to be money for such services. He said he has great skepticism of the use of language using words such as expanded. He said that seems to him to be a half truth. He said it seems to him there should be more common sense to guide the library especially in these difficult times.

Melissa Riley, Librarian's Union, said the additional hours are an amazing, exciting and very welcome development. She said they want the Commission to know that the Union is very happy that the administration understands that we have a need to fill the large number of current vacancies and reassignments as well as fill the need for new positions which will be required to staff the library for these new and different hours. She said the library is making a great effort to get positions filled as soon as they can and we all know this may not happen according to the phases as laid out today. She said we understand that the timeline is ambitious and we just want to make sure you know what needs to happen. She said it especially looks problematic with the three units at the Main Library that are adding hours in the near future.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall said last June when we passed the expanded hours we were told that it would take a long time, but she still does not quite understand why.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said it is a complex answer but we are working with the Department of Human Resources to expedite this. He said we already had a significant number of vacancies going back several years when the entire City had a freeze. He said there is a bottleneck in the hiring process. He said it requires eligibility lists and those take a significant amount of time so some of those lists are not available. He said until those are ready we cannot hire anyone. He said in addition to that there is a full vetting process and internal civil service requirements. He said it takes time for people to move into slots within the same class.

Commissioner Mall said the library has its own human resources, but it's a citywide pool that these new hires need to come from.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the City does the exams on our behalf but these eligibility lists are done by their recruitment division.

Commissioner Mall clarified that there are lots of different openings for all kinds of jobs in lots of different agencies.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this goes back a few years where there was a freeze on positions during the recession. He said it has taken several years and we still haven't caught up. He said the good news is we are working very diligently and it is one of our key priorities. He said he just had a one on one with the DHR Director and said we really need their support to make the Library a priority in terms of the impact that it has on our public service.

Commissioner Mall said there is big list of all the job openings in the City.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there are many different classifications.

Commissioner Mall said the City does the testing for the eligibility list and then the Library gets x number of people who are possible hires so she wanted to clarify where the bottleneck is.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said it is a combination of all of the above.

Donna Marion, Human Resources Director, said the City has a separate Human Resources Department, but most of the larger City Departments have their own Human Resources Office as well that facilitate the hiring within the Department. She said DHR has the examination unit which does the citywide exams. She said you do not have to be a San Francisco resident to work for the City. She said there is a merit system.

Commissioner Randlett said this is all tied to the whole system of pension and benefits and that is why it is so complicated.

Commissioner Munson said he served on the Civil Service Commission for 16 years and what we have now is a big improvement. He said it was even slower before and the Civil Service Commission made it possible for managers to make decisions.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we are working on this and it is a partnership and we do need to make sure things are fair and equitable. He said we are making progress.

Commissioner Mall said she does understand some of the public's frustration that the money is there and the additional hours are not happening.

President Gomez said that the Commission did have several meetings where we looked at comparisons to previous hours and we did review the information that came in from the surveys.

Commissioner Ono asked if the Supervisorial Districts were taken into account.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there was some inequities previously and now the minimum number of hours open a week is 45 and then it goes to 50 and 55. He said this is a work in progress and we will review this every five years. He said we should be very pleased that we did increase several libraries an additional day, so 2/3 of our libraries are now open seven days a week.

Commissioner Ono said she hopes there will be signage in each of the branches affected explaining the new hours and when they will become effective.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we will launch a public relations campaign but the initial one will be a soft approach and for the increase in days of service there will be a much more aggressive marketing campaign with banners and a multi-language marketing campaign.

Commissioner Randlett asked if there could be any kind of creative solution in respect to staffing. She said in the past some special arrangements have been made with classifications where employees come in where they are not a regular civil servant position but they are temporary.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we do already have Temporary Exempt As Needed, but they would not be the type of employee that we need for these positions.

Donna Marion, Human Resources Director, said we are a unionized city, so we cannot have people come in and do unionized work that pertains to a particular classification.

Commissioner Mall said the Library should get all of the positive public relations that it should get, but she thinks it needs to be staffed properly before there is a marketing campaign.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Munson to approve the proposed expanded public service hours implementation and to maintain 8-9 pm hour of operation at the majority of branches currently open until 9 pm; adjust evening hours to accommodate Thursday morning children's programs; increase hours to bring Noe Valley to 50 hours/week tier; adjust Monday hours at Park to accommodate Saturday morning and weeknight evening hours; implement North Beach Library hours with the opening of the new branch library; and approve Main Library expanded hours projected for San Francisco History Center/BASC by January 2014 and Access Services within 2014.

Action: AYES 5-0: (Gomez, Munson, Mall, Ono and Randlett).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. LITERACY AND LEARNING INITIATIVE

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said literacy and learning is one of our five strategic priorities. He said we are looking at the design and construction of a new learning center and space planning associated with a teen center. He said over the past year we have had a staff fully engaged in re-envisioning how we do literacy and learning.

Karen Strauss, Chief of Main, said the Literacy and Learning Focus Team members are here to describe what they have been working on for the last year.

Joan Lefkowitz, Web Services Manager, and an active member of the Literacy and Learning Focus Team said the issue of literacy and learning is among the primary strategic priorities. She said staff has been engaged in an in depth process to determine the library's path and undertake solutions to meet this community challenge. She said Harbor Consulting provided us with both a national and local overview of the current situation in regards to the complex issues facing our community. She explained some of the partnerships engaged in this arena. She said we learned that San Francisco is a Tale of Two Cities with relation to literacy. She said the goal of the Focus Team was to provide direction in identifying a literacy and learning (LL) priority plan; to create internal system-wide standards; to recommend governance structure and staffing; to plan for creation of a literacy coalition; and to communicate and market the Library's role in the coalition. She said the scan of projects the Library is already working on includes Project Read; Wise Up!; Early Literacy; and the Jobs and Careers Center. She said the Focus Team's recommendation are 1) to address literacy needs in three key areas including adult literacy, youth/family literacy and digital literacy; 2) to create a learning and instruction unit; 3) to expand outreach and partnerships unit and initiate and support a City-wide coalition; and 4) to create a dedicated public learning center. She said a number of locations were considered for the literacy and learning center. She showed a brief look at the new center.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, gave a presentation on the design and construction of the Literacy and Learning Center. He said we are partnering with DPW. He explained the public service impact. He said the timeline is that design is complete with construction starting in January, 2014 and opening in the summer of 2014. He said the space planning and workspace moves include reconfigurations for the Teen Center and will include Project Read, which will move from the second floor to the Literacy and Learning Center. He said the Human Resources Division will move from the second floor to the sixth floor. He said the schedule and budget for the Teen Center is that the Teen Center construction will begin in summer 2014. He said the FY 13 – 14 budget contains money for the

Teen Center design and construction documents and Literacy and Learning Center design as well as the space plan/tenant improvements. Explanatory document: [Literacy and Learning Initiative](#) Presentation

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said Tale of Two Cities indeed. He said he used to know which city he was in and he is starting to wonder now. He said there used to be a distinction called functionally illiterate, which meant that you didn't read and write well enough to pursue basic functions of daily life. He said apparently we have reached the point in our society now, where it is so dysfunctional that that distinction no longer has any meaning. He asked when the last time any of you confronted an issue that was better because you knew how to read and write. He said certainly not by trying to read the documentation that this library puts out. He said he read it pretty well and it doesn't make any sense to him. He said the first question you want to ask yourself is, if this is the area where the periodicals used to be. He asked who decided that we didn't need that space for periodicals. He asked if the periodical staff was here to tell you what a mistake this is. He said they ought to be here. He asked why this has been a year in process and we have not heard about it. He said they claim the money is in the budget, but it disappeared in the budget then and it has disappeared now. He said because it is in the budget but we don't know how expensive it is.

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Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. No doubt this will be the item on which scores of speakers will wish to speak to justify your restriction of public comment. Tale of Two Cities: I used to know which one I was in. "Functionally illiterate" meant not reading well enough to pursue daily life. Our society is so dysfunctional that distinction no longer has any meaning. When did you confronted an issue that was better because you could read and write? Not regarding the documents this library puts out. This space is where the periodicals used to be. Who decided we didn't need that space for periodicals? Will the periodical staff say it is a mistake? Why have we not heard about it for a year? It may be in the budget, but we don't know how expensive it is.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said as the previous speaker mentioned, he thinks it is quite astonishing that the design is already completed and construction is starting in January, 2014 with an opening in the summer of 2014. He said we have heard nothing about this here at the Library Commission. He said what will happen to the periodicals. He said your own survey, which was done in relationship to the hours, showed that 80% of the folks who come to the library for materials and everything less was much less than that. He asked again what is

happening to the bound magazines. He said this library is going to go more and more senile and forget everything that it has. He wanted to know what the cost is for this. He said there is nothing here about this. He said this is appalling in terms of what has been left out.

Robert Livingston said he has a lot of questions about this. He said there is nothing more wonderful than helping people to learn to read. He said there is a problem with homelessness and all sorts of things but I look at this architectural rendering and I see what a wonderful thing, but there are questions about the cost and whether it is the best way to help people learn to read. He asked if people that need the help will be able to find that place. He said he doesn't like to see the periodical room contracted. He said the issue of hiring people should be urgent and what a shame that all the human resources are going to be involved in moving when you need to be hiring.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall asked if there is a budget for all of this.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this is all part of the tenant improvements and part of the planning for the teen center so it is embedded as part of what you approved for the planning stage.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said the current estimated budget for the Learning and Literacy Center is just under \$784,000 and that includes construction, furniture, fixtures and equipment, and soft costs, permitting and DPW costs.

Commissioner Mall asked if that amount is in the Library's budget or does that require additional funding.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said that money is in the budget.

Commissioner Mall asked if the Teen Center needed additional funding.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said yes the Teen Center will require additional funding.

Commissioner Ono asked about the periodicals and where they are going.

Karen Strauss, Chief of Main, said some of the periodicals are being moved to Brooks Hall, which is a retrieval area for periodicals going back decades. She said we have about 10 years available on the fifth floor and periodically there is a shift that has to occur and the older volumes are moved away and fresh ones put in their place. She said contracting the amount of space on the floor does not necessarily mean the amount of space that we have devoted to periodicals. She said they will still be accessible for paging. She said we also have many, many databases available.

President Gomez asked about the types of periodicals.

Karen Strauss, Chief of Main, said they are things like Art in America, Journal of Audiology, and People Magazine. She said it really runs the gambit. She said over time publishers stop publishing and titles fall out of favor. She said we had 8,000 subscriptions at one point and now we have about 2,000 for the whole system.

Commissioner Munson said it sounds like this is a continual logistics program, and it looks like you can use online versions to fill in the gaps. He asked if these include picture books for little kids.

Karen Strauss, Chief of Main, said the children's center has those types of periodicals in that center.

President Gomez said for example, if I wanted to look up the People Magazines for 1997, I would go to the catalog online and it would tell me that I have to page for it to get it.

Karen Strauss, Chief of Main, said the catalog would tell you if we own it physically and it would point you to the databases in which you could find it. She said you could page it and if the exact article was not available we could go through Interlibrary Loan to get it.

Commissioner Mall asked if Brooks Hall is available to the public.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said it is on a retrieval, as needed, basis. He said it is not accessible to the public. He said we will come back in the future for a discussion on the short and long term implications for adequate storage. He said we are the depository of city records and the reality is that the Main Library has limited space. He said Brooks Hall has been a wonderful opportunity but it is not the ideal storage facility.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 CITY LIBRARIANS REPORT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the pilot kiosks laptop lending program has been implemented at the Excelsior Branch and it has become a very popular service and is almost up to capacity. He showed a picture of the kiosk in the branch. He said we will expand it to another branch library and to the Main and if it is a success and we will come back as part of the budget and add it to other locations. He said there is a brochure, Imaginuity, Discover your Inner Scientist to promote among our young people. He said it is a variety of wonderful programs.

Toni Bernardi, Chief of Children and Youth Services, said the Early Literacy Program was developed with Every Child ready to Read. She said several years ago we developed our early literacy program and story times around their concepts. She said the Tricycle Music Fest grew out of the singing component of early literacy. She said when you sing a song you really emphasize those syllables more and the sounds of the words

more than when you are just talking. She said for the first time we co-presented with the San Mateo County Library. She said it was sponsored by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. She said we had 9 different award winning bands and 29 free concerts.

Explanatory document: [Tricycle Music Fest 2013](#)

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said isn't it wonderful we are putting in librarian-free kiosks. He said now that we have some pressure to have enough staff to open libraries, maybe we can put in the librarian-free kiosks and that will take off some of the pressure on the library. He said maybe this is the item at which scores of citizens will want to speak to justify the restriction of public comment. He said he wanted to point out the fundamental contradiction, which is if there are scores of people coming, maybe the solution is to go back to two meetings a month and that would provide the opportunity for the public to be able to speak for three minutes. He said he knows that you are thinking what a doofus this guy is. He said that you think doesn't he realize that this is all a pack of lies. He said yes, he realizes it is a pack of lies and you don't have to feel sorry for him. He said he didn't get a chance to go to the music festival. He said he hopes the readers were not disturbed.

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

Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. Wouldn't it be nice if the citizens had access to the graphics. It is wonderful that we are putting in Librarian-free kiosks. No doubt this will be the item on which scores of speakers will wish to speak to justify your restriction of public comment. Let me point out the contradiction that if there is insufficient time for public comment you could go back to two meetings a month so that there would be. I know you are thinking, what a Doofus this guy is. Doesn't he realize that this is all a pack of lies. Yes, I realize it is all a pack of lies; you don't have to feel sorry for me. I didn't get a chance to go to the music festival. I hope the readers were not disturbed.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he wishes he could give you a nice rendition of We are On the Eve of Destruction and perhaps when all the people in San Francisco become literate there will be nothing left to read in the library. He said if you do get rid of all those magazines, you won't be able to read the wonderful New Yorker article by Nicholson Baker about the pathetic lack of space that this building opened with on day one, which was published in the October, 1996 edition. He said that at the moment while many magazines are kept for ten years, few others have the full run as they should be as a treasure of the library such as Life magazine. He said that is one of the values and treasures of the library. The laptop kiosks were never shown to have any need whatsoever. He said there was never any showing that the branch

librarians couldn't lend out what looked like an average of six borrowings per day. He said we have had no cost figures this time, but previously we heard the kiosks were \$99,000 each. He said that is when the head of IT was unable to bring the kiosks down here because there were unspecified bugs. He said the term in the catalog that perhaps the City Librarian was looking for previously was "delayed paging," which is used way too often in this library.

Robert Livingston, said the Imaginuity program is kind of intriguing. He said we are a vibrant city and I think there is a tendency to think let's bring everything to the library. He said there are lots of places to do all of these wonderful things including teaching people to read. He said there are schools and other places to do these things. He asked what is the priority at the library and asked whether it is books or something else. He said it seems like a lot of these activities might have questionable strings attached and he thinks people should ask questions about this.

Melissa Riley, Librarians Union, said if you want to look at a whole year of People Magazine, then you will want to use bound volumes. She said at this point if you try to get People Magazine online it is just the text with no pictures. She said there are committees that are working on this and trying to make sure our periodicals are well cared for. She said the vast majority of them will not be able to be browsed in the same way as before and we need to make sure that we have a really good paging system.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Munson said this library is a cornucopia of digital and print material, music publications, research and reference materials, and city documents going way back.

President Gomez asked about the laptop security.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we have been diligent by putting signage on the computers.

Edward Melton, Chief of Branches, said each laptop has tattle tape so if it goes out the gate it will alert staff. He said the computers will not work outside of the library.

Joan Lefkowitz, Web Services Manager, said the laptops need to be checked out with a library card, so there will be a record of the person who has them.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 LABOR UNION REPORT

There was no Labor Union Report at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OCTOBER 3, 2013

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said this is an instance where three minutes would not be enough. He said the minutes still do not include references to the explanatory documents and the online version does. He said the ventilation report was neither referenced in the agenda nor the minutes. He said the online minutes are not preserved in our archive and there is no historical reference to that. He said the Minutes just says he misspoke and the real reference there was to Edward Robeson Taylor. He said Mr. Munson will be chagrined to learn that when the Commission approved the Minutes of July 18 it was without any of the grammatical corrections I noted. He said if you put those two facts together now the only possible response is to now do nothing less often. He said what was meant to be “to do nothing less often” was changed “to do nothing more often” which is a reversal and makes no sense.

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

Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give money to, or accept money from the Friends of the Library. Three minutes would not be enough. The printed minutes still do not include the explanatory documents referenced in the on-line version of the minutes. There was one document, the ventilation report, that was neither referenced in the agenda or the minutes. Since the online version is not part of the archive, there is no historical reference to that. I have solved the problem of the minutes containing a mistake. It just says, I misspoke. The reference was to Edward Robeson Taylor. Mr. Munson will be chagrined to learn that when I pointed out grammatical corrections the minutes went in with none of the corrections made. My statement “to do nothing less often” was changed by your secretary to “do nothing more often” which is a reversal and makes no sense. Without citizen summaries . . .

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said that many members of the public have left including Commissioner Mall. He said he guesses this just isn't important enough to stay for even though it is close to the end of the meeting. He said in a previously mentioned item it was not shown what or how much was provided by the Friends. He said on page 9 of the current Minutes it says that “. . . there are generous sponsors needed in a Library that has tripled the budget. . .” He said that should read “triple the budget. . .”

Commission Discussion

President Gomez said that under the anonymous citizen's comments on page 4, it should read “the only possible response is to do nothing **less** often” not more often as it reads now.

Commissioner Munson said on page 8 under Luis Herrera's comments it reads “there was some air quality issues with some foul orders” he said

that should read “foul **odors.**” He said on page 9 under Peter Warfield’s remarks it reads “why there are generous sponsors needed in a Library that tripled the budget” that should read “**triple** the budget.” He said on page 12 under the anonymous citizen statement it reads “He said what we see hear” should read “what we see **here.**” He said the anonymous citizen did not like the spelling of PowerPoint but that is how Microsoft spells it so that should remain the same. He said on the bottom of page 16 it should be changed to read “It’s important to adjourn in honor.”

Sue Blackman, Commission Secretary said the 150 word statements submitted by the public cannot be amended.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Ono to approve the [Minutes of October 3, 2013](#) with the amendments discussed by the Commission above.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Gomez, Munson, Ono and Randlett).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 ADJOURNMENT

An anonymous citizen said that this will be the item where scores of citizens will want to speak to justify your restriction of public comment. He said we often honor people who contribute to the library world or this institution. He said Ted Bamberger passed away on October 27. He said he was the last chair of the Library Citizens Advisory Committee. He said he is not sure how long he was involved but a contribution to the Library Citizens Advisory Board is a contribution to this institution and his passing should be recognized. He said he believed he was 85.

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

I presume that this will be the item on which scores of speakers will wish to speak to justify your restriction of public comment. We often honor people who contribute to the library world or to this institution. Ted Bamberger passed away on October 27. He was the chair of the Library Citizens Advisory Committee. I am not sure how long he was involved. A contribution to the Library Citizens Advisory Committee is a contribution to this institution and his passing should be recognized. I believe he was eighty-five.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he knew Ted Bamberger as the last chair of the Library Citizens Advisory Committee. He said he served as its first appointee until it concluded its run. He said Ted was the successor to a couple of other chairs Sue Cauthen and Dan Weaver. He said he did not serve very long but he was the last chair of that body. He said that body was created by the Board of Supervisors to keep an eye on the Library. He said Ted was a mild mannered but clear headed chair.

He said he certainly made a contribution for which he deserves to be remembered.

Sue Blackman, Library Commission Secretary, said the City Librarian did say that adjourning in Ted Bamberger's honor would be appropriate and said she did not know that he had passed and it is a personal loss to her.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Randlett, to adjourn the regular meeting of November 7, 2013 in honor of Ted Bamberger, former chair of the Library Citizens Advisory Committee.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Gomez, Munson, Ono, and Randlett)

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 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).