



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 21, 2019

(As approved at the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2019)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on March 21, 2019 at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

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

Commissioners present: Huang, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi, and Wolf.

Commissioners excused: Dunning, Lee and Mall

Sue Blackman, Library Commission Secretary, said that agenda item no. 10 adjournment is mis-numbered and it should be agenda item no. 9

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said item 3 does not mention fees at all. He said he has advocated for a fines and fees free system for a very long time. He said fees are a very serious burden on library patrons. He said fees have all of the bad impacts as fines. He said children and teens owe thousands of dollars. He said this is something the Commission's action has completely ignored. He said the digital divide has made access and privacy much worse.

Brent Paradise asked if we could have one day a week as a quiet day, without music, dancers, etc. in the library.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 CITY LIBRARIAN RECRUITMENT

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi gave the update on the City Librarian recruitment. She said the Commission has had two closed sessions on

the recruitment and she said the process continues and she hopes to have some information to share with you in the near future.

Explanatory document: [Steps to Executive Recruitment DHR](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, many of the meetings have been secret and he said there has been no mention as to what step you are on. He said the last meeting was an all day long closed session that he assumed was held for interviews. He asked why this is a secret. He said other libraries have had open sessions with the finalists of the process and this library should do the same.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. OUTSTANDING LIABILITY RELATED TO OVERDUE FINES

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said there is a memo in your packets detailing the outstanding overdue fines liability. He said it references the white paper presented to the Commission in January. He said the Commission voted in January to remove overdue fines for library books and other materials. He said there is a draft resolution in the packets urging the Board of Supervisors to adopt an Ordinance forgiving all library fines owed to commence with amended Fines and Fees schedule. This action will restore access to over 5% of our users.

Explanatory documents: [Fine Forgiveness Memo](#); [Fine Forgiveness Resolution](#); [Fine Forgiveness Ordinance](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he had been advocating for years for a fine and fee free library. He said this is a step in the right direction. He said Library Users Association can take some credit for this. He said he only wishes that this action had taken place sooner.

Ann Stuhldreher, said she directs the Financial Justice Project in the Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector. She said they strongly support this action. She said this will improve access for people who need the library the most.

Christa Brown, Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector, said they are in strong support and thinks that this makes the library accessible to everyone involved.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Wolf commends staff for doing their homework and bringing this forward and assuring access for all San Franciscans.

Commissioner Ono said this has been a long time coming but the report was great and all the work appreciated. She is glad we will have patrons back with equal access.

Commissioner Huang said he thinks we should vote to support this today.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said she wanted to thank the library staff for the fiscal analysis. She said this is a social justice and equity and inclusivity gesture. She thanked the staff from the Tax Collector's Office and the public for supporting this.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Huang, to approve the Resolution urging the Board of Supervisors to adopt an ordinance forgiving all library fines owed to commence with the amended fines and fees schedule.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Huang, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said there is a memo in the packets and acknowledged the Library's participation with the inter-agency biodiversity working group.

Kelly Trahan, Stegner Environmental Center Librarian, gave a presentation on the SFPL Biodiversity Initiatives.

Explanatory documents: [Biodiversity Memo](#); [Biodiversity Survey](#); [Biodiversity Policy](#)

Public Comment

Peter Brasso, Department of the Environment, said it is great working with the Library on this Initiative. He said there are 15 departments participating on the inter-agency biodiversity working group.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono asked how we stack up against other agencies in San Francisco.

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said the library is a leader in this area.

Commissioner Wolf thanked our staff and colleagues for presenting these hidden things that the library does. She said she loves the living roof and the many different programs.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said she loves the partnership with the National Park Service.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian introduced the FY 19 Supplemental Budget.

Maureen Singleton, Acting Chief Operating Officer, gave the Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds (ERAF) Supplemental Request presentation. She gave the background on the ERAF money and the previous action by the Library Commission. She said through the negotiation process through the Mayor's Office and Board of Supervisors changes were made to the Commission's recommendation. She said the Main Library Seismic Moat and Hyde Street Staff Entrance was budgeted at \$4.9M. She said the Fulton Street Activation Project Scoping was budgeted at \$0.05M and the Library Facility Energy Efficient Projects were budgeted at \$4.5M. She gave further detail on the energy efficiency projects.

Cristina Mitra, Family Engagement Coordinator, gave a presentation on HERstory past, present future program. She said there are over 100 programs being presented. She said every one of our presenters are women. She said the response from our patrons has been overwhelmingly positive.

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said he was proud to announce that Laura Lay, our Learning Difference Librarian at the Bridge at Main has been named one of Library Journal's Movers and Shakers. He said her Program, the FOG readers program has been well received and very successful. He said the Library partnered with the Coalition on Homelessness and GLIDE's Center for Social Justice for an advanced screening of Emilio Estevez' film The Public. He said the film was followed by a panel discussion that included Emilio Estevez and our own Leah Esguerra.

Explanatory documents: [FY 2019 Budget Supplemental](#); [HERstory - Womens History Month](#); [Movers and Shakers 2019](#); [The Public screening](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said unfortunately a senior management staff person at the back of the room did not understand the difference between fees and fines. He said that was extremely distressing to him. He said the library needs to be very clear on what it is doing.

A member of the public said he wanted to thank the Commission and specifically the President of the Commission for Black History Month. He said the City might be banning e-cigarettes for the youth community and this offers an opportunity for discussion on this item.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said she was sorry that Laura Lay could not be at the meeting and she knows she is doing great work tutoring. She said it was great to have the showing of The Public. She said the City Librarian report is so inspiring.

Commissioner Huang said there is always a new report on great programs and it is one of his favorite parts of the meeting.

Commissioner Wolf said the City Librarian's report is the most wonderful part of the Commission. She said she hopes that threads of HerStory will continue throughout the year. She said she was curious how long the moat work will take.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said the pilot project has been completed. He said the timeframe has not yet been determined.

Commissioner Wolf said a good signage system during the work will be important to let the public know what is going on.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said the work that Community Programs and Partnerships does is phenomenal. She asked about any feedback on the Fulton Street project.

Maureen Singleton, Acting Chief Operating Officer, said she knows that work is being coordinated with the Department of Public Works so that the library will get what it wants in the overall Civic Center Plaza project.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES JANUARY 17, 2019

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he was much more explicit in his comments under General Public Comment regarding evening hours being cut. He said on the bottom of page 3 is should say the Library Commission's lack of adherence to the Sunshine Ordinance. He said on page 5 his comments should be clarified.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Huang said on the bottom of page 7 the vote should read, Dunning, Huang, Mall, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf and on page 17 a comma is missing between Ono and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi.

Motion: By Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Huang to approve the [Minutes of January 17, 2019](#) with the corrections noted above.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Huang, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said it is sad that the Commissioners present care so little about the realities and

the truth and ignore comments he has made on policy matters such as fines and fees. He said it is wrong to not acknowledge his remarks.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Wolf to approve the [Minutes of February 28, 2019](#).

Action: AYES 4-0: (Huang, Ono Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES MARCH 14, 2019

Public Comment

No public comment.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Huang said on agenda item 2 it shows that the vote was 6-0 and that it should be 7-0 with Commissioner Lee present.

Motion: By Commissioner Huang, seconded by Commissioner Wolf to approve the [Minutes of March 14, 2019](#) with the correction as noted above.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Huang, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF ELLEN TAYLOR HUPPERT

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said Ellen Taylor Huppert was a strong supporter of the library. He said he supports adjourning in her honor. He said the Commission is doing a disservice to the public to not have new business on the agenda.

Michael-Vincent D'Anella-Mercanti, Friends of the Library, said Ellen's legacy is so inspiring and we are all here because we want to have the best library system.

Commission Discussion

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said Ellen Taylor Huppert's obituary is available at the back of the room. She said she is grateful for Ellen Taylor Huppert for the work she has done to make this a great institution.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, to adjourn the meeting of March 21, 2019 in memory of Ellen Taylor Huppert.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Huang, Ono, Wardell-Ghirarduzzi and Wolf)

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 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).