



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2019

(Approved at the regular meeting of June 20, 2019)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on May 16, 2019 at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

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

Commissioners present: Dunning, Huang, Lee, Mall, and Wolf.

Commissioner excused: President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi

Commissioner Ono is expected.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Craig Palmer, Chief Advancement Officer for the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, said the Friends are proud to sponsor Summer Stride. He said it is the largest program Friends' sponsors. He said there will be a program on May 24 in the Koret Auditorium on citizen science. He said the Friends continue the citywide education efforts around the Library Preservation Fund.

Commissioner Ono entered the meeting at 4:35 pm.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the collection fines at the library have been suspended. He said there has been no discussion on fees and they are unchanged. He said there is no information about the suspension of fines except on the home page for the library, so patrons who do not have access to computers will not know about it. He said there is an article in the New York Times about Facebook expecting to be fined over privacy issues. He said the Library continues to use and promote Facebook. He said the Library should be reminding people of the Facebook privacy issues.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 MAYA ANGELOU PUBLIC ARTWORK

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, referred to a memo in the packets which included background on the item. He said that the Commission had asked Susan Mall to sit on the artist qualification panel to represent the library. He said Naomi Jelks also serves on the panel and would be giving the presentation along with Jackie von Treskow with the Arts Commission.

Naomi Jelks, Program Manager, African American Center, explained the project overview.

Jackie von Treskow, Arts Commission read a statement in the Ordinance mandating that the public art work would be located at the Main Library and would be a significant figurative representation on Maya Angelou. She explained the project goals.

Naomi Jelks, Program Manager, African American Center showed photos of proposed sites for the artwork on Larkin Street.

Jackie von Treskow, Arts Commission, reviewed the artist selection process to date.

Naomi Jelks, Program Manager, African American Center, said three finalists have been chosen. She and Jackie von Treskow, Arts Commission said the three finalists chosen are Jules R. Arthur, Manhattan, New York; Kenyatta A. C. Hinkle, Berkeley, California; and Lava Thomas, Berkeley, California.

Jackie von Treskow, Arts Commission, said the next steps are to display the finalist proposals at SFPL from July 17 – July 31. She said the final artist selection panel will meet the week of August 5. She said the Visual Arts Committee approval of the selected artist is expected on August 21 and to the full Commission on September 9.

Explanatory documents: [Maya Angelou Public Art Project](#); [Maya Angelou Public Art Memo: May 13, 2019](#); [Public Art Ordinance 243-18](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the reference is to a sculpture but it appears that we are not getting a sculpture for sure. He said he was at the meeting on April 1 and it seemed all three artists are qualified but only one is a sculptor. He said it is not clear how the legislation was changed from sculptor to artwork. He said that he hoped we would get a preference for something serious and permanent that a sculpture would provide.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Wolf thanked staff for the presentation and thanked Commissioner Mall for serving on the panel. She said she is pleased the three proposals will be on display at the library.

Commissioner Huang asked about the expected format of the proposals. Jackie von Treskow, Arts Commission, said all of the artists are proposing sculptures for the site. She said after the public comment period the comments are printed out in full for the panelists to review.

Commissioner Ono asked about the marketing that will be done to the public to view the proposals.

Jackie von Treskow, Arts Commission, said they will work with the communications director at the Arts Commission as well as with the Library. She said the Library has been a great partner in this effort. She said the proposals will show the art work to scale in site specific locations.

Commissioner Lee asked how the Arts Commission make a final choice.

Jackie von Treskow, Arts Commission, said it is very much up to the selection panel and that is why we have such a diverse range of people on our panel.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. LIBRARY COLLECTIONS – UTILIZATION TRENDS

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said the San Francisco Public Library invests more per capita in our collections than any peer library in the country. He said SFPL has one of the richest deepest collections of any urban library.

Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, gave the presentation on trends in library collections. She said in the City Survey the Library received an A- and our collections received an A- as well. She said physical circulation peaked in FY12. She explained the collection budget, circulation by material type, eBook growth, and eMedia growth. She explained the top 10 books for the last year and the top 10 eMedia books. She said they are evaluating how best to get the material to our patrons. She explained new databases that are available.

Explanatory document: [Trends in Library Collections](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he has a number of concerns. He said as a proportion of the Library's overall budget it is not so great. He said typically libraries use a proportion of their budget to indicate how much they value books and materials. He said our library has triple the budgets of other libraries in comparable size, so to say that we spend more money on materials is not wonderful as a percentage of the budget. He said he is concerned that many materials are only available as digital. He said if you don't have a device of your own, you are just out of luck.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Wolf asked about how our circulation rates compare per capita with other urban environments.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said our circulation rates compare favorably.

Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, said overall there is a five percent decrease of circulation in the US.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said from the 2016 benchmarking report, the Library was in the top 5 nationally for material circulation per capita.

Shellie Cocking said Collection HQ is an added item that the Library has had for about 8 years.

Commissioner Huang asked about the type of people that are using our services and the format they are using.

Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, said there is a program called Analytics on Demand that provides a lot of data.

Commissioner Mall said it seems the circulation of eBooks went up as the traffic to the library has dropped.

Commissioner Lee asked about what determines whether items should be purchased as digital or physical.

Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, said when we order the physical materials we need an exact number, which can be ordered later, but with digital we order one copy and that can also be increased later.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said that the number of holds triggers buying additional materials.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Michelle Jeffers, Chief Community Programs and Partnerships, gave a presentation on programming and exhibition highlights. She told about Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage month and said that there was 151 programs for the month. She also talked about Dia de los Ninos Dia de los Libros on Sunday, April 28.

Christy Estrovitz, Youth Services Manager, gave a presentation on Summer Stride 2019. She said this is the premiere literacy program for the entire city. She said the Mayor is a new sponsor along with the Friends, National Park Service, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, SFUSD and Zachariah Ohora. She explained the marketing for the program and some of the programs and other program partners.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said in the Controller's Office 2019 City Survey, the San Francisco Public Library received an A- for city services. He said that is the highest rating for any government service since the City survey began in 1996

Explanatory documents: [Exhibitions & Programming](#); [Summer Stride 2019](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said congratulations on the City Survey. He said there has not been sufficient publicity about the fines on the books going away especially to those who do not have computers.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said thank you to the entire Library team and we couldn't be number one without you.

Commissioner Wolf said assistance from Library staff received an A- and that really says a lot about the heart and souls of the people who work here. She said the PSA was really engaging and the range of the programs are extraordinary. She asked about the number of participants that are anticipated.

Christy Estrovitz, Youth Services Manager, said there was a huge jump when the National Park Service came on board and we expect an increase this year.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said this summer we will be piloting a new outcome measure.

Randy McClure, Chief Analytics Officer, said we are working with a national outcome measurement tool to measure outcomes in a more meaningful way.

Vice-President Mall said the visuals are so exciting and she is so excited about Summer Stride.

Commissioner Lee said he is very excited to hear that we will be measuring outcomes.

Christy Estrovitz, Youth Services Manager, said they are working with San Francisco Unified School District and its 26,000 students on getting the word out about the program. She said we also have a lunch program for students out of school.

Commissioner Lee said kudos to the whole staff on scoring so high on the city survey.

Commissioner Ono left the meeting at 5:58 pm.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES MARCH 21, 2019

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said on Agenda Item no. 1 the last sentence of his public comment does not make sense and he said he was referring to library actions. He said under Agenda Item no 2 he has always said the library should do away with fees not just fines. Under approval of the minutes there is a typo and it should be "bottom of page 3 it" not "bottom of page 3 is."

Motion: By Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Huang, to approve the [Minutes of March 21, 2019](#).

Action: AYES 5-0: (Dunning, Huang, Lee, Mall, and Wolf.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES APRIL 18, 2019

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said there are serious problems with these minutes. He said under General Public Comment his last statement should include that he was referring to the library's privacy breaches. He said under Agenda Item No. 2 his comments were that the library had shrunk the hours that the public was interested in having. He said under the City Librarian's Report he had made a comment with privacy issues with the Library and Facebook.

Motion: By Commissioner Dunning, seconded by Commissioner Huang, to approve the [Minutes of April 18, 2019](#).

Action: AYES 5-0: (Dunning, Huang, Lee, Mall, and Wolf.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 ADJOURNMENT

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the Commission should not adjourn until it insists that there be an agenda item for New Business.

Motion: By Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Huang, to adjourn the meeting of May 16, 2019.

Action: AYES 5-0: (Dunning, Huang, Lee, Mall, and Wolf.)

The meeting adjourned at 6:08 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).