



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 21, 2018

(Approved at the Regular Meeting of July 19, 2018)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on June 21, 2018 at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

Commissioners present: Lee, Dunning, Mall, and Ono.

Commissioner excused: President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi.

The Commission currently has two vacancies.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said Acting City Librarian Michael Lambert told the Board of Supervisors that RFID is absolutely no threat to the public with respect to privacy. He said there are a number of steps that need to be taken to ameliorate the threats to privacy. He said that there is a discrepancy between the numbers that the library is presenting on libraries that have RFID in the Bay Area. He said the open hours the Commission adopted does the exact opposite of what the public wanted and that is more evening hours.

Michael Vincent D'Anella-Mercanti said he is with the Friends of the Library. He said the Friends are so proud of the San Francisco Public Library and proud to be partners with the Library. He said the Library changes lives and he said he just wanted to share the Friends' support.

Pete Huang said that the City has had an election and none of that has been mentioned here. He said that shows that the Library is literally for everyone. He said the Library is doing amazing work here and it is much appreciated.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 CITY LIBRARIAN RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Maureen Singleton, Acting Chief Operating Officer, said that the Library Commission had asked the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to assemble a panel including a member of the Human Relations Commission (HRC) to evaluate the proposals for the executive search firm. The Commission also provided a tool for the panel to use to assess the proposals. She said due to scheduling conflicts a panel had not yet met. She said DHR would bring back their recommendation for a search firm at the next meeting.

Explanatory document: [Executive Recruitment DHR](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said this process which the Commission is supposed to be in charge has been outsourced and largely done out of the public view. He said this process needs to be much more open than it is now.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Dunning asked if the Commission required that a member of the HRC be on the selection panel or was that just a suggestion.

Maureen Singleton, Acting Chief Operating Officer, said it was her understanding that the President of the Commission had indicated that she wanted HRC to be involved in the panel and so DHR was reaching out to them. She said DHR will be coming back to the Commission at the July meeting with their recommendation.

Commissioner Dunning asked about the timeline once the firm is chosen.

Maureen Singleton, Acting Chief Operating Officer, said DHR had indicated to her that it would be about a two month process to have the contract signed with the search firm and a future timeline would be set by the Commission and the search firm.

Vice-President Mall asked if there is a rough calendar for the process.

Maureen Singleton, Acting Chief Operating Officer, said the timeline would depend on the community process. She said it could potentially be December before a recommendation could go from the Commission to the Mayor's office.

Commissioner Ono said she thought the timeline was part of the evaluation process for the search firm.

AGENDA ITEM NO.3 FACILITIES PROJECTS UPDATE

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, gave a presentation on the Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Library Landscaping Project and the Main Library Elevator Upgrade. He said there will be a complete upgrade of all mechanical and control systems of the five public and two staff elevators in the Main Library. He said projected cost is \$4.5M. He explained the scope of the project and said the entire project will be complete in one to two years. He explained the impact on public service and staff. He said phase two of the Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Library Landscaping Project has been completed. He showed photographs of the project.

Explanatory document: [Facilities Projects](#)

Public Comment

Pete Huang said there was a Board of Supervisors Committee meeting yesterday where they were looking at legislation regarding project labor agreements and he didn't know whether this legislation might apply to the elevator project.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he is happy to see the elevators will be getting an upgrade. He said he hopes the floors in the elevators can be cleaned. He said there has been a whitewashing of what the real purpose of the Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk project was all about. He said the real purpose was to solve the "homeless" problem at that branch. He said this is a really good example of anti-human architecture. He said his understanding was that this cost \$850,000.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Lee asked about the legislation described by one of the public commenters.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said we work very carefully with the Department of Public Works (DPW) so that would land within their purview. He said he appreciates the information from the public.

Commissioner Lee asked about the elevators.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said all work done on the elevators outside of routine maintenance is monitored by the State and the City has nothing to do with it. He said the City uses one company for all elevator upgrades so it is outside the Library's control.

Vice-President Mall said she applauds the fact that we are getting our elevators upgraded.

Commissioner Dunning, asked about the maintenance cost.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said this is an all-inclusive city-wide contract.

Commissioner Dunning asked about the Eureka Valley branch and who the critics of the project are.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said anytime you do something different there is going to be controversy.

Vice-President Mall asked if it was much better environmentally.

Roberto Lombardi, Facilities Director, said yes the water usage will be much less.

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said that there was extensive community outreach to the neighborhood on this project and there was unanimous consensus at the community meeting for this project.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Deena Chalabi, the Barbara and Stephan Vermut Associate Curator of Public Dialogue at SFMOMA, said there is a partnership on the public knowledge project update. She said there is a temporary non circulating library in MOMA. She showed photographs and explained the project with artists who are working with a model which was developed in the 1930s. She said they are currently working to refurbish it and use it as a platform to spark conversation.

Katrin Reimuller, North East District Manager, said on June 9, we celebrated the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library's 100 years with an open house celebration. She said the total cost for the building and furnishings when it was built was \$43,000. She gave additional background on the branch and showed photographs from the event.

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said the San Francisco Public Library is the best public library in North America. He said we are the Gale/Library Journal 2018 Library of the Year and he shared some of the quotes and articles about the library. He said a final note is that Dave Schwabe, Manager of Media Services, has served this library for 37 years and this is his last Library Commission meeting as he is retiring.

Explanatory documents: [SFMOMA Public Knowledge Project](#) ;[Golden Gate Valley Centennial](#); [Library of the Year 2018](#) ;[GALE/Library Journal Library of the Year 2018](#) ; [Library Journal Editorial](#) ;[Library Journal \(cover\): Library of the Year](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he appreciates the reports. He said he is very disappointed in a number of aspects of the library at the museum. He said this appears to be a public

relations image project rather than an actual working library. He said there is no catalog there and no circulation of books. He said the actual card catalog of the original Main has been kept in Brooks Hall for many years and it is very difficult to be able to have access to the catalog.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said congratulations on the Library of the Year and the other presentations. She said congratulation to Dave Schwabe on his 37 years. She said that is quite an accomplishment.

Commissioner Dunning said she is excited to see the whole project when it is completed with SFMOMA. She said kudos to staff for being Library of the Year and congratulations to the staff who put together the application for the award.

Commissioner Lee said thank you to the administration and the staff and also to the patrons for being so engaged in helping to win this award.

Vice-President Mall said all of this is positive news and she wanted to echo the comments of her fellow Commissioners. She recommended that we have a Commission meeting at SFMOMA.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 ADJOURNMENT

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he does not think the Commission should adjourn without having an item at the end of the agenda for new business. He said it would be lovely to have highlights of retirees. He said he did send a brief note to Michael Lambert congratulating him on SFPL becoming the Library of the Year.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Dunning, to adjourn the meeting of June 21, 2018.

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 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).