



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 19, 2019

(As approved at the regular meeting of October 17, 2019)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on July 18, 2019 at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

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

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

Commissioner excused: Mall

Commissioner Dunning entered the meeting at 4:44 pm.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he is disappointed that there is not anything on the agenda about the library going fine free. He said he has been advocating for this for several years. He said the library needs to get rid of fees. He said the fine free publicity is only partial and there is nothing in the branches about it. He said the explanatory documents for the agenda need to be very explicit in what is available. He said RFID is a serious privacy threat to patrons.

Brent Paradise said he would like to see a quiet room and there is a room in the San Francisco History Room on the sixth floor that could be used for that if it was opened to the public. He said the Happy Day display for new books is a wonderful idea and he wanted to thank the library for it.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 COLLECTIONS INVENTORY MODERNIZATION PROJECT

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, gave the background on the collections inventory modernization project and the implementation of RFID.

Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, gave an update of RFID including the tasks completed; the tagging process, which is a work in progress; and steps taken to tag a collection. She said the next steps are to continue tagging, self-check non-RFID upgrades, develop and train both staff and public, develop plan for installing equipment and the goal of fall of 2020 for complete conversion.

Explanatory document: [Collections Inventory Modernization](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he has questions about the details. He said this is the library abandoning its ethical obligation to provide for the privacy of its patrons. He asked if this product was selected through a bid process or a sole source process. He said he would like to know if the company includes equal benefits for partners of employees. He said the patrons should be notified of this process.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said thank you to the team for all the hard work on this. She said she liked that staff had found a way to make a cheaper cart to do more than the high end version. She was happy to hear that ergonomics was part of the discussion on this.

Commissioner Huang asked about the information carried on the RFID tags.

Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, said the bar code number, which is also on the front of the book. She said it also has a little switch that tells whether it is checked out or should be on the shelf. She said there is no information identifying the individual.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said this will be a passive RFID chip, and there is absolutely no threat to the privacy of the public.

Commissioner Wolf asked if we will be communicating with the patrons about this.

Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, said certainly when we get closer to launching we will be notifying the patrons of the changes.

Commissioner Dunning asked if there are any lessons learned.

Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, said that we have found that it is going a lot faster than anticipated. She said there are some issues with certain types of books.

Commissioner Lee asked about the cost of the tagging cart.

Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, said the cost of the cart was about a third of the \$16,000 cart.

Commissioner Lee asked about how this will work sequentially with books constantly coming in and going out.

Shellie Cocking, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, said we track the ones that are being tagged. She said the AV tagging is a little more complicated.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. SUMMER STRIDE

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, introduced Summer Stride 2019. He said we had the most participation in the program we have ever witnessed.

Christy Estrovitz, Youth Services Manager, gave a presentation on Summer Stride 2019. She said Mayor Breed offered a beautiful letter supporting the program. She showed many pictures from the program and thanked our many sponsors. She explained the outcomes and said there has been a 233% participation growth since 2008 and more than 19 million minutes of reading, learning, listening and library time. She explained the Youth Engaged in Library Leadership (YELL) program.

Ileana Pulu, Youth Development Coordinator, spoke about the YELL program and showed some pictures of the teams. She said the program is for 10th through 12th graders.

Dorcas Wong, Teen Services Librarian, explained the life skills series program she implemented at the Parkside Branch that included sewing, food prep, language, and skill swap.

Marla Bergman, Teen Services Librarian, Excelsior Branch, said she worked with six teens who invested over 300 hours this year and presented a program Life in SF: Luck, Loss, and Gain.

Grace Thwin, Excelsior Branch YELL team, spoke about the YELL program they presented on homelessness.

Daniel Batsuri, Excelsior Branch YELL team, said he was proud of the event they presented on homelessness and the positive impact it will have on the community.

Ileana Pulu, Youth Development Coordinator, said there were 57 YELL members at 10 libraries who attended 124 meetings. She said they contributed 2,353 service hours and delivered 58 STEM programs.

Christy Estrovitz, Youth Services Manager, said 57 youth received a scholarship this year.

Explanatory document: [Summer Stride 2019](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he appreciated the program and the in-library publicity and the brochure. He said the Commission never had a program to discuss RFID and its full impact on the privacy of patrons.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said she loves Summer Stride. She asked about the words that were used as part of the language program.

Dorcas Wong, Teen Services Librarian, said they were basic words such as hello, thank you, and where is the bathroom.

Commissioner Ono said she appreciates that more was done with marketing of the program.

Commissioner Dunning said this is fabulous and she appreciates the testimonials from the YELL students.

Commissioner Wolf said she is so impressed with Grace and Daniel. She said she is very impressed with staff for their dedication.

Commissioner Lee said he loves the program. He said there were 37,000 participants and only 15,000 completions so he wondered what was causing the drop outs. He said he was happy to hear about the homeless program.

Christy Estrovitz, Youth Services Manager, said this is something they are looking at. She said as of last week they had a 41% return on finishing and it is 4% more than last year and higher than the national average. So they are going to continue trying to improve. She said the public loves the shuttle programs

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said this program is making a significant contribution to the reduction of summer learning loss.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Abe Ignacio, Filipino Librarian for the Filipino Center, gave a presentation on the 5th Filipino American International Book Festival October 12 -13 at the Main Library. He described the programs for the event.

Ileana Pulu, Youth Development Coordinator, and Anissa Malady, Adult Engagement Coordinator, gave a presentation on VIVA!, Latino Hispanic Heritage Month. It is an opportunity to recognize community cultures,

history and arts. It is a celebration that is being extended to include Dia de Los Muertos through November 2. There will be programs at all branches of the library and there is a beautiful brochure describing them. They also highlighted One City One Book and the book There There by Tommy Orange and some of the programs and exhibits that will be held.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships, gave a presentation on the Library's partnership with the New York Times. She described the programs that have been part of the partnership.

Explanatory documents: [Filipino American International Book Festival](#) ; [VIVA! One City One Book](#) ; [New York Times Partnership](#)

Public Comment

A speaker from Filipino American Writers and Artists said the Filipino community is grateful to the Library in making the Book Festival available every two years. They acknowledged many of the Library's staff as well as the Friends of the Library for their support.

A Board member from the Filipino American Writers and Artists said she wanted to express the gratitude for Abe Ignacio and having a point person in the Filipino Center to help coordinate this. She thanked the Library for archiving the documents of her grandfather and she gave a history of her grandfather.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he is disappointed that there has not been more publicity about the fine fee program. He said that was one thing that was omitted by the City Librarian. He said the New York Times partnership has presented some very good programs at the library but it has very problematic issues. He said it looks like they require pre-registration. He said folks that don't have access to computers are presumably left out. He said you have to provide a whole range of information that the New York Times can use to sell their paper.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Huang said the dedication of the Filipino American community is impressive. He said he has been to three of the New York Times events and the friends he brings with him are always very impressed with the programs.

Commissioner Wolf said she is grateful for the dedication of the staff. She wanted to know how the partnership with the New York Times works and she had other questions.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief Community Programs and Partnership, said the New York Times fully underwrites the program and they will fly in speakers to participate. She said they work with library on themes for the programs. She said this partnership was for this calendar year but she is working with them on the Night of Ideas and hopes the partnership will

continue.. She said the One City One Book presentation with the author will be October 16.

Commissioner Lee said he appreciates the richness of the programs and would like to know if some of them are available to view on the website.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships, said some of the programs with the New York Times are available on the SFPL YouTube channel. She said no one has been turned away from the programs because they have not registered.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said the richness of the programs for the community is remarkable. She said she wanted to thank staff for all the programs and especially for the documentation and promotion of the Filipino American community and the story that is being told with the One City One Book selection.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES JULY 18, 2019

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said under General Public Comment, he believed he mentioned the title of a book and he would like the name of the title listed if he gave the title. He said on agenda item No. 5 he had said there is not an agenda item titled New Business.

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

Action: AYES 6-0: (Dunning, Huang, Lee, Ono, Wolf and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES AUGUST 15, 2019

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said it is sad to see how unresponsive the Commission is to any changes to the Minutes. He said in his comments under General Public Comment the minutes say that he said for years he has supported the elimination of fines and fees and that should say the Library Users Association has supported. He said the last statement in his comment should be corrected to say that both fees and fines hurt people, not just fees. He said under Item No. 2 he mentioned Effie Lee Morris who had said that the relationship should be between the patron and the library and not the schools as intermediary.

Motion: By Commissioner Dunning, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, to approve the [Minutes of August 15, 2019](#).

Action: AYES 6-0: (Dunning, Huang, Lee, Ono, Wolf and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi.)

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 ADJOURNMENT

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said an item about future items should be on the agenda because at this meeting two issues were raised by the Commission that should be on future agendas and that should be discussed further.

Motion: By Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Huang, to adjourn the meeting of July 18, 2019.

Action: AYES 6-0: (Dunning, Huang, Lee, Ono, Wolf, and Wardell-Ghirarduzzi)

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 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).