



# *San Francisco Public Library*

## **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2018**

#### **(Approved as amended at the Regular Meeting of January 17, 2019)**

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on November 15, 2018 at the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

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

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

Commissioner excused: Wardell-Ghirarduzzi.

The Commission currently has one vacancy.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco, Open Government, said the contact information for him is [sfopengovernmentbs@comcast.net](mailto:sfopengovernmentbs@comcast.net). He said welcome to Pete Huang as the newest member of the cabal. He said his comrades on the Commission are, individually and collectively, the most dishonest group serving in City government. He said they have been an integral part of the scam that is the financial relationship between the library and the Friends. And the only question is if Pete Huang will fit in this band of governmental cronies.

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Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government. Contact email [sfopengovernmentbs@comcast.net](mailto:sfopengovernmentbs@comcast.net). First, I would like to welcome Pete Huang as the newest member of the cabal! However they “suckered you” into this, I’m certain they have been less than honest with you, just as they have been with the Public

in the decade that I have been attending these meetings. Your “comrades” on this body are, individually and collectively, the most dishonest group serving in City Government! This is true of the current members and of those who have “served on this body” over the years! While responsible for looking after the best interests of the SFPL, they have been an integral part of the scam that is the financial relationship between the library and the group known as “The Friends!” The only question, as time will tell, is how well you will fit in this band of governmental cronies?

Larry Ware said he has been ill and he is so very thankful to be here with his friends. He thanked the Commission for renaming the Bayview Branch for Linda Brooks Burton. He said Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and it is good to be back.

Craig Palmer, Chief Advancement Officer, for the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, said he was bringing greetings from Marie Ciepiela our Executive Director. He welcomed Peter Huang to the Commission. He said looking at the end of the year the Friends are pretty excited to have been part of SFPL becoming Library of the Year. He said there has been great momentum for the Big Book Sale, which supports the Library. He said it is the year end fundraising time and the Commission will continue to see Friends providing a robust role in supporting renovations and increasing contributions along the way He said Library Laureates will be on March 8.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director Library Users Association, said he was wearing a mask because of the air quality and he said the Library was open for the community but there has been almost no publicity about it. He said he was shocked that there was no publicity about the library staying open late due to the air quality. He said Facebook is again in the news and it has many, many problems concerning privacy, but the library continues to promote it.

An anonymous citizen said she wanted to compliment the Commission on the work it has done over the last 20 years and the improvements that have been made.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE 2019**

Sue Blackman, Commission Secretary said the draft 2019 Commission Schedule is before the Commission. She said the meetings are proposed to be held the third Thursday at 4:30 with an extra meeting scheduled in February for the budget consideration and an extra meeting scheduled in March for the City Librarian recruitment process if needed.

### **Public Comment**

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he will be making an Immediate Disclosure Request for the Commission attendance

records. He said a number of meetings were cancelled this year due to lack of a quorum. He said some of you may have exceeded the number of absences Commissioners are allowed under the attendance policy. He said it is disrespectful for the Commissioners not to be able to attend Commission meetings. He said the record shows that the Commission is basically a rubber stamp.

Larry Ware said he is a long time resident of Bayview. He said Dave Schwabe did a great job for the library and he missed both Dave and Luis Herrera.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the Commission should pay attention to the public comments and in particular to those of Ray Hartz. He said we have a make believe Library Commission and make believe democracy. He said there is rarely a response by the Commission to members of the public. He said the schedule is convenient for the Commission and staff but it is not convenient for the public. He said he would like the Commission to meet at a later time after 4:30 pm. He said the November and December dates are close to the holidays and that should be taken into consideration.

#### Commission Discussion

Commissioners Ono said she wanted to be clear that the Commission meeting in November is the week before Thanksgiving.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Dunning to approve the [Commission Schedule for 2019](#) as presented.

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

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 CITY LIBRARIAN RECRUITMENT UPDATE**

Maureen Singleton, Acting Chief Operating Officer, said since the October 25 Commission meeting the Hawkins Company has held three community meetings, a meeting specifically with staff and the unions. She said the survey online has been available since November 6 going through tomorrow, November 16. She said the November 7 meeting took place at Bayview and there were a total of 15 attendees. She said the November 8 meeting took place at Richmond and there were a total of 14 attendees. She said the meeting on November 10 at the Main had a total of 10 attendees. She said for the staff and union meeting there was a total of 35 attendees. She said as of yesterday there were 148 responses to the online survey. She said the next step will be for Hawkins to prepare a profile for the City Librarian recruitment and present it to the Commission at the December meeting.

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

#### Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he wanted to know how honest the Commission was with the Department of Human

Resources regarding the recruitment of a new City Librarian. He said if he were any one of the parties involved in this he would be concerned about the potential for a lawsuit by anyone offered this position because of the financial relationship between SFPL and the Friends. He said he has proven that only about 10% of the millions raised by the Friends actually goes to support the library.

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How honest have the members of this commission been with the City's Department of Human Resources regarding the recruitment of a new City Librarian? By extension, how honest can that department have been with the recruiting firm they engaged? Going further, how can either of those groups be honest with the potential candidates for this position? If I were any of the parties involved in this questionable arrangement I would be concerned about the potential for a lawsuit by anyone offered this position! When they step in the "steaming pile of excrement" that is the financial relationship between SFPL and "The Friends," I'm sure they'll be looking for someone on whom to wipe their feet! Using public records, which have neither been disproved or even disputed, it is a fact that only about 10% of the millions raised each year, to "Support the Library" are expended for that purpose.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said when he first looked at the contributions of the Friends to the library they were giving less than 10% of what they raised. He said the Friends had promised to raise \$16 Million for the Branch Library Improvement Program and they did not. He said anyone who is applying for the City Librarian should be told about the relationship with the Friends and whether there should even be a relationship. He said at one of the community meetings he was told to tamp down his comments by Commissioner Ono.

#### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Huang asked if Hawkins supplied any information on what the typical number of people attending these types of community meetings would be.

Maureen Singleton, Acting Chief Operating Officer, said she did not have that information but would check with Hawkins and get back to him.

Commissioner Lee said he attended one of the meetings and he learned that a lot of marketing had been done for these meetings. He said the one he attended had very good comments.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. FYs 2020 AND 2021 BUDGET PRIORITIES**

Maureen Singleton, Acting Chief Operating Officer, gave the presentation on the FYs 2020 & 2021 Budget presentation. She explained the prior cycle budget review and said the FY 19 budget was \$160.6 Million. She explained the FY 20 investment highlights from the prior cycle budget. She explained the budget calendar for FYs 20 and 21 and gave the budget background. She explained the SFPL Strategic and Budget Priorities.

Explanatory documents: [Budget FY 2019-20](#) ; [Budget FY 2019-20 Attachment I](#)

#### **Public Comment**

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, asked why collections is lumped with another item. He said he is not sure about what the overall percentage of the budget is going towards collections. He said there continues to be a de-emphasization of books. He said the Commission should consider an increase in the budget for public relations.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he will give Acting City Librarian Michael Lambert credit because there is no lying garbage regarding the Friends in this budget. He said he has spent the last 10 years fighting for public records about the Friends to have any understanding regarding where the money raised by The Friends actually goes. He said it appears to him that the figures in the budget are probably an honest presentation to the public. He said at last it looks like the numbers being given are numbers based in fact as opposed to what was presented in the past: a mixture of facts and falsehoods.

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Regarding this budget, there is one thing that I will give Acting City Librarian Michael Lambert which sets him apart from former City Librarian Luis Herrera: there is no "lying garbage" regarding "The Friends" being presented in this report to this commission and the Public! I have spent the last 10 years attending these meetings and fighting with the SFPL and this Library Commission for public records that indicate any level of understanding regarding where the money raised by "The Friends" actually goes. What that means to me is that these figures are probably an honest representation to the public and, in all probability are numbers which can be supported by available public records. It has been a long time coming, but at last, the Public is being given numbers which are based on fact as opposed to what was presented in the past: a mixture of facts and falsehoods!

An anonymous woman said the Commission could hire her to be the PR Assistant.

### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono, asked about the impact the City Librarian recruitment might have on the budget.

Maureen Singleton, Acting Chief Operating Officer, said the budget will have most likely been approved by the Commission before the recruitment process is completed but it could be relooked at for FY 21.

Commissioner Dunning asked if salaries are included in Administration and asked about the shelving budget.

Maureen Singleton, Acting Chief Operating Officer explained the Administration budget and said compact shelving would be rolled out over time at 750 Brannon and said this is a planned amount.

Commissioner Lee said around \$100 Million will be for personnel and he asked about the collection budget.

Maureen Singleton, Acting Chief Operating Officer said in January our Chief of Technical Services will give a detailed explanation of the collection budget.

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said that the library is benchmarked against other urban libraries. He said the last time this was done was in FY 17 and San Francisco Public Library spends more per capita than any other urban library.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5. CITY LIBRARIANS'S REPORT**

Vice-President Mall said that she thought it was an appropriate use of the library to stay open as it did when there was such poor air quality.

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said the decision to keep the library open on that Friday was not made until about 4:30 that afternoon. He said the Library will remain open tomorrow evening as well due to poor air quality. He said we will continue to monitor the situation.

Vice-President Mall asked if the community will know that the Library is remaining open.

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said it will only be the Main that is staying open and the Library will get the word out about it. He said this year's Annual Report "A Day in the Life of the Library of the Year" is available in the packets and the back of the room. He explained some of the highlights of the report.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships, gave a presentation on the Annual Support Fund 2017-2018 Grant Report for funds provided by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. She

said we at the Library are thankful for the funds provided by the Friends. She explained the grants to branches, the innovation grants, the grants for children and youth services, public affairs, programs and exhibitions, Library Support Fund, Professional Development and Friends Initiatives. She said funds expended from traditionally funded was \$320,921; Donor Restricted funds expended was \$219,433 and other grant support funds expended \$21,419.

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said the Library will be hosting a month long celebration entitled "First Person Honoring Native and Indigenous Cultures."

Maricela Leon Barrera, Early Learning Coordinator, gave a presentation on First Person Honoring Native and Indigenous Cultures programs and events. She said there will be 24 programs for adults, 30 youth programs and 14 intergenerational programs.

Explanatory documents: [Annual Report 2018](#); [Friends of the Library Report 2017-18](#); [First Person: November 2018](#)

#### Public Comment

Larry Ware said the fires are unprecedented and the library should do a media blitz on the fact that it is remaining open.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he appreciates the Vice-President asking about the Library's additional hours. He said four of the libraries have filtered air and that should be publicized. He said the amount for collections is concealed in the annual report. He said it is a measly 10.72 percent. He said this library has triple the annual budget of libraries in its category.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said his comments relate to the Annual Support Fund 2017-18 Grant Report provided by the Friends. He said he is focusing on the numbers on the pages and not the pictures. He said the total at the bottom of page 5 is just under \$334,000. He said this is out of the millions the Friends are given to support the library. He said this is less than 10% of what they raise. He said this scam has been going on for years. He said no one from the Friends or this Library Commission has even disputed the numbers let alone provided any facts to disapprove them. He said silence gives consent.

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The focus of my comments will be the Annual Support Fund - 2017-2018 Grant Report provided by "The Friends!" Ignoring the "pretty pictures" and focusing solely on the numbers provided in the pages, excluding the bottom of page 5, the total is just under \$334,000! I excluded the bottom of page 5 as it is money donated to the SFPL by other sources and falsely claimed as a donation by "The Friends." It may sound like a lot of money, but when

compared with the millions that will be raised in that same time frame, it will amount to less than 10%! This scam, perpetrated on the SFPL website, a San Francisco governmental website, has been going on for years! And, in the years I have been presenting these numbers, no one from “The Friends” or this Library Commission has even disputed the numbers, let alone provided any facts to disprove them!

#### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Huang asked if there had been any brainstorming on what could be funded if there was additional funding from the Friends.

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said we have received what we requested for our grant requests from the Friends. He said we do have the opportunity to work with the Friends on funding opportunities. He said the last three years we have concentrated on innovation to partner with the Friends.

Commissioner Huang said he would like to see all the context and digest it fully. He said it is hard to discuss the grant funding without the context with any real authority.

Commissioner Dunning asked that in the future this item be a separate agenda item for the Commission. She asked for clarification of the process.

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said Library staff put together very detailed grant requests. He clarified that none of this is in-kind it is all directly funded from the Friends.

Commissioner Lee asked how it is determined which program will be funded by the Friends.

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said the overwhelming funding in our budget is from the Library Preservation Fund. He said the Friends funding goes for programs that are not covered by our government appropriation.

Commissioner Lee asked if the Friends have ideas for programs or projects that they put forth.

Michael Lambert, Acting City Librarian, said historically there has been that kind of cooperation with the Friends.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OCTOBER 18, 2018**

#### Public Comment



Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said under item 1 general public comment he had commented on the many missed meetings Commissioners have had. He said he also said RFID is a very problematic because of the privacy issues. He said none of this was represented in his comments. He said under public comment for item two his comments were not correctly represented and need to be clarified. He said under public comment for item no. 3 his positive comments were not included.

Larry Ware said he started a poetry program in the Bayview and the Friends are now contributing to that program.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government said on page 5 the second to the last paragraph Commissioner Dunning said that the new Librarian should understand the role of free public libraries in a healthy democracy. He said it is ironic that a member of the Commission would say such a thing. He said for the last 10 years he has been fighting to have the public meetings truly open to public comment. He said violations of the Sunshine Ordinance have been found in no fewer than 10 cases. He said because he submits his statements he will be the only person in the room to have his constitutionally protected political free speech accurately represented. He said the Commission is irresponsible.

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I will focus on page 5, the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the last paragraph:  
“Commissioner Dunning said the person should understand the role of free public libraries in a healthy democracy.” I think it rather ironic that such a comment should be made by any member of this Library Commission, past or present! I have spent the last 10 years fighting to have these public meetings truly open to public comment. It has been necessary to repeatedly take the SFPL and/or the Library Commission before the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force for violation of open government laws. Violations were found in no fewer than 10 individual cases! Each represents multiple violations not only of the Sunshine Ordinance but of the Brown Act! And, I will be the only person in this room, at this public meeting, who will have his constitutionally protected political free speech accurately represented in the minutes of this meeting!

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Huang, to approve the [Minutes of October 18, 2018](#).

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

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 ADJOURNMENT**

### **Public Comment**

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the Commission should not adjourn until there is an item on what the Commission would like to see on Future Agendas. He said he wanted to thank Commissioner Dunning for stating that she would like to see the Friends grant reports as a separate item on the agenda. He said he would like to see what the Friends can fund that the Library cannot.

Motion: By Commissioner Dunning, seconded by Commissioner Ono, to adjourn the meeting of November 15, 2018.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm.

Sue Blackman  
Commission Secretary

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the commission secretary/custodian of records, 6<sup>th</sup> 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).