

SAN FRANCISCO LIBRARY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-06

RESOLUTION URGING THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION TO APPROVE THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING INITIATION OF LANDMARK DESIGNATION OF THE PARK BRANCH LIBRARY AND FIVE APPLETON & WOLFARD BRANCH LIBRARIES -- PARKSIDE, MARINA, MERCED, NORTH BEACH, AND EUREKA VALLEY

WHEREAS, The Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP) calls for renovation of sixteen branches, replacement of four leased facilities with City-owned buildings, three branches to be replaced with new buildings, and one brand-new branch to be constructed in Mission Bay; and,

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Public Library (SFPL) has a strong history of preserving its facilities, which include seven Carnegie libraries that have been initiated for landmark status including the Noe Valley Branch Library which won a 2008 California Preservation Design Award and a 2009 California Preservation Foundation Award; and

WHEREAS, The SFPL is careful to balance preservation and restoration with seismic safety, accessibility, and affordability and takes pride in maintaining San Francisco's legacy while fulfilling the voter's direction for safe, modern libraries that foster life-long learning and literacy for many decades to come; and

WHEREAS, The SFPL and the previous Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board had an understanding that historic libraries would receive landmark status after the completion of their renovations; and

WHEREAS, The San Francisco Planning Department preservation staff studied the eight branches designed by the architects Appleton & Wolfard and

the Park Branch Library (see Landmark Designation Case Reports No. 2008.0968L and No. 2009.0852L); and

WHEREAS, Two of the Appleton & Wolfard designed branches, Parkside and Merced, are currently under construction and initiating landmark nomination at this time could impact the cost and delay the schedule of the projects; and

WHEREAS, One of the Appleton & Wolfard designed branches, the North Beach project, is undergoing a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) including transportation, shadow, views, preservation alternatives, community needs and other studies and initiating landmark designation at this time would circumvent this process and furthermore, the Planning Department believes that the opportunity to return the site to open space use and improve the quality of the open space within Joe DiMaggio Playground will be more beneficial to the North Beach neighborhood than the retention of the existing library; and

WHEREAS, The Planning Department's preservation staff approved the Park Branch Library remodeling plans and advertising the project for bid is anticipated to take place this month, therefore initiating landmark nomination could impact the cost and delay the schedule of the project; and

WHEREAS, The Marina Branch Library renovation is complete and the Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial Branch Library is opening October 24, 2009, the SFPL welcomes the initiation of landmark nomination for these two completed Appleton & Wolfard designed branches; and

WHEREAS, Under Article 10 of the Planning Code, the Historic Preservation Commission has authority to initiate landmark designation for buildings in the City and County of San Francisco; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Library Commission urges the Historic Preservation Commission to concur with Planning Department staff to initiate landmark

designation of the renovated Marina and Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk Memorial branch libraries; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Library Commission urges the Historic Preservation Commission to concur with Planning Department staff to postpone initiation of landmark designation for the Parkside and Merced branch libraries until after completion of the current renovation projects; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Library Commission urges the Historic Preservation Commission to concur with Planning Department staff to not initiate landmark designation for the North Beach Branch Library; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Library Commission urges the Historic Preservation Commission to concur with Planning Department staff to postpone initiation of landmark designation for the Park Branch Library until after completion of the current remodeling project.

Approved on: October 1, 2009

By a vote of: 7-0

AYES: Chin, Del Portillo, Gomez, Kane, Lee, Munson, Ono

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Blackburn". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Library Commission Secretary