



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 18, 2019

(As approved at the Regular Meeting of May 16, 2019)

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

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

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he brought in two documents one is the original determination from the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF) finding the original violation for placing the 150 word statements improperly in the Minutes and it is dated 2012. The second one is a letter from the SOTF to the City Attorney explaining why the SOTF had a difference of opinion of various issues. He said the library has 10 violations issued by the SOTF and this commission has knowingly and willfully ignored each one.

The following written summary was provided by the speaker, Ray Hartz. The content is neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by the Library Commission.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE.
That admonition is printed on every copy of every meeting of this commission, which might only seem iconic, but is in fact, blatantly hypocritical! Thomas Aquinas teaches: "Willful Ignorance of what one ought to know is a mortal sin." My own experiences, documented as a matter public record, show that this Library Commission has no intention whatsoever of operating in an open

and/or honest manner! The Sunshine Ordinance Task Force has issued no fewer than 10 Orders of Determination finding violations by the SFPL administration and this commission. The SFPL and this commission have knowingly and willfully ignored each and every one! This resulted in an additional finding that the Office of the Mayor violated section 67.31 of the Sunshine Ordinance. I have provided each of you with support documentation and provided additional copies for the members of the public.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the Commission should go the full route and get rid of fines and fees. He said the report released in January said that fines and fees were unfair and had an impact on the poor. He said this is true and should go for fees as well. He said the Library needs to have a privacy audit. He said there are tremendous privacy breaches with the internet and social media.

An anonymous person said that he used the library the other night and wanted to use the computer. He said the librarian was shocked that the computer software was up to date. He said we all know about the public health risks of using a public computer and the need to wash our hands. He said digital risks are trickier. He said the librarian guaranteed that the computers had no viruses and were completely safe. He asked that the library track the number of days that the library's computers are not up to date.

Marie Ciepiela, Executive Director, Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, said the Friends were delighted that the Mayor has selected Michael Lambert as the new City Librarian. She said the Friends have completed a five-year strategic plan that has been adopted by the Friends' Board. She said foremost in the coming years will be the extension of the Library Preservation Fund (LPF) and the Friends will be educating the public about the LPF. She said the Friends will be out at various community events and will be concentrating on new residents of the City.

Victor Franco said he has had a wonderful experience with the library. He said he has been to a lot of libraries in the U.S. and this is definitely something special. He said he was interviewed for an article on CNN and would encourage the Commission to look it up and read the article.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NOMINATION OF THE MAYOR'S APPOINTEE TO BE CITY LIBRARIAN

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi read a statement announcing the Mayor's appointment of Michael Lambert as our new City Librarian. She said "on behalf of the Commission I wish to report in accordance with *Gillespie v. San Francisco Public Library Commission* that at a special meeting on March 14, 2019, the Library Commission nominated Mr. Lambert to the Mayor for the position of City Librarian. All commissioners were present, and the roll call vote on the nomination was unanimous."

Explanatory document: [Mayor Breed's Press Release: March 25, 2019](#)

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said all of that process was done in secret and he has done a public records request for all documents pertaining to this appointment. He said former City Librarian Luis Herrera was corrupt and lied under penalty of perjury, on his annual Statements of Economic Interests. He said the question today is whether new City Librarian Michael Lambert will continue the scam. He said he does not believe there is any legal basis for a person serving as a Department Head to empower a group of individuals to raise money in the name of a City Department. He said the Friends act completely without oversight and out of view of the public.

The following written summary was provided by the speaker, Ray Hartz. The content is neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by the Library Commission.

It is a matter of public record that former City Librarian Luis Herrera was corrupt! An investigation by the Fair Political Practices Commission in Sacramento established that Luis Herrera accepted thousands of dollars per year in benefits from "The Friends." Although required by law to report those benefits, he instead lied under penalty of perjury, on his annual Statement of Economic Interests. The question before us today is whether newly appointed City Librarian Michael Lambert will continue the scam? While serving as City Librarian Mr. Lambert is also a Department Head in the executive branch of San Francisco city government. I do not believe there is any legal basis for a person serving in that position to empower a group of individuals to raise money in the name of a City department! That is particularly true given "The Friends" act completely without oversight and, by design, out of view of the public.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said Mr. Hartz made some extremely valid points. He said there is an interesting new book out "Winners Take All" and it is about the charade of philanthropy and he recommends this book highly. He said the appointment of Michael Lambert is a triumph of library public relations. He said in the press release it states that he has championed increased and equitable access to libraries through expanded hours and a fine-free system. He said the Treasurer's office was supposed to look at fines and fees and Mr. Lambert directed that that be limited to fines only and not fees.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Huang said congratulations to Michael on the appointment.

Commissioner Wolf welcomed Michael officially and thanked him for his service.

Commissioner Dunning also thanked Mr. Lambert on his selection and stated that for the public that this type of search is an HR process and it is sensitive for who applies because they don't want their current employer knowing that they are looking for another job and that is why some of this process is in closed session.

Commissioner Mall said it is exciting to have Michael with the official title of City Librarian. She said all of us in the past year have seen Michael rise to the occasion and we were all totally supportive.

Commissioner Ono said congratulation officially to City Librarian Lambert. She said during the last year Michael has impressed us all and she said one of the things she likes is that he recognizes he has a great team.

Commissioner Lee said Michael Lambert was the best of the lot and he is so happy that Michael stayed on to move forward.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. FYs JAIL AND REENTRY SERVICES (JARS)

Rachel Kinnon, Manager, JARs, said since she last spoke to the Commission, Log Cabin Ranch one of the youth facilities has closed and the number of youth has decreased. She said in 2017 it was time to expand from only youth in custody to adults in custody.

Jeanie Austin, Librarian with JARs, said they have published fairly extensively on youth in detention and they were brought in to help with the program.

Rachel Kinnon, Manager, JARs, gave a presentation on JARs including the fact that local jails hold one out of every three incarcerated people. She explained the program planning in early 2018 and the direct service it provides. She said the program is funded by the Library and it also has access to the community redistribution plan.

Jeanie Austin, Librarian with JARs, explained the reference by mail service.

Rachel Kinnon, Manager JARs, explained the third part of the program Reentry Support, for people who recently experienced incarceration. She said they have given many presentations and made many professional connections.

Jeanie Austin, Librarian with JARS, said they wanted to share some of the programs and events that are part of the program. They explained the partnerships involved in the program.

Rachel Kinnon, Manager JARs, concluded the presentation.
Explanatory document: [Jail and Reentry Services \(JARS\)](#)

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said any program that expands the access of individuals and communities to reading materials is good. He said he has tried over the years to make it clear that his problem has never been with programs or the staff of the library his problem has always been with the leadership. He said he is interested to see what the tenor of the new administration will be.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he is curious about the statistics on the first page and what they represent. He said he is interested in what the program planning results were. He said he is interested in the cost of the program and how it compares to the costs for Log Cabin Ranch. He said the best search engine is a librarian and that would be his first choice in any serious research.

Edna James said her husband was an attorney for the NACP and he had lots of involvement in the jail. She said her nephew who was in Texas in jail would write letters to her and she encouraged him to read. She said she encourages the library to continue the program.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall said she had no idea the library was this involved in this. She asked if literacy was a huge issue.

Rachel Kinnon, Manager JARs, said reading levels vary but once patrons start reading they tend to continue. She said she believes literacy rates are increasing. She said they work with the person in charge of programming for the jails. She said everyone is reading in the jails.

Commissioner Wolf said this is really inspiring. She said she is in awe of the service. She asked about the reentry portion of the program.

Jeanie Austin, Librarian with JARS, said there are many programs. They said the librarians are trying to do more public outreach for the program.

Commissioner Ono asked why they are teaming up with San Jose State and not San Francisco State.

Rachel Kinnon, Manager JARs, said San Jose State is the library program in the Bay Area.

Jeanie Austin, Librarian with JARS, said they work really closely with the staff at The Bridge on marketing the reentry program.

Commissioner Ono said what she likes about the program is that it ties in with all of the programs at The Bridge.

Commissioner Dunning said thank you for the passionate work on this program.

Commissioner Huang said this speaks to the organizational alignment that the library system has. He said there are so many people backing this and he said congratulations.

Commissioner Lee said this is a great program. He wonders what percentage of the people are using the program.

Rachel Kinnon, Manager JARs, said it is close to 100% usage of the program. She said the patrons do not have library cards and they can take up to two books at a time. She said the logistics are very similar. She said they are limited to what books they bring into the jails.

Commissioner Mall asked if there have been any incidents regarding staff's personal safety.

Rachel Kinnon, Manager JARs, said they feel pretty appreciated and cared for when they are in the jail.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said thank you to staff for their expertise and the way they help the patrons to see themselves as whole individuals.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. BRANCH CAPITAL PROJECTS – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Cathy Delneo, Chief of Branches, gave a presentation on the community engagement update for the Mission, Ocean View, and Chinatown Branches. She explained the guiding principles for the capital projects. She explained the Mission community engagement process, community feedback and the next steps for the project. She said we are also working on the Ocean View Branch and she explained the Ocean View community engagement process, community feedback and said the next steps are to explore the possibility of building a new library on another site and to study possible solutions to maximize public space within the footprint of the existing branch. Finally she said we are looking at the Chinatown Branch and starting the community engagement process with community meetings scheduled for June 15 at 11:00 am; June 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm; and June 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm.

Explanatory document: [Branch Capital Projects](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said some things were left out. He said the library is expert at pushing forward its own agenda regardless of what people say. He said there should be alternate full services for the projects during renovations. He said they should look at how the Mission Branch had its disastrous renovation.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he agrees with most of what Mr. Warfield said. He said during the Branch Library Improvement Program it seemed like customer service fell by the wayside during all the renovations. He said it was driven by the Library's desire to

change and update the branch libraries. He said what the customers needed and wanted was not considered. He said he and Mr. Warfield are usually the only members of the public that attends the meetings and the Commission doesn't really care and doesn't respond.

Victor Kryneko said it is a valid point that if the libraries are being closed for renovation there needs to be continuous service for the area.

Edna James said she is here to speak about the Ocean View Library. She said she has been on the Council of Neighborhood Libraries for 20 years since that library was built. She said she is still here and Ocean View needs a new library. She said the families keep growing in the area. She said the guiding principles are fine and she wants it to be close to the two schools. She said Ocean View deserves better.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Mall asked why the Carnegie Libraries are special.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said they are historic libraries. He said these three libraries were not part of the Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP). He said Chinatown and Mission had previous renovations which we feel fell short of our aspirations. He said we are absolutely working towards identifying a site in Ocean View for a new library. He said Ocean View is not a Carnegie Library.

Andy Sohen, said the Ocean View library has arch windows echoing back to the Carnegie libraries but it is small and 25 years old.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said there were basically 4 or 5 different designs for the Carnegies. He said we are looking at continuing services for the branches while under renovation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Michelle Jeffers, Chief Community Programs and Partnerships, gave the presentation on the Exhibition and Programming Highlights. She said it is National Poetry Month and said the Library is hosting 18 programs in April. She said the Schmulowitz Collection of Wit and Humor has an exhibit in the Skylight Gallery and there is an exhibit "How we Play" in the Jewett Gallery.

Jana De Brauwere, Program Manager-Business, Science and Technology, gave a presentation on the National Health Care Decisions Day 2019. She said we partnered with other Departments in the City and held programs at the Main Library on April 16. She explained the different programs that were held. She said there was also 14 programs in the Branches.

Kate Eppler, Program Manager, the Bridge at Main, gave a presentation on Connect with Tech Week May 5 – 11, 2019. She said there are 80+ events, 19 SFPL host locations and 10 partner locations. She said there are over 30 partners for this program.

Explanatory documents: [Exhibitions & Programming : National Healthcare Decisions Day](#) : [Connect with Tech Week 2019](#)

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said it seems like most of these presentations are for programs that have already happened at the Library. He said it would be nice if the Commission heard about the programs the month before they happen. He said it would help the Commission to get the word out about the programs.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, asked to receive a copy of what was handed out to the Commission on the Jails report. He said the Park Branch had an historical review because the Library Users Association pushed for that. He said the BLIP program previously disregarded some of the historic resources of other libraries. He said he is very concerned about the Tech Connect program because there is very little warning about privacy issues.

Commissioner Dunning left the meeting at 6:41 pm.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said it appears our marketing has been effective for the programs for National Health Care Decisions Day. She asked what we anticipate for upcoming programs.

Jana De Brauwere, Program Manager-Business, Science and Technology, said the Library has done extensive outreach and networking.

Commissioner Ono said this is the third year for Tech Week and she wanted to know if interest has grown.

Kate Eppler, Program Manager, the Bridge at Main, said interest has grown and so have the number of partners for the program.

Commissioner Huang asked about the process for putting together Tech Week.

Kate Eppler, Program Manager, the Bridge at Main, said the event is supported by Microsoft and the rest of our partners are donating time and expertise. She said the planning meetings are really fun and they start in December.

Commissioner Huang said he would like to be involved in next year's planning.

Commissioner Lee said he loves the program about Death and Dying. He said he appreciates that the Connect with Tech presentation shows the results from the program.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said thank you to staff for all of these great programs and the outreach that is being done on them.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he passed out the following documents: a directive from the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force (SOTF) dated 2012 regarding placement of public comment summaries in Minutes; and a letter from the SOTF to City Attorney Dennis Herrera disagreeing with his advice on the public comment summaries in the Minutes. He said it's time for the Commission to decide if they want a return visit to SOTF because each of his summaries in these minute are preceded by an introductory statement which is prejudicial. He said he would suggest a more neutral statement which does not clearly exhibit both the hostility of the SFPL and this body's disapproval of his opinion.

The following written summary was provided by the speaker, Ray Hartz. The content is neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by the Library Commission.

It is time for the SFPL and this Library Commission to decide if you wish to make another appearance before the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force? Each of my summaries in these minutes is preceded by an introductory statement which is clearly prejudicial! Sue Blackman will maintain she is acting on the advice of the City Attorney's Office, but I submit to you that is only advice and bad advice at that! Please refer to the letter sent to the CAO by the SOTF. It is entirely within the discretion of City Librarian Michael Lambert and this Library Commission to reject that advice. I would suggest a more neutral statement, which does not clearly exhibit both the hostility of the SFPL and this body's disapproval of my opinion! The SOTF issued guidance regarding the placement of public summaries in minutes to all City Departments and Agencies, I suggest you read it!

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said Mr. Hartz has a valid point. He said there is no verification of any of the Minutes. He said you might add that when people have corrected you factually, you have routinely ignored the corrections. He said under general public comment for the February 7 meeting, one of his concerns about the way the fines and fees was handled was that he was concerned about the two minute time limit on such a major policy. He said his comments on page 3 on the City Librarian recruitment were not clear.

Edna James said thank you to the Commission for listening and she said the Ocean View Branch was never part of the BLIP and it is now Ocean View's time for a new library. She said congratulations to Michael Lambert and she knows she will be able to work with him.

Motion: By Commissioner Wolf, seconded by Commissioner Huang, to approve the [Minutes of February 7, 2019](#).

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF PAUL UNDERWOOD, FORMER ASSISTANT CITY LIBRARIAN AND NINA YOURKELSON, COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARIES MEMBER

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said there is a copy of Paul Underwood's obituary in the packets. He said Paul served as Assistant City Librarian for SFPL prior to his retirement. At that time the Commission recognized him "for his high ideals of professional achievement and personal character and public service leadership." He said he also wanted to remember Nina Yourkelson a member of the Council of Neighborhood Libraries (CNL), who represented the Bernal Heights Branch Library. He said she was a long time children educator, poet and a library advocate.

Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said last year he and Mr. Warfield said that they didn't always understand who the people being honored at adjournment were and they said wouldn't it be nice if an obituary was included or information about the person being honored. He said this is a perfect example of doing that for Paul Underwood. He said that should be a minimal requirement for adjourning in memory of someone,

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he endorses adjournment in memory of both of these folks. He said unfortunately there was not written information about Nina Yourkelson. He said Nina was full of energy and always had a position on things and an intelligent comment.

Edna James said she knew Nina and they worked together on the brochure for the CNL. She said Nina had a lot of good input. She said CNL has been losing some good members and she said she misses them all.

Cathy Delneo, Chief of Branches, said she is the Chair of CNL and it was a pleasure to see her and work with her. She said Nina was articulate and intelligent.

President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi said she is so grateful to the City Librarian and the public for the personal narrative on the lives of these individuals.

Motion: By Commissioner Mall, seconded by Commissioner Wolf, to adjourn the meeting of April 18, 2019 in memory of [Paul Underwood](#), former Assistant City Librarian and Nina Yourkelson, Council of Neighborhood Libraries member.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 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).