



# *San Francisco Public Library*

## **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION**

### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 18, 2019**

#### **(As Approved at the Regular Meeting of September 19, 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: Dunning, Huang, Lee, Vice-President Mall, Ono, and Wolf.

Commissioner excused: President Wardell-Ghirarduzzi

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

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he is very disappointed that the agenda does not include budgetary items or the RFID progress. He said there is not a report about the issue of library fines and fees at the Board of Supervisors and that the Commission has not discussed the issues of doing away with fees at the library. He said he is concerned with the library's use of social media and said he is reading a book about the dangers of social media.

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 BRANCH CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE**

Vice-President Susan Mall announced that Supervisor Safai and his aide Monica Chinchilla were in attendance for the presentation.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian welcomed our partner from the Department of Public Works Lourdes Garcia, Senior Architect and Section Manager for the Bureau of Architecture.

Lourdes Garcia, Senior Architect and Section Manager for the Bureau of Architecture, gave a presentation on the Branch Capital Projects

Updates. She showed drawings of the schematic design for the Mission Branch Library and described some of the aspects of the project. She said the next steps will be historic planning approvals in fall 2019, and more community engagement in November. She said the design completion is expected spring 2020 with bidding in the fall of 2020, and construction start in the winter of 2020. She said the library is looking for a temporary location for the library during construction and that they are anticipating the library reopening in fall 2022. She gave an update on the Ocean View Branch Library. She said public outreach meetings were held in March 2019 and she said the library has begun to look at alternative site studies and a site feasibility study has begun. She said the feasibility study is located at Head and Brotherhood Mini-Park and showed maps of the location of the property. She said the next steps are site studies being done to be completed September 2019 and presented to the Library Commission on October 17, 2019. She said community meetings will be held in November, 2019. She said the Chinatown Him Mark Lai Branch Library has held public outreach meetings in June. She said the next steps are programming in fall 2019, concept designs, winter 2020, community engagement spring 2020, design documentation spring 20-21, bidding summer 2021; construction start fall 2021; library temporary location for two years and library reopening summer 2023.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said the Library appreciates the support of Supervisor Safai.

Supervisor Ahsha Safai said we have a strong base of community users that are very excited about this new location for the Ocean View Branch Library. He said the existing site is very constraining and the proposed site would let Ocean View go from the smallest branch library to the largest. He said Mayor Breed is also very excited about this project. He said this is a dream deferred.

Explanatory document: [Branch Capital Projects](#)

#### Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he is disappointed that there has not been more information about this. He said Mission and Ocean View will correct or improve on mistakes that have been made. He said he would like more information at the Commission. He said there is no mention of the budget for these projects. He said he hopes the Commission will commit to having alternate spots for service during the time libraries are closed for construction.

Mark Christenson, said he is an officer in a neighborhood organization but he is speaking strictly as an individual. He said he would like to be included in discussion of the location of this project. He said this is Public Works land. He said he hopes this is not the beginning of the destruction of the Brotherhood Way Greenbelt. He said he hopes the library can be there if it is located set back and the greenbelt is maintained.

Glen Rogers said he is a landscape architect and is opposed to the project. He said the reason this is a greenbelt site is because it is on an

earthquake fault and is considered to be dangerous. He said he spoke with a librarian who said the site would be two blocks away from existing transportation and another story added to the existing building would be a better solution.

Another person said he is concerned about the greenbelt and said it is a very slippery slope when considering to build on it. He said traffic in the area is very busy.

Mary Harris, President, All my Neighbors in Action, said she has lived in Ingleside for 45 years. She said there is a dramatic difference between Ingleside and Pacific Heights. Ingleside had a temporary school that was temporary for 17 years. She said she didn't want to go that route on a library so they organized and worked with Mayor Brown and had a new Ingleside Branch built. She said the need is there in Ocean View and she supports the Supervisor's position. She said the Mayor is supportive as well.

Al Harris, former Library Commissioner, said he is in support of the new library for Ocean View.

Roberto Lopez said he lives in the neighborhood and he is supportive of the location for a new library in Ocean View and he said he has full confidence that any problems with the site will be mitigated.

Ariella said she lives very close to the proposed site in Ocean View. She said she is a San Francisco native and she thinks this would be a great addition to the neighborhood.

Edna James said she is part of the Council of Neighborhood Libraries representing Ocean View Library. She said for 20 years she has watched the Library build new and renovated libraries and now it is Ocean View's time. She said she supports the new location and wants to thank Supervisor Safai for his support.

#### Commission Discussion

Vice-President Mall thanked the members of the public for coming out and expressing their views at this meeting.

Commissioner Wolf said she has looked at the branch and the possible new location. She said the upgrading of this library is very important for this community. She said the access issue is very important for the new location. She said the feasibility study will be very important. She said it is time to invest in services in that area.

Commissioner Ono said she is sorry she wasn't able to attend any of the community meetings on this issue. She said she has some concerns about the accessibility of the proposed site. She said the library needs to be safe for everyone and we also want to meet the needs of the community.

Commissioner Dunning asked about the process for identifying a temporary location for the Mission Branch while it is under construction. She wanted to know if the Commission would have any role in that discussion.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said the Branches division has been canvassing the neighborhood in exploring partnerships and we are currently looking at the possibility of City College's Mission Branch as a temporary location.

Commissioner Dunning asked if there is any requirements or criteria for a temporary location.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said there is nothing codified for a temporary location. He said we want to be able to deliver basic library services.

Commissioner Dunning said she is concerned about getting honed into a site for Ocean View and she would like to know if we have looked at other sites.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said we have looked at city-owned property in order to keep the cost down. He said we will get some cost estimates from the feasibility study and we will bring that back to the Commission in October.

Commissioner Dunning said she would like to continue to look at other sites that might be feasible for Ocean View. She said someone mentioned that Mayor Breed is excited about this and she wondered how specific her support was.

Supervisor Safai said Mayor Breed knows the exact location and that a 20,000 square foot library could be built there. He said the Mayor is very supportive of that proposal. He said the City could have additional resources available for this project. He said they are continuing conversations with the community in terms of feedback.

Commissioner Huang said he shares Commissioner Dunning's cautiousness and he is looking forward to getting all of the details right. He said he is looking forward to seeing the feasibility study.

Commissioner Lee asked about the possibility of adding an additional floor to the existing Ocean View Branch site.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, said the topic did come up with the community.

Lourdes Garcia, Senior Architect and Section Manager for the Bureau of Architecture, said they had looked at a reconfiguration of the existing Ocean View site. She said structurally they are not confident that the

building could accommodate another story. She said we would have to do an analysis of the existing site.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian said there would be operational challenges to adding another floor to the building as far as staffing. He said the intention is to staff the Ocean View Library with the existing number of staff.

Vice-President Mall said she applauds the neighborhood's vision. She said the existing library is in need of improvement and she looks forward to the feasibility study.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. FUHRMAN BEQUEST LAND PARCELS SALE**

Michael Lambert, City Librarian, introduced the item and explained the documents in the packet. He said John Updike would be giving the presentation.

John Updike, Senior Project Manager, Real Estate Division, City and County of San Francisco, gave the presentation on the Fuhrman Bequest Property Disposition. He gave the background on the Bequest. He said what remains of the bequest is approximately 1500 acres in Kern and Fresno County and the proceeds are to be split 50/50 with the Library and Recreation and Parks per the Bequest. He said there are 11 separate properties but they would be discussing selling only the one in Fresno County. He explained the reason the City would like to sell the property at this time. He said the City has a firm offer to purchase the 40 acre parcel for \$170,000. He said the Library Commission is required to approve the sale and there is a Resolution that they are requesting be approved for the sale. He said the next steps will be to come back with the additional properties in Kern County in late 2019 or early 2020.

Explanatory documents: [Fuhrman Bequest Properties](#) ; [Real Estate Department Report](#) ; [Commission Resolution: Fresno County Sale](#)

#### **Public Comment**

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the Fuhrman Fund has had a long and troubled history at the library. He said he is concerned that this looks like it is presented to the Commission as a fait de complete. He asked if there is a conflict of interest with having a brokerage firm that will get a commission from the project. He said public property should remain public property. He said he is concerned about the process and why this hasn't been discussed before.

#### **Commission Discussion**

Commissioner Ono asked about the process and how Recreation and Park is involved.

John Updike, Senior Project Manager, Real Estate Division, said the Library Commission will be acting on this, followed by the Recreation and Park Commission and finally the Board of Supervisors.

Brad Russi, Deputy City Attorney, said this is a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, who will ultimately make the final decision.

Commissioner Lee asked how they determine that the market value is maximized at this time.

John Updike, Senior Project Manager, Real Estate Division, said this was determined by the appraiser and brokerage firm.

Commissioner Dunning said she wanted to clarify that the monies would be going to the Library and Recreation and Parks and not just the Main Library as it states on the agenda.

Michael Lambert, City Librarian said that it is correct that the money would go to the Library not the Main.

Brad Russi, Deputy City Attorney, said the money needs to be allocated in the same way that the original fund designated.

Motion: By Commissioner Dunning, seconded by Commissioner Huang, to approve the draft Resolution recommending the Board of Supervisors approve the sale of City-owned forty acre parcel of land located West of Coalinga, California at the appraised value of \$170,000 to Richard Storti, a single man..

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

#### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

Susanne Sakai, Special Collections Librarian, Book Arts and Special Collections, gave the presentation on Living Library: Connecting and Capturing the Community through Conversation. She said previously she was the Japanese Language Librarian at the Western Addition Branch. She said the project she is talking about took place at the Western Addition Branch. She described a living library. She said this idea came from the Human Library, but she felt that their scope was too broad and she wanted to focus more specifically on the community and every day folks. She said the most challenging part of the process was the collection development and finding the right people to participate. She said publicity was very important. She shared photos of the actual event on June 8, 2019. She said the Living Library videos are online on the SFPL YouTube channel.

Michelle Jeffers, Chief of Community Programs and Partnerships, gave a presentation of SFPL Pride Month Highlights. She said there were author talks and lectures, films, exhibits, youth programs and of course the Pride Parade SFPL contingent.

Explanatory documents: [Living Library: Voices of Western Addition](#) ; [LGBTQIA Pride 2019](#)

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he is a little unclear about the Living Library and the issues with the Human Library program. He said the titles were not explanatory about the subject matter.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said the Living Library sounds like a great project.

Commissioner Dunning said she loves the Living Library idea.

Commissioner Wolf thanked staff for their leadership in these programs.

Vice-President Mall said it is so clear that San Francisco loves its libraries.

Commissioner Lee said that Commissioners become living books.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 ADJOURNMENT**

Public Comment

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said Commission is cheating the public by not having on the agenda new business. He said there were no public comments about the plans for Mission or Chinatown Branch libraries other than his own.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 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).