



## *San Francisco Public Library*

### **SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION**

#### **Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 7, 2012**

(As approved as amended at the regular meeting of July 19, 2012)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 7, 2012 in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:41 pm.

Commissioners present: Breyer, Gomez, Munson, and Ono.

Commissioners excused Kane and Randlett.

Commissioner Nguyen arrived at 4:54 pm.

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

An anonymous citizen said maybe what you should do is what they used to do in the old Roman Republic and elect Ms. Gomez to the position of dictator for life and then at least the rest of us would have the hope an assassination might result in a change in leadership. He said categorically destructive of technology is "Luddite," unreasonable patriotism is "Chauvinist," and incorrigible unethical is "Jewelle Gomez." He said Commissioner Munson noted, if treated with civility, we respond with civility. He said Commissioners Munson's fellow commissioners were shocked and disgusted. He said the Commission does not want equality and you are here to protect the status and the Friends ill gotten gains. He said money buys friendliness for you, but it buys defamation, lies, and violence for the rest of us. He said that is the evil that human society has struggled against for millennia. He said you are just being a Jewelle Gomez. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said over the last 10 months he has been working to get access to public records. He said all of the records he has received and some still not received are all discloseable under the Sunshine Ordinance and/or the Brown Act. He

said he has proof that articles and documents have been illegally withheld. He said the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force has found the City Librarian in violation on two counts. He said after the Order of Determination he had a meeting with staff and he received a few documents and then finally he got some more and he has been getting a few more each week, but basically all of these records were fully discloseable in July of last year and were dragged out over nine months clearly in violation of the law. He said the library has failed in its fiduciary responsibility in overseeing the Friends.

Ellen Egbert said one of her most joyful experiences over the last six years has been her tutoring with Project Read. She said she wanted to remind the Commission of the celebration Project Read will be having on Tuesday, June 12. She said when you hear some of the learners discussing what this program has meant to them you will probably fight back a few tears and you will be so proud that you are affiliated with Project Read.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director Library Users Association, said some of what one of the previous speakers spoke about regarding missing documents should be something the Commission should be concerned about. He said from research on 990 Forms from a recent 10 year period the Friends gave an average of less than 10% of what they took in to the library. He said that information is gained from using the Library's website and the 990 Forms. He said the Friends calculation is that they give one quarter of what is raised to the library. He said none of that looks very good. He said it is a very serious matter. He said the agendas have been deceptive about what has been going on with the Bernal Heights Branch mural. He said it is referred to on the agenda as the Bernal Heights Artwork Project and no indication that it is about the murals that exist and is in fact a mural destruction project.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the Bernal Artwork Project has been approved by the Arts Commission. He said as early as tomorrow, June 8, the installation of the scaffolding will begin on three sides of the building. He said on June 11 painting will begin on three sides of the building. He said painting on the Moultrie side will begin the first week of July. He said tentatively in August the Cortland façade artwork will begin. He said all noticing of the appropriate authorities has been done. He said the next item is an update on the budget. He said he attended the Mayor's roll out of the budget. He said the budget the Commission approved is pretty much intact.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said the Mayor released his budget on May 31 and in that budget the FY 13 budget is \$92.35 Million, which includes the extended hours, the increase to the collections and investment in technology and other resources. She said other changes in the budget include additional resources for the library. She said the Library Preservation Fund has increased from February and June by \$1.2

Million for FY 13 and about \$1.9 Million for FY 14. She said on the property tax side the amount went down from what we had had projected in February, but the General Fund increases more than offset that amount. She said she will come back with more specific information at the next meeting. She said other changes between February and now include the Mayor's call for additional investments in youth employment opportunities, so we went back and looked at YouthWorks work order investments and the Commission had already approved a \$25,000 increase but we went back and with conversations with the Mayor's office added in another \$81,000 so that makes the total YouthWorks budget \$156,800 that will provide for 28 youth employment slots. She said one of the other major changes since February was that the telephone work order budget was changed. She said the increase was over \$406,000, but that has been reduced and will be a technical correction in June. She said there are some additional fringe benefits and salary costs as part of the labor negotiations. She said the salary costs will mostly be increased in FY 14 and she is still trying to find out what those exact amounts will be.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said he did want to mention that the YouthWorks increase was in keeping with the Mayor's push for more work force opportunities. He said there will be two budget hearings with the Board of Supervisors and we will come back in July with a full detailed version of the budget. He said the next item will be an update on the San Francisco History Center.

Susan Goldstein, Manager of the San Francisco History Center, said there are two staff members Tami Suzuki and Wendy Kramer who will be giving presentations and she wanted to also thank their intern Dan McGarry, who was the first person to go through the Agnos papers.

Tami Suzuki said the San Francisco History Center has some great resources. She said the History Center keeps the City's historical municipal records. She said the Art Agnos papers are a large collection of material from the former California Assemblyman and San Francisco mayor. She said there is a catalog record and collection guide from the Art Agnos Papers. She said the Papers cover the many subjects and issues that arose during his time in public office including AIDS, homelessness, the 1989 earthquake and establishment of the Family Policy Task Force which led to the City's adoption of domestic partner benefits in 1991. She said this is a significant collection and we are happy to have it available to researchers from around the world.

Wendy Kramer said the San Francisco History Center Archives connects people past and present. She said the San Francisco Police Department records are over 65 linear feet of documents circa 1880s-1960s. She told a little bit about the various records, which include minutes, directives, scrapbooks, mug books, and other documents issued or compiled by the Board of Police Commissioners, the Chief of Police, and other offices and bureaus of the SFPD. She said working with interns is one of her most rewarding experiences. She said Lauren Gaylord has been working on

the French Hospital Nurses Photo Albums, Kim Nguyen, who is also a page in the library has been working on the Maxine Ganong Papers and the Sequoia Club Records and Melissa Stone has been working on the Potrero Women's Club Records and St. Francis Square Cooperative, Inc. Collection.

Explanatory documents: [Bernal Heights Library Art Project](#); [What's on the Sixth Floor?](#); [SF History Center Archives](#);

### Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said perhaps the City Librarian has kept you apprised of the Bernal Heights Mural destruction, but you are a small subset of those interested. He said the Library Commission passed a resolution saying that the mural would be retained. He said people will remember that and then find out that part of their cultural heritage is being wiped out. He said he went to a meeting where people complained about the lack of information and they were people who thought they were on the committee. He said the Mayor's budget is of grave concern and he wondered why there was not something in writing for the meeting. He said the oral statement indicated the smallest increase was for the books, and the largest was e-resources. He said the history presentation is what the library does well. He said he is not sure people want to come to the library for e-resources that they get everywhere else. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he loves to read and 2/3 of what he reads is history. He said he would like to say how much he really appreciates the effort that staff has made to retain the history of San Francisco and California. He said usually history is taken away from us bit by bit, so anything that is done to maintain those records is appreciated. He said he is pleased the budget was approved and approved in a manner in which the Library Commission and the public could be involved. He said the Bernal Mural goes back to the historical issue. He said his concern has always been that the mural is an historical piece of art on a public building. He said it is one piece of history of that neighborhood that will now disappear.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said it is always interesting to hear about the good work that is being done in the library with respect to the preservation of historical materials. He said at the Bernal Heights Branch library we now have a cultural cleansing and historical wiping out of a wonderful mural which has been up for 30 years and was created by a gay muralist, who is well known. He said the mural was created with community input and community participation in the painting of the mural. He said the front features Victor Jara and on the opposite side Holly Near with a song from hers quoted. He said there is a wall honoring working women and on the back a history of Bernal Heights. He said all of that will be gone. He said he has sent a letter to the City Librarian and it appears that California law will be violated if this mural comes down because the necessary notice has not been given to the artist or artist's heirs or representatives. The heirs have the right to have the artwork

removed and he has been in contact with the heir who has not been notified of the action by the library.

Ellen Egbert, Bernal Heights resident, said the subject matter of the mural was chosen by the artist and it has not been recognized as being outstanding art. She said this mural was deliberately left out of a recent book about the murals in the area because they did not feel it had the type of merit that other murals had. She said there has been community meetings, and community discussions on this for over eight years. She said many of us are delighted we will be able to see the building clean when it is freshly painted before the new artwork is placed on the building.

### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said thank you for the presentation on the History Center and she asked how many visitors visit the Center and if we have an idea about the demographics of the people who come to visit.

Susan Goldstein, Manager of the San Francisco History Center, said she can look up the statistics on the number of visits and get back to the Commission on that. She said people are asked to wear gloves when they are handling photos but she said most of the books are better if patrons do not wear gloves because it can damage brittle paper even more. She said there is a lot of security. She said everyone is required to sign in and we hold their bags at the reference desk and they can use pencils only. She said there is a wide range of patrons

Commissioner Breyer asked what the storage capacity is like on the Sixth Floor and wondered if there are space constraints.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there is space there but it is not enough to handle all the archives. He said they are trying to scan and digitize a lot of the collections and that space is an issue.

Susan Goldstein, Manager of the History Center said we are running out of space and certain things need to be considered in storage like temperature and humidity control.

President Gomez asked what kind of staff time is involved in cataloging small collections or large collections.

Susan Goldstein said it probably took a couple of years to do the Agnos collection while doing other things. She said a smaller collection can be done in a number of months. She said we have a huge backlog.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said he wanted to give thanks to the staff because we have been able to extend service at the History Center to seven days and that is due to staff's willingness to take on additional responsibilities.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. DIGITAL PROJECTS UPDATE – HORMEL CENTER FRAMELINE FILM COLLECTION AND NEIGHBORHOOD ARCHIVE KIT**

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said one of the library's priorities is digital strategy and we have been bringing updates to the Commission on various areas of the strategy. She said today Karen Sundheim will be talking about the Frameline Film Collection and Susan Goldstein will be talking about the Neighborhood Archive Kit.

Karen Sundheim, Manager James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, said there are a couple of projects going on. She said the main project is the Frameline Movie Archive Project, which is the San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival Archives. She said in 2006 Frameline gave us all of the movies they had since the Film Festival started in the 70s, which includes 4 – 5,000 movies, some of which had never been screened. She said the films came in various formats with an underdeveloped database. She said what they wanted to do was archive the films. She said a consultant analyzed the film archives. She said 38 films have been digitized. She said 3 films are currently streaming from our website. She said the 38 films have also been cataloged. She said Word is Out is a movie made in the late 70's and the filmmaker Peter Adair donated his archives. She said this was probably the first film out where people spoke frankly about what it was like to be gay or lesbian. She said a 30 year Anniversary DVD was made and included follow-up interviews. She said these are ready to be streamed on our website. She said Pat Parker was a very important lesbian poet in the 70's and 80's and she showed a brief video of what will be available on the website. She said a book came out early this year about the making of Word is Out.

Susan Goldstein, Manager San Francisco History Center, gave a presentation on the Neighborhood Archive Kit. She said the historical vertical files are filed by subject and organized by neighborhoods. She said they contain newspaper clippings, scholarly articles, photographs, and ephemera. She said they are among our most used items. She said a patron needs to visit the branch to use them, they can't be checked out, they can only be used by one patron at a time, there are security concerns and they are a hidden resource that is not in the library catalog or on the SFPL webpage. She said the Library has received a BALIS Innovation grant of \$15,000 with the three goals of making neighborhood history more accessible; developing sustainable, low-cost model, simple process, and tools that other libraries can use; and to engage neighborhood residents in the gathering and archiving of their neighborhood history. She said with the grant money they bought four laptops, four scanners, hard drives for back-up and a Flickr Pro account to display images. She said they did training and decided to start with Chinatown, Bayview, Excelsior and Library on Wheels and then will move on to others. She said they have trained ten staff and eight volunteers to scan and upload content to Flickr for public display. She said the next

steps are to expand the program to other branches, train more volunteers and staff, and schedule neighborhood scanning days for people to bring in and share their historical resources.

Explanatory documents: [Movie Digitization Projects: Neighborhood Archive Kit](#).

### Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said this is the kind of presentation he would like to see at the Commission every week. He said not only does Jill Bourne think librarians get excited about cataloging, everyone who takes intellectual endeavor seriously gets excited about cataloging. He said matching a question with what is intended is a complicated endeavor. He said we don't want to find that information is hidden because of flaws in the catalog. He said he was interested in the Hormel Center discussion because the author of "The Band Played On" was uncataloged. He said the Neighborhood Archive Kit hit a hot button when they talked about weeding guidelines. He said this too often turns out to be big excuses to increase the weeding. He said that is not what the library is supposed to be about. He said preserving history is what the library is about not weeding. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Executive Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he would like to acknowledge the presenter's use of the word "ephemera" because as a reader he always has this big store of words that he is always searching for the right context in which to use the word. He said as a gay man, he really appreciate all of what is being done in San Francisco and in the library for being a beacon on what is happening in the gay community. He said unfortunately, there are still libraries in the United States where gay and lesbian books are put in sections where they have to be hidden from the general public. He said there are still books on the subject that are taken out of the library. He said he acknowledges the members of the staff who do such valuable work in maintaining the history of the LGBT community and specifically his appreciation to the Hormel Center and James Hormel, who has contributed so much to maintaining and putting forward, with complete visibility, the history of the community.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said it is always a good thing to hear what the library is doing with its collections. He said it is good to hear about increased visibility and increased access. He said if items are not in the catalog, it is difficult for patrons to know they exist. He said the catalog is the key to the use of the library. He said some years ago the Randy Shilts collection had been in the library for 13 years and they had not been cataloged so he is glad that progress is being made in this area. He said at various points he has done research and it seems as though a lot of the gay material is not available on the shelves and only available through delayed paging. He said sometimes it takes many hours to get this material. He said he would like to hear more information about that.

### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Munson said this is a great job that staff is doing and it is a major project and will take years to complete.

President Gomez said thank you to staff and she said she is so excited about the "Word is Out" archives.

### **AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 LABOR UNION REPORT**

Cathy Bremer, Chief Steward Local 1021, said she was very happy that about a month ago we concluded our negotiations with the city and we won. She said the union got what it needed to get. She said she hopes the library finds it acceptable to pay for it and she said morale is a good thing. She said every time we do a new program or something else exciting, we do more work because we have the same amount of people that we have always had. She said we are hiring new people but they are just replacing other people. She said they look forward to working with the Commission and they will be much more cheerful after July 1.

### Public Comment

Ray Hartz, Executive Director, San Francisco Open Government, said you don't have to be doing badly to do better. He said no matter what comments he might make at these meetings, it is never, never, never his intention not to say how much he appreciates the staff of the library. He said regardless of what you have in the way of collections, buildings, etc., none of that is useful without the members of the staff and the people involved in the process. He said he believes in promoting from within and if you do have to hire from the outside perhaps the job has not been done to adequately train the people that are in the system. He said when he was in the fourth grade he got involved with the library and he has always appreciated the books and the librarians.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he is very glad to hear that librarians will be more cheerful. He said he has always said that it is important for library workers to have a good experience and to feel that they are having a good experience. He said he has often said that the best search engine when he is in the library is a librarian. He said it is seldom that he has approached a librarian with a question or research problem and not learned something useful and new. He said he is curious what the contract is and what the provisions are. He said there is a concern about speed up, he said that leads to less expertise. He said librarians with a lot of experience add to the value to the patrons and should be encouraged.

### Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono asked about a summary of the contract and the potential impact to the budget.



Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there will be a report at the next meeting with the budget discussion.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2012**

### Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said these minutes will be a sort of hallmark. He said the summary on page one is not bad, but the point that we are stupid because we believe in democracy is omitted. He said "kill him" should have some punctuation. He said Mr. Hartz read the following statement verbatim. He asked if Mr. Hartz was stating a summary or summarizing a statement. He said his statement is attached at the end but Mr. Hartz' statement is included in the minutes. He asked if he supplies his statement will it be included in the minutes rather than stuck at the end. He said the statements from Mr. Hartz and Mr. Warfield were truncated to omit the point they were making. He said on approval of the minutes of March 1, Jill Bourne stated that Park Branch was LEED Gold not Silver. Mr. Munson was emphatic that it should be checked and what was actually said and put it in there. He said the secretary made what Jill Bourne said was right and not what was actually said. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said in his comments on page 2 there was no indication that there was a very long pause. He said it should be shown that he waited for the President to finish what she was doing. He said under the City Librarian's report on page 4 he said the word demonstrates should be added since he did demonstrate the pop-up books that he brought to the meeting. He said under the Commission Discussion of that item there was no mention of the discussion that occurred about pop-up books and that Toni Bernardi was enthusiastic about noting that we have pop-up books in the collection and that should be included. He said as the previous speaker noted that the 150 word summaries the anonymous citizen has provided is treated differently than the statements that Ray Hartz has made.

### Commission Discussion

There was a discussion about the approval of the Minutes of March 1, which were adopted in this sent of Minutes. The Commission wanted to make sure that those Minutes accurately reflect what was actually said at the meeting.

Sue Blackman, Commission Secretary, assured the Commission that those Minutes did accurately reflect what was said at the meeting.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Munson, to approve the [Minutes of May 3, 2012](#).

Action: AYES 5-0: (Breyer, Gomez, Munson, Nguyen and Ono).

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 ADJOURNMENT**

### Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said he would like to take this opportunity to suggest adjournment in honor of two different people. He said former Library Commissioner Marilyn Weisberg passed away on May 30. He said she was a library commissioner from April, 1976, when she took the place of Nancy Pelosi, until he thinks 1981 or 1982. He said she was a school librarian, broadcaster and bookstore owner. He said ironically, she represents the bad old days when public attendance at commission meetings was considered shocking. He said we don't usually honor people because they are celebrated citizens, but he said he thinks we should make an exception for Ray Bradbury. He said Mr. Bradbury is kind of a legend in connecting our book culture to our humanity. He said Mr. Bradbury wrote "Fahrenheit 451" and also wrote an essay entitled "How Instead of Being Educated in College, I was graduated from Libraries." He said Mr. Bradbury lived in California and was known as a fundraiser for California libraries. He said Mr. Bradbury should be honored as a contributor to libraries for both of those reasons. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he would like to second the idea of adjourning in memory of those two individuals. He said he would also like to acknowledge the anonymous citizen for taking the time to acknowledge those who should be honored in adjournment. He said without authors like Ray Bradbury none of the other things we discuss at this meeting would make a bit of difference.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he supports the suggestion of the anonymous citizen in recommending that the Commission adjourn in the names of Marilyn Weisberg and Ray Bradbury.

David Pilpel said he agrees with both of those suggestions.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Ono that we adjourn the regular meeting of June 7, 2012 in memory of Marilyn Weisberg and Ray Bradbury.

Action: AYES 5-0: (Breyer, Gomez, Munson, Nguyen and Ono).

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 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).

## ADDENDUM

**These summary statements are provided by the speaker: Their contents are neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by, the San Francisco Public Library Commission.**

Item 1: General Public Comment

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate & Ignorance – Don't accept money from the Friends of the Library

“Maybe what you should do is what they used to do in the old Roman Republic – elect Ms. Gomez for the position of dictator for life and then at least the rest of us would have the hope an assassination might result in a change of leadership.”

Categorically destructive of technology is “Luddite,” unreasonable patriotism is “Chauvinist,” and incorrigibility unethical is “Jewelle Gomez.”

Commissioner Munson noted, if treated with civility, we respond with civility. His fellow commissioners were shocked and disgusted.

You know your creation of social barriers is artificial.

You don't want equality. You protect the ill-gotten gains of the Friends because you want the status it buys.

Money buys friendliness for you, but it buys defamation, lies, and violence for the rest of us. That is the evil that human society has struggled against for millennia.

You are being a “Jewelle Gomez.”

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## Item 2: City Librarian's Report

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate & Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

It would be nice if the citizens had access to the graphics.

Perhaps the City Librarian has kept you apprised of the Bernal Heights Mural destruction, but you are a small subset of those interested. This Library Commission passed a resolution that the mural would be retained. Citizens will now discover that a part of their cultural heritage is being wiped out. I went to a meeting where people complained about the lack of information who thought they were on the committee.

The Mayor's proposed budget came out one week ago, and there is nothing in writing. The oral statement indicated the smallest increase was for the books, and the largest was e-resources.

The history presentation is what we do well. I don't know that people come to the library for e-resources that are duplicated everywhere else.

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## Item 3: Digital Projects Update – Hormel Center Frame line Film Collection and Neighborhood Archive Kit

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate, Stop the Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

This is the kind of presentation I wish we had at every meeting. Not only does Jill Bourne get excited about cataloging, everyone who takes intellectual endeavor seriously gets excited about cataloging. Matching a question with what is intended is a complicated endeavor. We don't want to find that information is hidden because of flaws in the catalog.

In the Hormel Center there was a long time when the archive of the author of "The Band Played On" was uncatalogued.

In the Neighborhood Archive Kit, the hidden flaw is the "weeding guidelines." This too often turns out to be an excuse to increase the weeding. If people come in one at a time and the librarians have to watch them that is fine. Preserving history is what the library is about, not weeding.

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Item 5: Approval of the Minutes (May 3, 2012)

Anonymous Citizen: Stop the Hate & Ignorance – Don't give or accept money from the Friends of the Library

These minutes will be a hallmark.

The summary on page one is not bad. The point that we are stupid because we believe in democracy is omitted. "Kill him" should have punctuation.

Mr. Hartz read a statement quoted verbatim. Is he stating a summary, or summarizing a statement? My statement is attached at the end. Are you setting the precedent that if I supply my statement concurrently, it will be included there rather than stuck at the end?

The statements from Mr. Hartz and Mr. Warfield were truncated to omit the point.

On approval of the minutes of March 1, Jill Bourne stated that Park Branch was LEED Gold, not Silver. Mr. Munson was emphatic that it should be checked and what was actually said should appear.

Faced with this contradiction, the Secretary changed it to, Parkside Branch was LEED Silver, which was never said.

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Item 6: Adjournment

Anonymous Citizen: I suggest adjournment in honor of two different persons.

Former Library Commissioner Marilyn Weisberg passed away on May 30. She was library commissioner from April of 1976, when she took the place of Nancy Pelosi, until, I think 1981, or 1982. She was a school librarian, broadcaster and bookstore owner. Ironically, she represents the bad old days when public attendance at commission meetings was considered shocking.

We don't usually honor people just because they are celebrated citizens, but I think we should make an exception for Ray Bradbury. Mr. Bradbury is legendary in connecting book culture to our humanity. He wrote "Fahrenheit 451." He also wrote an essay entitled, "How Instead of Being Educated in College, I Was Graduated From Libraries." He lived in California and was known as fundraiser for California libraries. I have no hesitation that we should honor him as a contributor to libraries for both those reasons.