



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

(As amended and approved at the regular meeting of September 20, 2012)

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 19, 2012

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, July 19, 2012 in the Koret Auditorium Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 pm.

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

Commissioner Nguyen entered the meeting at 4:46 pm.

Commissioner Kane entered the meeting at 4:48 pm.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous citizen said maybe we should do what we did 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. He said yesterday July 18 was the one year anniversary of the Ethics Commission letter to the Mayor finding she should be removed from her appointed office in light of her actions. He said those actions 'fell below the standard appropriate for public officials.' He said he noticed that there is a vacancy on the Commission and he expected to see a new Commissioner. He said there is a statute requiring posting of the vacancy within 20 days but it appears the Mayor only cares about laws pertaining to his political victims. He said a decent person would not be a Library Commissioner, but the Mayor is running out of indecent persons and anyone with an interest beyond their own vanity would not do it. He said having failed in your attempt to suppress public comment has been so ruthless that that is why public comment is so damning. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said the previous speaker had some noteworthy points in particular the reference

to the Ethics Commission and its recommendation to the Mayor that he sack the President of this Commission as a member of the Commission. He said no action ever happened from the Mayor's Office and the rest of the Commission elected her unanimously as President earlier this year. He said on matters of great importance there is little or no discussion of key issues and this includes discussion about the destruction of the existing Bernal Heights Branch Library mural. He said neither this body nor the Arts Commission never once talked about any of the specific contents on the mural or its historic value. He said the scaffolding has gone up but the paint out was stopped by the heir who had the right to a 90-day notice in order to remove it. He said a few weeks ago he spoke about what he considered a very clear and present danger to the library and to the mural from the scaffolding staying up. He said that scaffolding is a danger. He said unfortunately these concerns are born out in a blog which has open threats against the mural with Annie Taylor saying let's meet at 12:30 am with your favorite paintbrush and let's solve this problem.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government read the following statement: "A member of the public recently communicated to the Board of Supervisors, the attendance record of the Library Commission (LC) members falls below the expectations of the Mayor's Office! It is a fact that membership on any commission or board is a public trust! Despite the disparaging comments directed at certain members of the public and their lawful public comments, it might be said that their attendance records are better than certain LC members. While members of the public might feel some of the comments are 'harsh' I would ask them to consider who is better informed: members of the public who attend these meetings or LC members who do not? Members of the public who use legal means to 'probe' the machinations of this LC and Public Library staff or those who seem to settle for whatever someone puts before them, often without posing serious questions and demanding meaningful answers?" He said members of the public have the right to free speech and like it or not the Commission is government and subject to these comments. He said the simple fact that you don't like the comments does not give you the right to disparage people.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the Interim Executive Directors for the Friends, Marcia Schneider and Deborah Doyle will be making the presentation.

Marcia Schneider said she is presenting along with her co-interim Executive Director Deborah Doyle. She said they will be talking about the annual gifts to the Library this year, upcoming Friends Activities and a special presentation of a gift to the Library. She said the Friends Annual donation to the library is \$440,200 and the donor designated funds are \$309,800 for a total program support of \$750,000. She said the Friends are supporting the five Strategic Priorities of the Library, which are literacy and learning; digital strategy; youth engagement; strategic partnerships;

and diversity in programming. She gave some examples of programs the Friends are supporting under each of the categories.

Deborah Doyle, co-interim Executive Director said the San Francisco International Poetry Festival is coming up next week and said there would be lots of events and poetry readings. She said the Big Book Sale will be held September 19 – 23 at Fort Mason. She said the preview for members will be September 18. She gave information on the spring book sale. She said the campaign has been going on for about a year in the Bayview and they are looking forward to raising about \$750,000. She said they have raised about a third of that so far. She said they are looking forward to moving ahead with the North Beach campaign. She said they are happy to make a presentation to the library of a 1507 copy of Dante's Divine Comedy. She said the book was written in the 14th century but this is a 16th century volume. She said the donor's name was James Cameron Clark, who was a philanthropist in the city who loved libraries and he left the book to the Friends who have had the book restored and they would like to present the book to the City Librarian and the President of the Library Commission.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, asked Andrea Grimes, head of the Book Arts and Special Collections to join them at the podium for the presentation of the book to the library.

Explanatory document: [Friends of the San Francisco Public Library Public Comment](#)

An anonymous citizen said he does not see how you have the gall to grant an outside nonprofit the right to display graphics in this chamber and deny it to other citizen or outside groups who might have a difference of opinion. He said if this were a contest of pretty PowerPoints some of us could blow you out of the water. He said this was not a financial report, but the disclosure that over 40% of donations are restricted funds, means that in previous year it must have been 90% to 100%. The Friends only gave \$373,000 in 2009 and \$225,000 in 2006. He said the most recent financial disclosure from the Friends shows their net assets dropped from \$11.1 Million to \$8.9 Million, so deficit spending for that year was almost \$2.2 Million and it was four times the unrestricted funds that they gave to the library. He said who would give money to an organization like that if it were disclosed? He said most people in the city think that the Library Commission is following this and it would be disclosed. He said the Commission prefers presentations with pretty pictures. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Executive Director San Francisco Open Government, read the following statement: "I look forward to these 'reports,' hoping for something of substance but always disappointed! The 'reports' are NEVER available in advance with other documents. As my public record requests confirm, the Friends raise \$4 to \$4.5 Million each year and expend another \$2+ Million for what they provide. How does the 'public,' in whose name these funds are raised and expended, benefit? Nobody knows! The Library Commission, the City Librarian, Mr. Herrera, and the

Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Singleton, simply accept whatever they are told, without any supporting documentation or any question. Does this in any way relate to the \$3,000 per month the Friends 'reimburse' the City Librarian for expenses which otherwise have to come out of his pocket? It is time for someone, like the City Controller or the Civil Grand Jury, to perform a cost/benefit analysis to substitute for the total lack of oversight currently in place! "

Andrea Grimes, Book Arts and Special Collections, thanked the Friends of the Library for their very wonderful gift and to the City Librarian for accepting it on behalf of the Book Arts and Special Collections where the book will be added to the collection on the history and printing of the book. She said we invite you to come up and visit the Book Arts and Special Collections. She said this is an extraordinary opportunity to study the Renaissance printers.

A man from the audience talked about various problems and political scandals.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said a substantial amount from the Friends comes from the role of pass through. He said you might inquire about what in the way of gifts would be given to the library anyway directly from the folks who end up giving it to the Friends. In the past 10 or 11 years figures compiled by one of the previous speakers show that the Friends have been giving the library about 10%. He said the year he looked at, the Friends collected more than \$5 Million in donations, spent more than \$6 Million on various things but the Library's website reports that the Friends had given approximately \$498,000, which is well under 10%. He said we don't have a report for what the Friends have taken in as income and what they have actually spent. He said the Friends also have a role in the Bernal Heights Library mural destruction. He said they are making money from it by presumably taking 10% as a fiscal agent for a project that will destroy a mural that was put up with a great deal of community input. He said the mural is planned for complete destruction and all of the names of the people who painted it will be gone.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane said thank you to the Friends for their report. He wanted to clarify that there would be a full financial report from the Friends in the future.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said they will ask the Friends to come back to the Commission with a full financial report.

Commissioner Kane said it is important for the Commission to have a full financial report once a year from the Friends. He asked about the \$750,000 and whether that is cash to the Library or in-kind donations.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian said the BLIP portion is not included in this report. He said any amount that is in-kind they are not required to provide detailed information. Any money that comes directly to the library is reported through our financial system.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said some money comes directly to the library but the vast majority of the \$750,000 is paid in-kind for services to the library.

Commissioner Kane said he wanted to clarify that in-kind donations are not reported on the website. He said we do report donor designated funds. He asked how it is determined how the money is to be used from the Friends.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there is a process where we have input from staff on where the various needs are and the different categories.

Commissioner Kane asked about the Poetry Festival.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the Poetry Festival is outside of the \$750,000.

Commissioner Kane said the \$750,000 is only a subset for all that the Friends do for the Library. He said it would be nice if this was explained in the annual report. He asked about the Bayview and North Beach campaigns.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the fundraising for the Bayview and North Beach Branches is pretty much left up to the Friends as a Grassroots effort. He said there is coordination for what the need is for each branch.

Commissioner Kane asked about how the Big Book Sale is going.

Deborah Doyle, co-interim Executive Director for the Friends said it is interesting that the books being donated are a different mix with less newly published books coming in so they are watching that closely. She said the percentage of revenue is smaller than it used to be, but they will come back and report on that to the Commission.

President Gomez said thank you again to the Friends for their wonderful gift of Dante's Divine Comedy.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the last Commission meeting in June was the report between the two Board budget hearings. He said there had been reductions recommended by the Controller's Office at that time. He said since that time we had a conversation with the Budget and Finance Committee and we want to give you some details on that.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, gave a presentation on the FY 2013 and 2014 budgets. She explained the budget calendar and the strategic priorities and other investments. She explained the Mayor's proposed budget that came out on June 1, 2012. She said there was additional Library Preservation Fund (LPF) Revenue between February and June 1. She went over the summary of estimated resource investments from February and June 1, 2012. She explained the Board of Supervisors Budget Negotiations and reductions recommended from the Board Analyst. She said at the June 27 meeting the Budget and Finance Committee (Committee) said they did want to expand hours at the Visitacion Valley and Portola branches. She said the Committee voted to expand hours at two more branches and added capital dollars for the Teen Center and Digital Media Learning Lab. She showed the differences between the FY 12 and FY 13 and 14 proposed budgets on the sources side. She said the State's budget did include \$5 Million for library costs and they do not know exactly what SFPL's share will be. She showed the proposed budgets as of July 11, 2012. She showed graphs showing the FY 13 and FY 14 funding sources and uses by expenditure type. She said the Board of Supervisors will approve the budget by the end of July.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said Maureen Singleton and her staff are doing a fantastic job. He said we are very pleased with where we are right now with the budget. He said he wanted to discuss the Teen Center item next since there are a number of teens in the audience. He said they are happy that the Committee did some add backs for the capital program for the Teen Center.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, gave a presentation on the Teen Digital Media Learning Lab. She explained the space plan phase one process had the goal of identifying the best location for the new Teen Digital Media Learning Lab. She said seven locations were first identified, which have now been narrowed to two. She described the second floor option, which is where Project Read and Human Resources are currently located. She said the other option is the Fifth Floor Option where the Periodical Location and the Training Center are currently located. She said the second floor space was identified as the most compelling overall location. She said the next steps are to identify a new space for Project Read and Human Resources. She said they will continue to work with external stakeholders, including the Council of Neighborhood Libraries, tutors and learners and community partners. She said an important element has been the development of our Teen Design Advisory Board, which Jennifer Collins has put together through an application process. She said the full Board is now in place and Jennifer is here to introduce some of the members in attendance tonight.

Jennifer Collins, Teen Services Coordinator, said it is her honor to be working with the Teen Design Advisory Board on both the online space and the physical space for the Teen Center. She said not all members are present but she would like the ones who are to introduce themselves and say a few words.

Sophie said she goes to the Urban School and the reason she is so excited to be part of this project is to have a more positive space for teens. She said she is an incoming senior and she goes to the Sunset Branch.

Shellie said she goes to Cornerstone Academy, she is an incoming junior and she goes to the Richmond Branch about once a month. She said she is very excited about designing a space that will be just for teens.

Dario said he goes to the School of the Arts and is an incoming junior. He said he goes to the West Portal Library once or twice a month. He said his vision for the teen center is that he is excited to be able to learn about technology.

Dawson said he goes to Lincoln High School and will be a sophomore this year. He said he goes to the Excelsior Branch every week because he is a regular volunteer with the chess club and computer corps.

Leo said he will be a junior at the School of the Arts and he goes to the Main Library because there is a very extensive sheet music section. He said he is a YouthWorks intern this summer. He said he is looking forward to starting a project and seeing it through.

Ashoka said she is a senior at Lowell High School and goes to the Main Library once or twice a week. She said she lives in Bernal Heights so she also visits that library as well. She said she is excited about being on the board because who is best at telling you what you need than other teens. She said just being able to have a say is important and she would like to thank everyone.

Anton said he is going to be a senior at St. John's Academy and he decided to be a member of the Advisory Board because it is important to build a relationship between teenagers and the San Francisco Public Library. He said currently teenagers think of the library as this weird place where time on the internet is limited and people go to read books. He said he feels this Teen Center will attract teens from all around the city and they will find out how cool the library actually is. He said he thinks the Teen Center will help teenagers with their academics but will also be a social experience, which is a major factor in the life of a teenager.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said thank you to the teenagers and that this is the future of public libraries. He said they have a great diversity of thought and creativity. He said this is the beginning of a very engaged process and we will be working with external stakeholders and partners to make this truly an inclusive process as we move forward. He said as part of our ongoing updates on the various strategic priorities we are bringing presentations to the Commission that highlight certain areas. He said today there are two presentations one on e-Collections and e-Learning and one on the Library 2 U BALIS Grant.

Laura Lent, Chief of Collections and Technical Services, said she will be giving a presentation on e-Collections and e-Learning strategies. She said this is a very busy part of our collections right now. She said she will be reporting on the work of the e-Collections Committee in the areas of e-Books and e-Media Task Force; e-Learning Task Force; and maintaining and improving general e-Resource collection. She said there was a new PEW study that gave some new useful data. She explained the challenges for libraries in the areas of access and outreach. She talked about e-Books and e-Media circulation and showed a chart for usage for FY 2012. She described the Library's e-book and e-media platforms and priorities. She said they formed an e-Learning Task Force to look at enhancing content and access for key literacy priorities. She said the new jobs and careers gateway will launch in the fall. She said there are new learning express modules with computer and internet basics and popular software tutorials. She showed a chart of e-Collection and physical collection five year usage comparisons.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the next report is on the Library 2 U BALIS Grant.

Cathy Cormier, Branch Manager, Mission Bay Branch, said she and Mark Hall will be giving the presentation on the Library 2 U BALIS grant. She said they are part of a system wide reference committee which was charged with overseeing the grant. She said this was a one year BALIS grant to identify and purchase the most appropriate mobile technology, to train staff in use of technology and share results with other BALIS libraries. She said the teen librarians took the lead on the offsite outreach, reference and circulation portions.

Mark Hall, Fourth Floor Manager of the Main, told about the elements of the roving reference portion of the grant. He explained the results/findings of the pilot program.

Cathy Cormier, Branch Manager, Mission Bay Branch, said they made some mid-grant adjustments including directing some funds to purchase a pool of mobile devices for e-reader training, developing staff e-reader training and developing ongoing public e-reader training. She said Mark runs a program "E-readers at Lunchtime" for the public and staff. She said the final steps are to share the report with BALIS libraries, continue staff and public training and redeploying staff mobile devices around the system.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the last update is regarding the Bernal Art Project. He said at the June 7 meeting he shared with the Commission that they anticipated that the project would have started on June 8 with the scaffolding going up that weekend. He said the following day we received a letter from Ms. Nancy York the sister and representative of the deceased artist Arch Williams with a request for a notice. He said we had previously complied with the noticing requirements but acting on counsel from the City Attorney's Office, on June 29 we did extend an additional 90 days to Ms. York and other

collaborators. He said because of that the artwork has been deferred and will begin again in October.

Commissioner Kane left the meeting at 6:38 pm.

Explanatory Documents: [FY 2012-13 Budget](#) presentation; [eCollections & eLearning](#) presentation; [Library 2 U BALIS Grant](#) presentation; and [Teen Digital Media Learning Lab](#) presentation.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said the Commission should realize that we are in this together. He said you can limit public comment by putting five important items under the City Librarian's Report and then the opportunity for public comment will be limited to 36 seconds on each item. He asked if the Commission remembered what it said about a presentation on the budget that was an hour ago and the teens might have wanted to hear your comments on the Teen Center and then go. It said it would have been much more productive for everyone's time to let the discussion proceed after these major reports, rather than a concern about limiting public comment. He said the City Librarian previously claimed a procedure for the off-year budgets, but it is undisclosed. He said the Board of Supervisors also expressed concern about library hours, which your administration has a reputation of ignoring. He said no one has said how much the grants were or whether there was compliance with your grants policy and whether staff is being overextended for too little grant money. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library User's Association, said it is preposterous and a rip off to the public to have all these important topics in one item and thereby shrinking public comment, public patience and public memory as to what was said. He said there are items which concern him relating to book de-emphasis and hours issues and to start out with the budget has a lot of vague references to programs and there is no mention specifically of books and materials. He said there is talk about expanded hours for Visitacion Valley and Portola and two other branches. He said we have not heard what those expanded hours will be or if they will be Sundays or evenings, which is what patrons most want, or if it is something else. He said \$220,000 is budgeted per branch but in the past we have heard numbers like \$100,000 or \$150,000 per branch for four additional hours of Sunday opening. He said this is a lot of money budgeted for what we don't know. He said there are major omissions in the digital strategy and that would interest the teens in the area of privacy. He said there are very serious issues with relation to e-Books. He said there are issues of integrity and ownership of the text.

Ray Hartz, Executive Director, San Francisco Open Government, read the following statement: "As with the Friends 'report' there is no supporting documentation for the Bernal Heights Branch library Arts Project! What has been consistently presented as a 'community process,' continues without any oversight, either from the Library Commission, Library staff, or the public. The 'advisory' body has morphed into a group

who has hired a project manager, applied for community grants, and has raised other monies in the name of the 'public,' without any oversight, public or otherwise! This Library Commission and the Library staff has 'colluded' with a small group, some having personal and financial interests in moving this project forward, without regard to the fact that it is public art, on a public building, being paid for with public money. I dare any member on the stage to show me ANY documentation showing who these people are and how these public funds are being expended! No takers? What a surprise!" He said the Friends get an \$18,000 cut from this deal and you don't seem to care what they do. He said the Friends could go out and raise any amount of money and you are satisfied that they give you \$750,000 out of \$6.5 Million. He said that is bizarre. He said the Commission seems not to be concerned at all.

One of the teens who previously spoke said the group has discussed privacy and said the teen center is not focused on social networking but focused on the creation of new types of things.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said thank you to everyone for their presentation, especially the teens. She said the decrease on page 5 for FY 14 under personnel adjustments is quite dramatic and she would like to know what accounts for that.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said originally they had proposed a cut of salary and benefits but when the Controller's Office loaded in the additional fringe benefit costs it upped that adjustment.

Commissioner Ono asked about the impact of the delay of the Bernal Heights Branch Art Project.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we are working with the project manager and the community members and there could be an impact but he does not have that specific information as of yet. He said there will be additional costs because of the scaffolding. He said he will bring back any impacts to the Commission.

Commissioner Munson said there is quite a bit of scaffolding up in various areas of the city and they seem to be protected and safety does not seem to be a concern.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the delay is unfortunate because it does have an impact visually and we are on top of any safety considerations.

Commissioner Munson said he liked hearing from the teens and they have been doing some good work in developing this process.

President Gomez asked about the teen committee and if we had ever used one in this way.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said this is a unique committee and it is a design advisory board so they will be working with the architects in a more detailed way. She said this is separate from the Teen Advisory Committees that we have had in the past.

President Gomez said she wondered about the process for moving the other divisions to a new space.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we have engaged the Department of Public Works in working on Phase 2 which will be looking at the spaces available. He said we want to make sure there is a fit within the library footprint and to do that we will be working with library learners, teachers and staff.

Commissioner Randlett said she had some questions on behalf of Commissioner Kane who had to leave. She said Commissioner Kane wanted to know if the e-Readers could be used on all types of devices since he thought that was important.

Mark Hall, Main Fourth Floor Manager, said they do work on all types of devices.

Commissioner Randlett asked on behalf of Commissioner Kane if the audio books can be downloaded to electronic devices.

Mark Hall, Main Fourth Floor Manager, said they can download audio books.

Commissioner Randlett said Commissioner Kane's third question was the catalog is difficult to browse and he likes the way Amazon is set up so that the most popular books are listed first.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there has been discussion about some search tools that will enhance the portal and the electronic catalog is not ideal.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said it was called user search experience in our digital strategy so it is one of our priorities and we hope to implement a new process within the next fiscal year.

Commissioner Randlett wanted to know if there is a function or if there will be a mechanism where people in a structured fashion have somewhere to go to say when things are not working properly or the functionality is not quite right. She said it would be nice if there was some sort of process to formalize those types of comments. She said especially with the technology side but in other areas as well. She said she is clearly concerned about the significant rise in costs for benefits in the budget for the long term and she would like to see the Commission tackle that issue. She said she would suggest that budget staff look at other options from other states on the benefits issue.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said on the technology intervention, staff is the best at troubleshooting and there are other approaches to improve the user experience. He said we continue to look at best practices and our staff tends to be ahead of the curve. He said on the budget we have limited control over benefits but the City has been very proactive and a ballot measure was passed relating to retirement and that City employees now contribute more to their own pensions. He said as a City we are ahead of other cities and on a five year horizon we are looking at a balanced budget approach. He said we are a service driven department and 75% of our costs are labor driven and we are cognizant of that. He said the Commission does not have any oversight or responsibility to address a much, much bigger issue.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Lena Chen, Bond Program Manager, said the approved budget is \$196,259,350 as of February 16, 2012. She said there is a change to the budget report under footnote number 6 and it should read "amount reported by the Friends not for the Friends." She said the Bayview Branch is under construction and the North Beach Branch is in the construction award phase. She said the Bayview Branch Library is approximately 60% complete as of mid-June. She showed photographs of the Bayview Branch construction. She said the final completion date is to be determined. She said we are exceeding the city workforce goal for San Francisco residents and we are also exceeding the goals HRC has set. She showed design and site plans for the completed design for the North Beach branch. She said they are currently reviewing the bids for the project. She said the North Beach project is fully funded. She said the tree removal and replacement permit was appealed and was heard before the Board of Appeals on July 11 and the Board approved the permit to remove and replace the trees. She said no other appeals were filed for permits. She said the Golden Gate Valley Branch received the 2012 Preservation Design Award from the California Preservation Foundation for the Rehabilitation category. She said after 6 years of dedicated service as Financial Analyst for the BLIP, Amber Vasche is moving from DPW to the PUC and she will be missed a lot. Explanatory document: Current [Budget Report](#); [Manager's Report](#)

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said with respect to this report he has said most of what he has to say already. He said if you are screwing the public maybe you don't want to give them a voice. He said Lorna Randlett very astutely reminded you that the freight train is coming. He said she may have been talking about pension funds exclusively, but he said he didn't think so. He said she may have been talking about if you make commitments to accept grants and other things without a mature assessment of what those commitments may ultimately cost, those commitments may eventually overwhelm the budget. He said this library's budget has been overwhelmed in the past and you have gotten into trouble. He said he

has made those points before. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he did not hear an update about a lawsuit that challenges the legality of the North Beach Branch project. He said we haven't heard about that in a number of meetings and to his knowledge that is still ongoing. He said on the status of the program it shows that 22 branches are complete and open. He said Bernal Heights is listed, but while it is open it is not complete. He said the outside of that branch was not touched as any part of the \$5.7 Million renovation. He said we heard that there was no money at one point to do mural restoration in 2009, but when the mural destruction project began and when it applied for a \$50,000 challenge grant we suddenly heard that there was after all \$20,000 from that BLIP budget to assist with the destruction of a significant mural and city asset on the Bernal Heights Branch library. He said the challenge grant application which was supported by the City Librarian, stated in its first paragraph something that was simply not true and which was materially crucial to the granting of such a project. He said the grant application said that the mural could not be restored. He said the Library Commission thought that part of the mural could be restored because it approved a compromise saying that the front should be restored.

Ray Hartz, Executive Director, San Francisco Open Government, read the following statement: "The figure on this 'report' of over \$8.8 Million, under 'Furniture & Equipment Reserves,' is nothing other than a fraud! Having spent the last year, reviewing public records, there is an admission by Maureen Singleton, the Library's CFO that she has no documents to support \$5.17 Million of that figure. Despite a commitment that 'I will work with the Friends to provide you with the information on the expenditures that they made directly for BLIP on a rolling basis,' a one-page, one-line sheet is all that has been produced. So the facts are: while 42% of the \$8.8 Million is supported by actual financial records, 58% is nothing but an unsupported claim! This is a betrayal of the 'public trust' placed on the parties involved. I would like to know what other figures on this 'report' are also based on absolutely nothing? Again, there's no response? What a surprise!"

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Munson said he has been to almost every branch and they all seem to have tables, chairs, and shelves. He said these are all things that have been paid for by the Friends. He said there has not been a detailed record yet of what they have spent but they have provided us with the items that they promised. He said the branches are well equipped. He said he shares some frustration that we do not have all the numbers, but they do not work for us. He said they are a nonprofit and they don't have a lot of high powered accounting people. He said they are working to furnish the last two branches. He said we are not responsible for their books because they are a separate entity.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF
JUNE 7, 2012**

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said with respect to things that are noncontroversial these minutes are getting better, but regarding any hint of controversy, you are as deceptive and fraudulent as ever. He said there are a couple of small items that should be corrected. He said on page 1 of his citizen summaries, the minutes say "incorrigibility" when "incorrigibly" is meant. He said on page 4 "a song from hers" is not good English. He said on page 7 it says "the author of 'The Band Played On' was uncatalogued." And what he had said was "the archive of author Randy Shilts was uncatalogued." He said on approval of the May 7 minutes, what appears is "the secretary made what Jill Bourne said was right." He said what he actually said was that Park was changed to Parkside. He said the minutes then say that Sue Blackman assured the Commission the Minutes did reflect what was said, when she acknowledged she substituted what was meant. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said on page 2 there is a crucial phrase missing on the middle of the summary of what he said. He said the sentence "He said the Agendas have been deceptive about what has been going on with the Bernal Heights Branch Mural." He said the missing piece is it should be Library Commission Agendas. He said it says the Bernal Heights Art project and that does not indicate that it is in fact a Bernal mural destruction project. He said the Randy Shilts collection is not the Schultz collection. He said Randy Shilts wrote "the Band Played On" and was a well know journalist and the name should be spelled correctly. He said on page 9 under item 5 approval of the Minutes for May 3 there is not clarity with regard to what he expressed about a very long pause and he thinks that should be clarified.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, read the following statement: "In April and May 2012, the Library Commission started to include my 150-word summaries 'in the minutes,' as directed by the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force in January, 2011 and again in July, 2011. There has been no explanation of this change, despite the previous totally dogged determination to keep 'dissenting opinions' out of the official record. In this June meeting, I tried a little 'experiment.' For the most part I said only 'good things' and also did NOT submit my own summaries. After a quick review, I will acknowledge Ms. Blackman the Library Commission Secretary, did a reasonable job. He said on page 7 he did not say the library was a deacon, he said it was a beacon. I will say that she must feel some level of comfort in not being forced into being in a position of 'censor' for the minutes, maximizing the 'good' and minimizing the 'not so good.' I hope she will acknowledge that the Library Commission and the City Librarian put her in that position, not me!" He said she has on numerous occasions complained about having to go to Sunshine Task Force meetings when it wasn't me who took action

resulting in the complaint it was the Library Commission. He said not one of you except Mr. Munson has bothered to show up and defend yourself at the Task Force. He said to him that is cowardice.

Commission Discussion

President Gomez asked that there be a correction to the spelling of Randy Shilts' name.

Commissioner Ono asked that there be a correction on page 9 to include Commissioner Nguyen as voting in support of the Minutes of May 3.

Commissioner Munson said he could not find the word deacon but would like it corrected in the Minutes.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Randlett to approve the Minutes of June 7, 2012 with the correction to the spelling of Randy Shilts, to include Commissioner Nguyen as voting in support of the Minutes of May 3 and to correct the word deacon by changing it to beacon on page 7.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6. ADJOURNMENT IN MEMORY OF MARIAN O'DONNELL RETIRED SFPL LIBRARIAN

President Gomez said she would like to adjourn in memory of Marian O'Donnell and Kathi Kamen Goldmark

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said usually if we are going to honor someone by adjourning in recognition we usually like to say a few words about who they were and what their contributions were. He said Marian O'Donnell, was at the library for 42 years and head of the Science and Government Documents department. He said she had very high standards of discipline and loyalty and expected her dedication in others. He said they had a contretemps initially but eventually became friends. He said she was very proud that her department was designated an official repository of the US Printing Office. He said we lost that after she retired. He said he would also like to suggest honoring another librarian of 40 years, Dorothy Richard. He said she was a children's librarian that he only knew slightly because he was a disciple of Effie Lee Morris. He said we should honor both these librarians who gave us their entire career of service. He said he would be pleased to know something about the other name that was suggested. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

President Gomez said Kathi Kamen Goldmark was on our One City One Book Committee helping us to choose writers to be read by the City each year. She said Kathi started her career as a guide for visiting writers.

She said Kathi was also a teacher, a record producer, an editor and her life straddled music and books. She said she was a very delightful and dear woman who worked really hard at making sure that literature was high up on everyone's list.

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Randlett to adjourn the regular meeting of June 21, in memory of Marian O'Donnell, Dorothy Richard and Kathi Kamen Goldmark

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 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).

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 give or 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.”

Yesterday was the one-year anniversary of the Ethics Commission's letter recommending removal of Library Commission president Jewelle Gomez based on her actions “below the standard appropriate for public officials.”

The Mayor's office violates a statute requiring posting the vacancy within 20 days, caring only about laws for his political victims.

A decent person wouldn't be a Library Commissioner. Probably the Mayor is running out of indecent persons. Anyone with an interest beyond their own vanity would not do it.

Public comment is damning because it is about your ruthless attempts to suppress public comment.

Item 2: Friends of the Library Report

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

Wouldn't it be nice if the citizens had access to the graphics? I don't know how you have the gall to grant use to this private group and deny it to others.

While not a financial report, the disclosure that over 40% of donations are restricted funds, means that in previous year it must have been 90% to 100%. The Friends gave \$373,000 in 2009, and \$225,000 in 2006.

This most recent disclosure reveals that their net assets dropped from \$11.1 million to \$8.9 million, so deficit spending of \$2.2 million was four times the unrestricted funds they gave to the library.

Who would give money to such an organization, if this were disclosed?

The citizens assume the Library Commission would disclose this. Yet you deny citizens' access to graphic displays.

Item 3: City Librarian's Report

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

You should realize we are in this together. You can limit public comment by crowding five important items into the City Librarian's report. Do you remember your own comments about the budget presentation literally an hour ago? The teens might have wanted to hear your comments on the Teen Center and then go.

It might have been more productive to allow the discussion to proceed after these major reports, rather than a priority on limiting public comment.

Your City Librarian previously claimed a procedure for the off-year budgets, but it is undisclosed.

The supervisors also expressed concern about library hours, which your administration has a reputation of ignoring.

No one said how much the grants were, or whether there was compliance with your grants policy that is designed to assure the library is not overextended.

Item 4: Bond Program Manager's Report

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

What I might have said on the previous item applies equally here. If you are screwing the public maybe you don't want to give them a voice.

Lorna Randlett very astutely reminded you that the freight train is coming. She may have been talking about pension funds exclusively, but I don't think so. She may have been talking about if you make commitments, to accept grants and other things, without a mature assessments of what those commitments may ultimately cost, they eventually overwhelm the budget.

This library's budget has been overwhelmed before and you have gotten into trouble. That does apply to the BLIP program and I have made those points before.

Item 5: Approval of the Minutes (June 7, 2012)

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

Regarding issues that are not controversial, these minutes are better. Regarding any hint of controversy, you are as deceptive and fraudulent as ever.

On page 1, as in my citizen summaries, the secretary and I used "incurability" when "incurably" is meant.

On page 4, “a song from hers” is not good English.

On page 7, “the author of ‘The Band Played On’ was uncatalogued. What the anonymous citizen said was the archive of author Randy Shilts was uncatalogued.

Now the controversial part. On approval of the May 7 minutes, what appears is “the secretary made what Jill Bourne said was right” which doesn’t scan. What was actual said was that Park was changed to Parkside.

Then it states Sue Blackman assured the Commission the Minutes did reflect what was said, when she acknowledged she substituted what was meant.

Item 6: Adjournment in memory of Marian O’Donnell retired SFPL Librarian

Anonymous Citizen: When we honor people we usually like to say a few words about who they were and what their contribution was.

Marian O’Donnell, was here 42 years and head of the Science and Government Documents department. She had very high standards of discipline and loyalty, and expected her dedication in others. We had a contretemps initially but eventually became friends. She was very proud that her department was designated an official repository of the US Printing Office. We lost that after she retired; an indication of what a good job she was doing.

I also suggest we honor another librarian of 40 years, Dorothy Richard. She was a children’s librarian I only knew slightly because I was a disciple of Effie Lee Morris

We should honor both these librarians who gave us their entire career of service. I would be pleased to know something about the other name that was suggested.