



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 20, 2012

(As approved and amended at the regular meeting of November 15, 2012)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, September 20, 2012 in the Koret Auditorium Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm.

Commissioners present: Munson, Gomez, Kane and Ono

Commissioner excused: Randlett

Commissioner Nguyen arrived at 5:03 pm

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous citizen said there is still no attempt from the Mayor to appoint a new Library Commissioner. He said on August 30, Mayor Lee swore in 57 people to 14 different bodies and still no library commissioner or announced vacancy. He said apparently the Mayor has already come up with the bottom on the barrel to come up with the existing Commissioners. He 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 he thinks it is starting to dawn on everyone now what a brilliant statement that was. He said moral anthropology shows human beings have evolved as social animals with a capacity to feel obligation to each other which shows a capacity for shame. He said those without shame are called sociopaths. He said when you have a president guilty of official misconduct and not only do you feel no shame nor even an obligation to respond, not only have you destroyed that social capital, you have destroyed any chance for society at all. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said that Secretary Sue Blackman has just distributed to you a one page document provided by the SFPL from the Friends of the Library entitled "Total Gifts

to the Branch Library Renovation Project.” He then read the following statement: “Please note the last two numbers on the far right. The ‘Direct Payments to SFPL’ of \$3.6 million is supported by documents from the Friends, SFPL, and DPW. I’ve checked and rechecked the numbers. The listing for ‘Direct FFE Payments to Vendors’ of \$5.17 million is not supported by any documentation in the possession of the SFPL or this Library Commission! Is it the belief of this commission and its members that this is the level of oversight expected by the citizens of San Francisco? I believe that you have colluded with the City Librarian and the Friends to misrepresent financial information of which you have absolutely no knowledge or understanding. I’ve looked at the numbers, which is not my responsibility, it is yours! Your level of incompetence is truly amazing!” He said he has looked at the numbers which is more than any of the Commissioners have done. He said there is a document called the Framework that sets out minimal expectations which have not been met.

Ann Alpers, Chair of the Board, Friends of the Library, said she is delighted to introduce Scott Staub, the Friends of the Library new Executive Director. She said Scott was the unanimous choice of the Friends’ search committee, which included close collaboration with Luis Herrera for which we are quite grateful. She said Scott was also the unanimous vote of the Friends’ Board of Directors. She said Scott brings his expertise in fundraising and she is delighted to introduce him to you.

Scott Staub, Executive Director, Friends of the Library, said he has had a lifelong love affair with libraries and books and he is delighted to be the new Executive Director of the Friends of the Library and he is looking forward to this partnership.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 BRANCH LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (BLIP) BUDGET TRANSFER

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there is a memo in your packet dated September 14, 2012, for action at today’s meeting. He said this is a transfer of the savings for five completed projects to the BLIP Program Reserve.

Maureen Singleton, Chief Financial Officer, said the Department of Public Works (DPW) has been working very hard to close out the books on the completed projects. She said the Branches and amounts are: Park \$1,978; Presidio \$4,264; Parkside \$156,963; Visitacion Valley \$280,500; and Anza \$288,430. She said this is a total of \$732,135 to be transferred to the Program Reserve. She said with the transfer the Program Reserve will go from 0 to \$732,135.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said this is good news as we close out projects we are seeing savings and we request that you approve this transfer of funds.

Explanatory document: [Memo from the City Librarian](#) September 17, 2012 ; [BLIP Budget Transfers September 20](#)

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said this is the fourth budget transfer in almost one year. He said the first was on October 6, 2011, then November 17 and again on February 16. He said each of these transfers was highly involved and there were serious questions from this commission because transfers were going into something. He said the most controversial was on October 6, which involved administrative costs that had to be maintained. The largest was on February 16 when you transferred over \$6 Million in Library Preservation Fund monies to the North Beach branch. He said this should be an opportunity to educate us on the total and whether decisions were borne out by the subsequent activity. He said since you were questioning the administrative activities now would be a good time to let you know what is going on. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he agrees with the previous speaker's comments. He said the thing that bothered him the most was the immediacy of the need for administrative costs at a previous transfer. He said the Commission had a gun to its head and had to transfer hundreds of thousands of dollars without having its questions answered or the public's questions being answered. He said in the end he knows that auditors and others will review the projects and see if the numbers add up. He said he does have a question about the relationship with the Friends and since the new director is here he is going to talk about that. He said he is holding a document entitled "The Public-Private Support and Cooperation Framework for Branch Library Improvement Program and Neighborhood Library Campaign." He said it is signed by the Executive Director of the Friends, Donna Bero and City Librarian, Luis Herrera. He said he will read a portion of Section 3.6: "Friends shall keep and maintain standard accounting controls and procedures. Friends will provide the Library or its designee with quarterly reports of its cash pledges and other sources of funding." He said now either these documents have been provided to the Library and Mr. Herrera has withheld them from me in my public records request or they have not been provided in violation of this agreement. He said it goes on to say "On an annual basis, Friends shall deliver to the City Controller and the Library's City Librarian an independently prepared audit of all Friends' operations." He said those audits have been provided but he has yet to see them be presented to the Library Commission. He said the Framework goes on to say "Upon reasonable prior written notice to Friends, the City shall have the right to audit and inspect Friends' records and accounts with respect to the Project Plan or the Neighborhood Library Campaign, provided however, that such right to audit or inspection may be exercised not more frequently than once every 12 months." He said this puts a lie to what your Vice-President said about the Friends that they are private and we have no control.

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said unfortunately he was not here for the presentation but the memo transferring $\frac{3}{4}$ of a Million Dollars seems very short on explanation. He

said why is it that the report says at this point the BLIP Management Team has completed an inventory and concluded that savings from these projects can be returned to the Program Reserve. The memo does not include any specificity as to what these project savings consist of. He said he hopes the Commission will ask some question about what this represents.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Munson asked if there will be a report on any further liabilities or if these are all of the savings for these projects.

Lena Chen, Bond Program Manager, said these represent projects that have had project closeouts. So the contractor has been paid the last payment. She said we have looked at the obligation in terms of the contractual obligations. She said this is still an ongoing process, but there may still be money left over to be returned to the Program Reserve after the financial closeout is complete.

Commissioner Kane confirmed that these projects are closed out but there could still be some funds returned when the financial closeout is complete. He asked how many branches are left that need to be closed out.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there are no more than a handful that need to be closed out. He said working with DPW we are expediting the close outs.

Motion: By Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Ono, to approve budget transfers from the Park, Presidio, Parkside, Visitacion Valley and Anza projects to the Program Reserve in the amount of \$732,135.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Gomez, Kane, Munson, and Ono).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION REGARDING ORTEGA BRANCH LIBRARY SETTLEMENT

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said in the interest of full disclosure, at the August closed session the microphone was left open and the entire audio recording was posted on the website. He said you will be happy to learn that the activists do not act like Library Commissioners when we think the microphone is off. He said it should be announced that you don't want to say anything that you don't want posted on the World Wide Web. He said he is tempted to launch into a recitation of H. P. Lovecraft and see if the president would notice. He said he thinks not. He said the purpose of the closed session is the approval of a settlement, but the idea of a closed session is for you to receive advice from your City Attorney on something that is either pending and which would require the invocation of attorney

client privilege. He said once there is a settlement that privilege goes away so he does not know how you can have an already drafted settlement and still have a rationalization for a closed session. He said the standard of disclosure is the benefit to the public. He said he would like the Commission to let the public know how long they expect to be in closed session. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the previous speaker makes points that he hopes the Commission will pay serious attention to. He said the Commission has in the past had its closed sessions at the end of the meeting so that members of the public can participate in all of the items and not have to wait for a closed session to end. He said that is not the case this time. He said it would be nice if the Commission had the courtesy to let the public know how long they anticipate the closed session will be and how they will let the public know when the Commission goes back into session.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he would like to address a couple of things the previous speakers' mentioned. He said scheduling the closed session in the middle of the agenda as the Police Commission has found is a very good way to squelch public comment. He said in one case the Police Commission went into closed session for four hours and then came back and said any public comment and that is a manipulation of the agenda. He said he has fought for the last year to get Mr. Herrera to give him documents and he has proved with the Framework that Mr. Herrera has withheld documents or he does not have the documents and he does not know which is worse. He said once you have betrayed the public trust you shouldn't be surprised when we don't believe that the Commission is going into closed session and only talk about what is listed for closed session. He said I don't make you look bad, you make yourselves look bad.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane asked how long the closed session is expected to last.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said it will probably be about an hour and we will let the public know when we are about to come back into session.

Motion: By Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Munson, that, based on advice of counsel, to move to closed session pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.9(b)(1) and 54956.9(b)(3)(c) and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(d)(2).

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

The Commission went into closed session at 5:06 pm.

The Commission was called back into open session at 5:51 pm.

Commissioners Present: Gomez, Kane, Munson, Nguyen, and Ono.

Commissioner Excused: Randlett

Alicia Cabrera, Deputy City Attorney clarified that all public comment about this item was heard prior to the Commission going into closed session.

Motion: By Commissioner Ono, seconded by Commissioner Munson, to not disclose any or all discussions held in closed session pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.12(a)).

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

Motion: By Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Munson, to approve the [resolution](#) recommending the Board of Supervisors adopt an ordinance authorizing settlement of Government Code Claim No. 12-02332, filed by Galleria, Inc., dba Trico Construction (“Trico”) against the City and County of San Francisco (“City”), for \$440,000, arising from the public works construction project known as the Ortega Branch Library Project, Contract No. 7431A.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 BOND PROGRAM MANAGER’S REPORT

Lena Chen, Bond Program Manager, said the Bayview Branch is under construction and the North Beach Branch is in the award phase.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said at the Commission’s request they have added more detail at the bottom of the handout of the budget report. She said under footnote number 2 it breaks out a further understanding of what we expect to receive from the Friends. She said it reads “as of September 2012 anticipated total is estimated at \$10.8 M for furniture, fixtures and equipment (FFE) direct and in-kind expenditures through the completion of the program. Estimates are as follows:” She said it is broken down into the \$1,000,000 reimbursement of LPF advanced for shelving purchases from November, 2007; the \$8,806,286 total given to date; \$500,000 anticipated FFE spending for Bayview; and \$500,000 anticipated FFE spending for North Beach for an anticipated total Friends contribution for FFE of \$10,806,286. She said what is not included is the Friends overhead costs.

Lena Chen, Bond Program Manager, said the North Beach Branch is in the award phase and the Bayview project is approximately 70% complete. She showed photographs of the Bayview Branch construction. She showed the renderings of the history panel on the Bayview Branch. She said on the North Beach Branch we are coordinating closely with other city agencies performing construction at or near the site. She said the City prevailed in the legal challenge in the Superior Court.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the Superior Court did deny the petition on the legal challenge and denied the request for a stay on the North Beach Branch Library. He said we will be working with the City Attorney's office on the next steps and we are optimistic that we will move forward with the project.

Lena Chen, Bond Program Manager, showed design and site plans for the completed design for the North Beach branch. She said the Merced Branch Library has received LEED Gold, so we have received a total of four Gold and two Silver to this point.

Explanatory document: [BLIP Budget Report September 20, 2012](#)

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said at almost every meeting that there has been a Bond Manager's report; Larry Kane has asked that the Friends be required to submit some sort of Financial Report of their activities in account for the figures that are reported for them. He said he suspects the City Librarian is just as frustrated as he is at why Larry Kane gets to pretend he is innocent and does not know how corrupt the Friends are. He said no one else gets to pretend. He said let me burst his bubble. He said there is nothing more coming at this point. He said you can go to the Department of Public Works and see the justification of the gifts from the Friends include 46.5% for computers, 2.3% is software, 21.1% is self-check machines, and only 26.5% is for shelving or FFE. He said if half the money the city can account for is for computers, there is not another group of in-kind computers unaccounted for. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said he thinks it is quite extraordinary that we are having lengthy explanations for what looks like \$2 Million and change to the budget report and what we are hearing is an explanation of a footnote number 2. He said normally you would expect to get some kind of accounting for millions of dollars and a little more than a footnote. He said the Commission should be expecting written explanations. He said the Bernal Library is not complete since not a cent was spent until the Library discovered there was money to put towards the destruction of the Bernal mural and its historical significance. He said the scaffolding continues to be up and there is now graffiti. He said the Commission should ask when the library is planning to take down the mural and replace it.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he submits 150 word summaries because organizations in the city censor what has been said and take what they don't want to hear out. He said one of the things that has always interested him is imaginary numbers, which are merely a mathematical concept. He said on this document the imaginary number at the bottom is \$5.170 Million. He said he gave each of you a copy of the Friends report showing the \$3.6 Million which is all verifiable. He said this \$5 Million is not documented and this report is the only

documentation of that gift. He said the Commission does not have the integrity to ask about the \$5 Million. He said it is misrepresentation at the best and fraud at the worst.

Commissioner Nguyen left the meeting at 6:11 pm.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane said he wanted to thank Lena for her hard work and her report and he said it is great news about the North Beach Branch. He said the Bayview looks like it is coming along on schedule. He said on the footnote it would be good to see the \$16 Million number updated since we are not going to be spending that much on FF&E. He said we should lower that number both on the budget and the revenue side.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said we are trying to provide the estimate, but the resolution that allowed the Friends to donate that amount to us always said up to \$16 Million. She said it is in as a revenue number. She said we should have that final estimated number very soon, because as North Beach moves forward we will be able to get FF&E numbers.

Commissioner Kane said when that number is arrived at we should adjust the budget to reflect that. He said there was a comment about the Friends providing more information and he would like a report back to make sure the Friends are complying with the agreement and providing the information requested.

Commissioner Munson said Commissioner Kane has made a very important request and he seconds that request.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said he wanted to introduce our new Chief Information Officer, Michael Liang. He said Michael comes to us from the Department of Transportation at Caltrans. He said he has had both government and private sector experience all in the area of IT and we are delighted he has joined us.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said the Baby Bayview will need to close for two days on October 2 and 3 due to some window replacements that are taking place as part of the YMCA's remodel. She said we will have bookmobile service for those two days and will get word out to the community as well.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the next announcement is about the eighth One City One Book "OCOB". He said the title of this year's book is "A Paradise Built in Hell," by Bay area resident Rebecca Solnit. He said it kicked off two weeks ago with a fantastic launch at McCloskey Mattress. He said we have a number of partners and there will be numerous events including a conversation with the author Rebecca Solnit and SF Fire Chief

Joanne Hayes-White on October 11 in the Koret Auditorium. He said the book has to do with how communities come together in disasters to forge strong bonds and community.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, gave a presentation on the Summer Reading Program. She said the program now includes all age groups and this year we had 16,442 participants who read 375,609 hours. She said 60% were first time participants which was a 46% increase in participation. She said 386 programs were held and 572 kid power volunteers worked 8,347 hours. She gave a presentation of the Library Card Design Challenge to be held September 4 – October 5. She showed the existing four cards that were chosen five years ago. She said in early 2013 we will need to place an order for new cards so since the design challenge was so successful last time we are going to conduct another contest and this time adults will be allowed to participate. She said we partnered with Improve SF which is a partnership with the Mayor's Office and the San Francisco Unified School District to facilitate the challenge. She said two recent contests on the site were the new MTA logo and How Can the Central Market/Tenderloin residents store and prepare healthy food. She said the website is live and people will be able to upload their submissions electronically. She said they will also be able to submit them in paper to their library. She said online subscribers will vote for the winning designs. She said a panel of judges will choose the final designs. She said the winners will be announced in early November. She said the Improve SF Team at the Mayor's Office of Innovation has been a great partner.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said the last update is on the public hearings on the open hours. He said we have had three hearings and they are going well but the turnouts have been relatively small, but it is just one of the ways we will be receiving input including interviews and a survey. Explanatory documents: [Summer Reading](#) program presentation; [Library Card Design Challenge](#) presentation; [One City One Book Fall 2012](#)

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said this is the fourth round of open hours hearings that you have had. He said Mr. Herrera makes a nice presentation but other than that they are a complete disaster. He said the first time this was presented to the Commission Larry Kane was concerned about the library retaining control and concern about there being an outside consultant. He said Commissioner Munson wanted assurance that Commissioners would be involved and Jill Bourne told him commissioner's involvement is required. He said there is no evidence that the Commission has been involved in anyway. He said Mr. Munson said let's over achieve. He said Mr. Kane was concerned that there be valid input not predetermined and there be a distinction made for summer hours. He said the second presentation to the Commission was so brief that he didn't recognize it. He said there was no mention of the survey, outside consultant, or commissioner involvement. He said even Commissioner Randlett wanted to make sure the Commission had a

chance to review the survey questions. He said the questions are so general. He said you have a desperate need for Toni Bernardi who at previous hearings solicited people's ideas and was a master at leading discussions. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the previous speaker makes many good points and I was at many of those previous meetings and yes Toni Bernardi was terrific in being able to draw out folks who might have been a little bit reluctant to speak. He said unfortunately we have nothing about the surveys. He said the way the questions are asked can be very manipulative. He said previous surveys never asked people if they would like to come on a Friday night. He said in other cities Friday nights are very popular for museums and other public institutions. He said the survey is crucially important for the outcome and the Commission should insist on seeing every detail. He said in the previous item Ms. Bourne said it has always been said the Friends would give up to \$16 Million and he would like to see even one example where it said up to \$16 Million. He said the Bernal Heights Library was not mentioned but the Library Users Association and other groups had a very nice rally at the branch and the Library was kind enough to send a security guard to guard the building.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said the two prior speakers went to the meeting and he did not so he will defer to them. He said he gives them a lot of credit. He said apparently none of the Commissioners were at the meetings so he would give the previous speakers more credibility than the Commissioners. He said you can get any answer you want if you pose the question the right way. He said this part of the Commission meeting is the only part that he tends to enjoy. He said he even gets tired of being the old angry guy. He said he thinks we have an excellent library system and branches. He said 90 – 95% of the staff are very devoted to the books and the library. He said his problem is not with any of them it is with the management and the Commission. He said he is sorry that it has become a contentious situation, but the bottom line is he doesn't have any problem with the library talking about all the wonderful things it does. He said he does have a problem with the avoidance of things which members of the public raise and then we are treated with the attitude of don't confuse us with the facts. He said all the things he says here he researches very carefully. He said his intention is to make things better.

Ellen Egbert from Bernal Heights said she attended the open hours on Saturday at the Richmond Branch and Commissioners Gomez and Ono were there. She said there was limited community participation but she thinks it goes to show that San Francisco residents trust, enjoy and use their libraries. She said she was so pleased to see two Commissioners there and she hopes that Commissioners will continue to show at the future meetings because it shows that you care about the community. She said on the library card challenge she has been looking at the website and everyone should get a chance to look at the new designs.

She said she is looking forward to looking at all of the submittals. She said the Friends Big Book Sale. She said on Sunday the books will only be \$1 each. She said you are sure to find something you will enjoy.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Ono said thank you for the presentations and comments. She asked about the Kid Power and what kind of improvement if any there has been from previous years.

Toni Bernardi, Chief of Children and Youth Services, said the Kid Power program has been pretty stable over the years.

Commissioner Ono asked about how we recruit the Kid Power volunteers.

Toni Bernardi, Chief of Children and Youth Services, said the branch managers go to the schools and some of the kids come directly to the branches to volunteer.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said there are various ways that teenagers can participate in library programs including computer corps and through our volunteer coordinator Kai Wilson.

Commissioner Kane asked about what led to the increase in participants in the Summer Reading Program.

Toni Bernardi, Chief of Children and Youth Services, said that people are becoming more comfortable with the online registration process, both the staff and the public. She said we encouraged all of our staff to create a community of readers and they did a lot of things such as interactive book lists and she thinks those things excited our patrons.

Commissioner Kane asked if are there lessons learned from this summer that can be used on other types of campaigns or on school breaks outside of summer. He said congratulations on the increase in participants.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said we are going to be looking at on line tracking throughout the year and developing different challenges. She said that the fact that it is now a family contest lends itself to the year round reading challenge.

Commissioner Kane asked about how entries into the library card challenge are being accepted.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said they can submit on line, or they can drop off their drawings at their local branch or through their school.

Commissioner Kane asked about the open hours hearings and how we are publicizing them.

Luis Herrera, City Librarian, said we are working with neighborhood newspapers, posters, and working with the Supervisors.

Michelle Jeffers, Public Relations Officer, said we have had articles in both the Chronicle and the Examiner and they have included the schedule of meetings.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said there will be a meeting at the Noe Valley Branch a week from Saturday.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 LABOR UNION REPORT

There was no labor union report at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2012

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said since there was very little that was controversial there was very little that needed to be skewed or distorted. He said some instances he expected to be distorted weren't. He said he accused the Commission of vanity and said the Commission had a lot of gall which were included. He said there seems to be no reason why you simply can't put the citizen summaries where they belong. He said for Ray Hartz' statement it says he read the following statement in quotes and there is his citizen summary. He asked if the distinction is that he hands his summary in right away and I wait a few days? He said or is it that I open every comment with stop the hate, stop the ignorance, don't give money to the Friends and Foundation don't accept money from the Friends and Foundation. He said that is not in the minutes but it is in the summary. He said being a little reasonable is an improvement, but really reasonable would be better. He said next month when he comes to the meeting there will be plenty of distortions for him to comment on in the minutes. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the citizen summaries should be included as part and an integral part of the minutes and not put in back after a lot of boiler plate that suggest that the actual minutes are over. He said there is a great deal of material in the minutes which he appreciates but he would like to point out things that need correcting. He said under public comment where he is quoted it specifies that I named a name of somebody in a blog. He said he did not use a name and his point was that there was an open threat and at least two people had chimed in. He said on page 4 under public comment he said in the middle of his comment after it says 10%, the key was that he said today's report does not show what the Friends have taken in as income and what they have actually spent. He said on page 6 there is a question of whether there are two branches to have added hours or four branches.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he cannot complain about the minutes because his statements are represented in their entirety. He said it is unfair that he gets special treatment. He said he has asked about that before but he has no expectation of getting a response of any kind. He said on page 13 of these minutes under Commission discussion there is a comment by Commissioner Munson questioning and while he said he disagrees with what Commissioner Munson was saying he respects his attempt to comment on this before he was silenced by President Jewelle Gomez. He said tonight we had another breakthrough by Commissioner Kane and Commissioner Munson who said yes maybe we better get some more information about the amount of the Friends donation to the BLIP program. He said usually there is nothing forthcoming but at least you are asking. He said he comes to these meetings with two purposes to insure that members of the public are allowed to comment meaningfully in public meetings and the public is allowed access to public records which they have access to under the law. He said when he goes to meetings where the public is being given the opportunity to speak he goes away. He said but when he sees the public being mistreated he continues to attend the meetings.

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Munson to approve the [Minutes of July 19, 2012](#) with a correction to page 1 to the comments by the anonymous citizen to correct the sentence that reads "He said a decent person would not be a Library Commission," and correct that to read "He said a decent person would not be a Library Commissioner."

Action: AYES 4-0: (Gomez, Kane, Munson, and Ono).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 ADJOURNMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

Motion: By Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Munson, to adjourn the regular meeting of September 20, 2012.

Action: AYES 4-0: (Gomez, Kane, Munson, and Ono)

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 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.

On August 30, Mayor Lee swore in 57 people to 14 different bodies and still no library commissioner or an announced vacancy

“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.”

Moral anthropology shows humans evolved as social animals with a capacity to feel an obligation to each other which shows up as a capacity for shame. Those without such shame are called sociopaths.

When you have a president guilty of official misconduct, and the commission feels neither shame nor even an obligation to respond, not only do we have no social trust, eventually we have no society.

Item 2: Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP) Budget Transfer

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

This is the fourth BLIP budget transfer in almost precisely one year. The first was on October 6, then November 17, and February 16. Each was highly involved and there were serious questions from this commission because transfers were into something.

The most controversial on October 6, involved administrative costs that had to be maintained. The largest was on February 16 when you transferred over \$6 Million in Library Preservation Fund monies to the North Beach branch.

This should be an opportunity to educate us on the total and whether decisions were borne out by the subsequent activity. Since you were questioning the administrative activities now would be a good time let you know what is going on.

Each of these, except Parkside, were part of the transfers in February and there is no background provided.

Item 3: Possible Closed Session Regarding Ortega Branch Library Settlement

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

In the interest of full disclosure, at the August closed session the microphone was left open and the entire recording posted. You will be happy to learn that the public does not act like library commissioners when we think the microphone is off and you can hear a very civil discussion among the activists.

It should be announced that you don't want to say anything that you don't want posted on the website.

If I recited H.P.Lovecraft would the president notice? I think not.

The purpose of a closed session is to avail yourself of attorney-client privilege, but that privilege goes away when there is a settlement. If you are considering a settlement what could be the rationalization for a closed session?

The standard of disclosure is the benefit to the public.

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.

At every Bond Program Manager's Report since February Commissioner Kane has asked that the Friends be required to account for the figures reported for them. I suspect the City Librarian is just as frustrated as I am. Why does Commissioner

Kane get to pretend he does not know how corrupt the Friends are? No one else gets to pretend.

Let me burst his bubble. There is nothing more coming at this point.

The Department of Public Works can justify the City reported figures to the dollar. That justification shows gifts from the Friends include 46.5% for computers, 2.3% is software, 21.1% is self-check machines, and only 26.5% is for shelving or FFE.

If half the money accounted for is computers, there is not another group of in-kind computers unaccounted for.

Item 5: City Librarian's Report

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

This is the fourth round of Prop. D hours hearings and except that Mr. Herrera makes a nice presentation, you are blowing it.

At the first of two presentations to the commission Commissioner Kane was concerned about retaining control. Commissioner Munson wanted assurance that Commissioners would be involved. Jill Bourne told him commissioners' involvement was required. Fortunately, that was not true because there is no evidence of commissioner involvement. Mr. Kane was also concerned that the input be valid, not predetermined and a distinction made for summer hours.

The second presentation was so brief I didn't recognize it. There was no mention of the survey, outside consultant, or commissioner involvement. Even Commissioner Randlett wanted to review the survey questions.

You need Toni Bernardi who at previous hearings solicited people's ideas and was a master at leading discussions.

Item 7: Approval of the Minutes (July 19, 2012)

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

Since there was very little that was controversial there was very little that needed to be skewed or distorted. Some instances I expected to be distorted weren't. I accused you of vanity and said you had a lot of gall which were included

So there is no reason why you can't simply put the citizen summaries in the minutes where they belong. Ray Hartz comments say he read the following statement quote, and there is his citizen summary.

Is the distinction that he hands his summary in right away and I wait a few days? Or is it that I begin every comment with, don't give money to the Friends? That is not in the minutes, but it is in my summary.

Being a little reasonable is an improvement, but really reasonable would be better.