



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2012

(Approved as amended at the February 7, 2013 meeting)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, November 15, 2012 in the Koret Auditorium Main Library.

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 pm.

Commissioners present: Munson, Gomez, Kane and Randlett

Commissioners excused: Nguyen and Ono

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 – 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 in the Sunshine open government community, we have bragging rights of being a public body that un-cancelled a meeting. He said there is no law against it because it is so obvious. He said it is like unringing a bell. He said the Commission cancelled the illegally noticed meeting when previous commissioners would have just broken the law. He said you may realize that four meetings in five months are too few. He said the Commission may realize that breaking the law is trouble. He said he appreciates that the Commission obeys the law, but no one said thank you to us for pointing out the mistake. He said it is much better to act out the spirit of the law rather than just regard it as a slew of technicalities. He said this is a forum for public responsibility, not for covering up for the Friends. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said since you seem to do a lot of your business outside the eye of the public, he said he imagines you know by now that the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force found City Librarian Luis Herrera in violation of the Sunshine Ordinance for withholding public records in a 9-1 vote and to send a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on that matter. He said

recently President Obama showed him that he understands the concept of leadership. He said when his first press conference was held and someone went after Susan Rice, the President was very clear when he said if you have a problem with what she did or how she did it you should come to me. He said the problem he has with the Library Commission and the Library is its leadership. He said the staff of the public library does an excellent job in many different areas and it is the leadership that he has a concern with. He said when the Sue Cauthen incident arose with her being shouted down, the leadership decided to send Ms. Blackman to represent them. He said it is the same thing Luis Herrera did after 15 months of withholding documents he finally showed up and tried to give them an excuse about why it was so badly handled. He said none of them bought it. He said Mr. Herrera violated the Sunshine Ordinance and violated the Public Records Act by withholding public records. He said the Commission is part of this because it has never demanded an answer from the Friends and their finances. He said the Commission has betrayed the public's trust.

A man from the audience said the no sleeping rule is perverted and the bag rule is perverted. He said the only thing for some people to do is go to the public library. He said after a heavy meal at St. Anthony's you are likely to go to sleep. He said this rule is abusive and does not fit the needs of the people. He said there are people outside who have nowhere to keep their stuff. He said people should be able to bring their stuff into the library. He said both of these rules are there to abuse people.

Commissioner Kane asked if this meeting was properly noticed.

Alicia Cabrera, Deputy City Attorney, said there was nothing illegal about the way this meeting was noticed

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE 2013

Sue Blackman, Commission Secretary, said the draft 2013 meeting schedule is similar to the schedule for this year. She said there is only one proposed meeting for the months of January, July and August. Explanatory Document: Draft [2013 Library Commission Meeting Schedule](#)

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said this item was on the November 1 agenda with a memorandum from City Librarian Herrera recommending a reduced schedule of meetings from 22 to 17. He asked what happened to that proposal. He said if some commissioners objected to it and got the message that the Commission is providing less and less of a forum for the public, we should hear that discussion. He wanted to know who rejected the proposal from Luis Herrera. He asked if there are secret meetings that Commissioner Nguyen told us about and maybe that is the

reason there was a suggestion to have fewer public meetings. He said he hopes that is not the case. He said this is a forum for public responsibility. He said there have only been five meetings in the last five months and there is only one scheduled meeting between now and January 17. He said this is the bare minimum for public accessibility. He said democracy has to be respected or it dies out. He said it is not just a bunch of requirements, it is a positive assertion of the public right and access to policy bodies. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said the lies do cost more than the money. He said the anonymous citizen has said that over and over again before the Board of Supervisors and before the Library Commission. He said two weeks ago there was a meeting that wasn't held because it was illegally noticed and at that time there was a document showing fewer meetings and now all of a sudden there is a completely different schedule. He said there must have been some discussion amongst the Commissioners on this issue, but there aren't any notes about why the change has been made. He said how many meetings you have is irrelevant because the only people who come to the meetings are the anonymous citizen, myself, Mr. Warfield and basically one or two other citizens and he thinks the reason most people do not come is because they think the Commission does not give a rip. He said if you are a leader you take responsibility for your actions. He said you don't send Ms. Blackman to the Task Force or the Ethics Commission to explain the actions of the City Librarian and this Commission. He said Mr. Munson is the only one of you who has ever attended one of these hearings. He said you don't do a damn thing that makes a difference. He said the Commission takes credit for what goes well and it ignores what does not go well.

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Munson, to approve the 2013 Commission meeting schedule.

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said she is sitting in for the City Librarian at today's meeting. She said the first report is an update on our operating hours process. She said the Library Preservation Fund Charter section that provides funding for the library requires that the Library Commission assess and modify hours of operation at least once every five years. She said the library is required to conduct a comprehensive assessment of needs regarding service hours including conducting a survey of library users and public hearings in each supervisorial district. She said the meetings in each district were completed starting September 13 and running throughout October. She said each of the Commissioners attended at least one hearing. She said we partnered with the

Controller's Office in conducting a survey process to engage the public, both users and non-users in person, by phone and online. She said there had been a discussion of the process scheduled for the September 6 meeting but that Commission meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. She said staff did receive Commission's comments on the draft and they were implemented in the survey. She said there will be a review of the findings to that point at the Commission meeting on December 6. She said we will return at a later date with a more in depth study. She said there was 100% more data collected than had been planned and we are all very eager to hear the results of that process. She said the next item is an update on the Teen Center project. She said we received an IMLS grant and thanks to the Commission we now have money in the budget to begin design of the center. She showed a video, which was a product of our partner with the Bay Area Video Coalition and their Youth Video Program. She said she wanted to give an update on the Youth Advisory Board and a two day event they recently held called the HIVE Pop Up and our Space Design.

Jennifer Collins, Young Adult Coordinator, said we are in phase one of our concepts for the teen center. She said the Youth Advisory Board are developing a work plan for a conceptual design for a new teen center and learning lab at the Main Library. She said phase two will be getting deeper into design thinking. She said they have connected the teens with mentors to help them through this process. She said they will be meeting with the City Architects and they hope in June to have the final phase of conceptual design. She said the group is made up of 19 youth.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said the Library partnered with 14 organizations to hold a HIVE Pop-up on October 26 and 27 at the Ortega Branch Library, the Sunset Beach Recreation Center and the West Sunset Playground. She said about 260 children and teens came to the event. She said there were 10 plus connected learning activities daily. She said the theme was Save the Earth. She said the Space Design process will kick-off with a design charrette in December. She said the last update is on the Library Card Design Contest. She said we worked with Improve SF on the contest. She said there were 3,500 entries, 50 finalists and five winners.

Michelle Jeffers, Public Relations Officer, showed the winning library cards and told a little about each of the winners.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said there was a reception for the winners who came with their families and each spoke briefly. She said the process is that we will go out to bid and we expect them to be in place in early 2013.

Explanatory documents: [Library Card Design Challenge Winners Presentation](#); [Teen Center Update](#)

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said the open hours hearings are over and Commissioner Ono asked about the experience in other jurisdictions. He said this is the fourth set of open hours hearings here. He said it is too bad you were not told about the previous hearings here because it is one of the foremost examples of the Commission's continuing bad faith. He said in 1999, during the second open hours hearings, he had to sue to get the library to follow the law. He said the law at that time required meetings in every branch and that surveys be supplied. He said after he sued the meetings were cancelled and started again. He sued again in 2004 over the contradictory claims being offered. He said the meetings had very poor information and there was no recognition anywhere except at the very end that the meetings were about all the branches in the supervisorial district. He said he would hope that this would have been explained before the meeting was over. He said your chance at leadership was missed. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said the open hours hearings were a very big disappointment. He said the publicity was poor to none. He said open hours decision making should have been highlighted on the notices so the public would know that this would be used as input for the setting of hours for the next five years. He said it wasn't clear which branches were included in each District. He said there were listings of meetings that were incomplete. He said the library's efforts at publicity were very weak and the attendance showed it. He said in previous years previous survey results were supplied so the public could review what those were. He said the timing was set up so that there would be no survey results whatsoever. He said Library Users and others very strongly urge more evening hours and more weekend hours. He said the presentation on teen services was very interesting but it did not mention books, writing, reading, research or literature. He said on the library card designs, every one of them emphasized books.

Ray Hartz, Director, San Francisco Open Government, said he will defer to the two previous speakers who were very precise in their comments and each of them attended more of the meetings than all of you combined. He said the announcements of the meeting were not very clear and it was not made clear to patrons of other libraries in the same supervisorial district that one meeting was to cover all of the branches in that district. He said the comments he has heard is that it wasn't done in a way to encourage participation. He said having watched how the Commission acts in general, it is his belief that you don't want the input. He said there is a group out there spending \$185,000 of public funds in Bernal Heights and nobody has any idea who is spending this money or where the money is going. He said there were three options for the branch one was to retain and refresh the existing mural, one was to paint it out and return the building to its pristine WPA condition and the third was to put up what you are going to put up. He said if you were really honest you would have had all three options shown in the branch and then allow everyone in the community to come and tell you which of those options they thought were the most acceptable. He said you didn't want

that. He said you have already decided what you want the hours to be and basically the hearings were done in a way that input was not encouraged.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Kane said he really enjoyed the library card contest information. He said he would like to see it done every couple of years. He said to his knowledge the meetings were well-noticed and publicized in the branches. He said he appreciates the hard work the library did to hold those meetings. He said the report on the Teen Center has provoked a lot of thoughts about what the library of the future will look like. He said a lot of the things that were mentioned remind him of a recreation center. He said he does like the partnerships we are developing. He said he is curious about cost and the impacts long term. He said he is struggling with whether this makes sense for the library. He said he wanted to know what happened at the Sunshine Task Force.

Sue Blackman, Commission Secretary, said the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force voted 9-1 to find against the City Librarian based on a complaint regarding a public records request. She said the Task Force had not yet made available the Order of Determination in the case which will have the specific findings.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said the Chicago Public Library has created a U Media Center, which was grant funded. She said it has pioneered the ways in which youth are learning today. She said the Chicago Center does have books and we want to highlight our book collection in our Center as well. She said media arts is a focus but the goal is to define a role that is appropriate for the library and looking at partnerships for a way to bring in that kind of programming. She said we are looking at a cost per square foot but typically a cost estimate is done midway through design. She said a \$500 sq. ft. cost for a 5,000 sq. ft. center the cost would be about \$2.5 million. She said we will bring back additional information on the budget.

President Gomez said she did want to emphasize that the open hours hearings were quite well publicized and that aspect of the survey is only one aspect.

Michelle Jeffers, Public Relations Officer, said there was advertising in 14 neighborhood newspapers, one article in the San Francisco Chronicle, two articles in the San Francisco Examiner and one article in the Glen Park News regarding the open hours hearings. She said there was in-house signage, flyers and posters at all the branches. She said it was a library website spotlight during the two months of the hearings, which meant that it also went out in the courtesy notices. She said notices were included in all of the Board of Supervisors newsletters for each district and notice was included in the media calendar for over 150 media outlets. She said it was posted on social media sites and emailed to the residents who were listed as part of the Department of Public Works mailing list for

the BLIP program. She said it was emailed to Friends members and Council of Neighborhood Libraries representatives and there were two articles in the At the Library newsletter, which goes to 12,000 subscribers.

Commissioner Randlett said she wanted to know who in the audience raised the point that the meetings were not well noticed. Ray Hartz responded to Commissioner Randlett and said for all the notices that you said you put up and all the various ways, what was the number of people that actually showed up. He said you can put out all kinds of notices but if no one shows up that is the proof.

Peter Warfield said at Park and Presidio Branches there was nothing visible from the street and there should have been large notices visible from the outside of the buildings. He said there were missed opportunities.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 EVERY CHILD READY TO READ (ECRR) – EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian said this item is an update on the Library's Every Child Ready to Read Early Literacy Program.

Toni Bernardi, Chief of Youth Services, said 6 years ago the library reexamined its services and programs for our youngest users in response to studies on early childhood brain development. She said storytimes have expanded rapidly over the six years and all of our children's librarians have been very involved in all of this change. She introduced Christy Estrovitz who is our Early Literacy Coordinator and Amy Perry, Children's Librarian, Early Literacy Mobile.

Christy Estrovitz, Early Literacy Coordinator, gave a presentation on ECRR and said it was a program developed with various partners. She said SFPL launched the Early Literacy Initiative in 2006. She said the program supports staff, engages families, builds collections, partners with the community and enhances environments. She said the definition of early literacy is everything children know about reading and writing before they actually learn to read and write. She explained the ECRR five principles and went over the key research findings. She said key school readiness activities include play, talk, sing, read and write. She said PET scans of a brain showing that children are actively participating in storytimes. She said the library holds 55 storytimes each week throughout the city.

Amy Perry, Children's Librarian, Early Literacy Mobile, said there is now a standardized framework for all storytime programs. She said they are developmentally appropriate and age specific. She said since the launch of the program in 2006 there has been a 171% increase in storytimes system wide. She said there has been a 250% increase in participation. She gave statistics for the previous year and the results of a survey that was taken. She read some of the comments from the participants in the survey. She described how the Library prepares children for schools.

She told about the services of the Early Literacy Mobile. She explained the partnerships and programs that the library is involved with. She described the SF Early Literacy Network.
Explanatory document: [ECRR](#) presentation.

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said Commissioner Randlett's question conveyed the pretense of dialogue and sincere desire for an answer. He said we were not fooled. He said your history of bad faith will not be reversed in an instant. He said it is interesting that a presentation about professionalism in early child development comes now and taking a look at the real effects of your efforts at early education rather than just being a salesman for the idea that you are a bunch of visionaries. He said too often we have seen that the children are just the victims of your fantasies. He said it turns out that just a few years ago people were talking about the digital divide. He said that has now been turned around and recent studies show that rich children spend less time on the internet and poor children spend more time on the internet. He said people are now concerned about the developmental effects of being on the internet with development of socialization and intellectual development and critical reasoning. He said you have to take a serious look at the idea of what children really need to become educated. He said countries that have fewer resources have higher per capita income and children are our resources. (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Peter Warfield, Executive Director, Library Users Association, said unfortunately we are getting information long after the fact. He said this information would have been useful at the beginning and all along. He said he is glad to see some statistics that show some evidence of success, many of these statistics are at best squishy. He said the statistics are not clear in what they are showing. He said it would be worth seeing school statistics as well. He said the costs have not been mentioned at all. He said there was a limited discussion about the costs and the library seemed rather reluctant to be explicit about them. He said the larger question is not just cost but priorities and that is something that Commissioners should be discussing a great deal more and asking for more information. He said he is concerned that in a library that doesn't even keep track of books that have been lost, that there is such an expensive program that should be done in schools and other places.

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government, said he does not have a problem with the library programs or staff; he said he thinks a lot of them are excellent. He said his Great Grandfather used to use the expression catch them young and raise them right. He said this presentation really emphasizes the importance of pre-learning for children to want to learn to read and write. He said he was interested in the statistic that children who are not read to at least five times a week are going to be at a disadvantage when going into kindergarten or preschool. He said he would have been further enlightened if he knew how long the reading time should be five times a week. He said it seems these

meetings are often run for the Commission and his understanding of these meetings is that they are held for the public. He said yes they are to give the Commission information but it is really done to inform the public and this was a missed opportunity. He said if these meetings were better attended there would be parents here who would wonder how long they should read to their children five times a week. He said these presentations should be tailored for the public. He said his belief is that public meeting participants and in particular Commissioners have an obligation to do whatever they can to encourage public participation and attendance.

Commission Discussion

Commissioner Randlett said she would like to compliment the people that prepared this information. She said she felt that some of the previous presentations had too much information and she had specifically asked that future reports be made in a more concise manner. She said she would like to thank Ms. Bourne and the staff for complying with that request. She said she understands the public would like more information and she noted that there are footnotes on some of the pages where the public could look for additional information. She said the information was comprehensive and well researched. She said sometimes it is difficult to attend the storytimes when you have different ages of children.

Commissioner Kane said thank you for the report and there is high demand for the program. He asked if there was more money could more be done.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said the money for the program comes from the operating budget. She said doing storytime has always been available. She said the interesting thing is the research that has been done on the types of programs and skills needed.

Commissioner Kane said it would be great if there were storytimes everyday at every branch.

Christy Estrovitz, Early Literacy Coordinator, said there are storytimes 55 plus times during the week at various branches depending on their morning hours. She said there is a strong partnership with SFUSD in the early education schools.

Commissioner Munson asked for more details about the storytimes.

Christy Estrovitz, Early Literacy Coordinator, said a baby program, which is a newborn to a little over a year is for the young child and caregiver. She said it is about 25 to 30 minutes of short books, rhymes, music, bounces and tickles and it is very interactive with the child and the adult. She said our hope is that the caregivers will carry that back into the home. She said toddler storytime is 2- 3 books very interactive with a lot of repetition. She said pre-school storytime is 3-4 books with finger play,

songs and rhymes. She said there is also family storytime because we know there are families with multiple aged children. She said no program is more than 30 minutes and sometimes play time is included. She said all of the storytimes are done by trained children's librarians.

Jill Bourne, Deputy City Librarian, said we are looking at expanding family storytimes. She said the survey reflects the amount of time spent reading to your child based on coming to storytime.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 LABOR UNION REPORT

There was no labor union report at this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

Public Comment

An anonymous citizen said these minutes are not too bad. He said there are a few corrections that need to be made for clarity. He said if you again decide that minutes should never be changed this will be a challenge. He said on page 1 he defined social capital as a reservoir of trust and that should be included. He said the phrase should be "scraping the bottom of the barrel, instead of just bottom of the barrel. He said at the top of page 2 there is an open quote under Mr. Hartz' comments and then two closed quotes and one of those should be deleted. He said it should be clarified that Mr. Hartz said the City Librarian deliberately withheld documents. On page 3 under his statement it says he said "sine" and that word should be "since". He said on page 10 Mr. Hartz' phrase, "tired of the old angry guy" is not a reference to Commissioner Munson, but is self-reflexive, and should be changed to read "tired of being the old angry guy." He said on page 12 his comments say "I want a few days" and it should be "I wait a few days." (See Addendum for a summary of this comment submitted by the speaker.)

Ray Hartz, Director San Francisco Open Government said let's look at these minutes and talk about what the minutes were like two or three years ago. He said two or three years ago anything negative that was said would have been edited out or censored. He said he fought and fought and took the Commission to the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force. He said these minutes have improved because those of us who thought it was important fought that fight. He said the Commission resisted every step of the damn way. He said the First Amendment of the Constitution gives people the right to freedom of speech and the right to petition government for redress of grievances. He said we also have the right to have those comments fairly represented in the official record. He said he has no fear that if we say something good about you or the library's programs that that will not make it into the minutes. He said he does fear that if people disagree with you, you have no shame in keeping what they say out if it is in your ability. He asked why he had to fight so hard to have his statements within the minutes and the anonymous citizen's statement

are an addendum. He said all we are fighting for is our rights to be respected under law.

Peter Warfield, Library Users Association, said he will not do proofreading for you or your secretary and if you have read them you might have some changes. He said on page 5 agenda item number 3 regarding the closed session on the Ortega Branch Library settlement, he said the summary correctly references his request to let the public know how long the closed session is expected to last. He said further down it says that Commissioner Kane asked how long the closed session is expected to last. He said according to his recollection, the response given by Mr. Herrera is incorrect and is a bowdlerization of what he said. He said he remembers that Mr. Herrera said it will take up to an hour not about an hour as stated. He said that is no help at all. He said the minutes should make clear that Mr. Herrera's response was unhelpful.

Commission Discussion

Motion: By Commissioner Munson, seconded by Commissioner Kane, to approve the [Minutes of September 20, 2012](#), with the minor modifications as suggested by the anonymous citizen including a modification to the remarks of Mr. Hartz on page 10 to read "tired of being the old angry guy."

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

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 ADJOURNMENT

There was no public comment on this item.

Motion: By Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Munson, to adjourn the regular meeting of November 15, 2012.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 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.”

We have the bragging rights of knowing a public body that un-canceled a meeting. There is no law because it is so obvious.

You cancelled the illegally noticed meeting when previous commissioners would have just broken the law.

You may realize that four meetings in five months are too few. You may realize that breaking the law is trouble.

I appreciate that you obey the law, but following the spirit of the law is better. This should be a forum for public responsibility, not a coverup for the Friends.

Item 2: Library Commission Meeting Schedule 2013

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

This contains many profound issues. It was on the December 1 agenda with a memorandum from City Librarian Herrera for a reduced schedule of meetings from 22 to 17. What happened to that proposal? If some commissioners objected to the reduced opportunities to smirk at me, or if commissioners realized there was less of a forum for the public, we should hear that discussion.

Who rejected the proposal from Luis Herrera? Are the secret meetings announced by Commissioner Nguyen continuing so fewer open and public meetings are needed?

This is a forum for public responsibility. There have only been five meetings in the last five months, and one meeting until January 17. This is the minimum public access.

Democracy without respect will die out. It is not restrictions, but a positive assertion of the right of access to policy bodies.

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.

It would set an example of new communication if the citizens had access to the graphics.

Commissioner Ono asked about the experience in other jurisdictions. This is the fourth set of hearings here. It is too bad you were not told those prior hearings were the foremost example of your continuing bad faith.

My lawsuit forced you to follow the law in 1999, when meetings in every branch with a survey were required. After I sued the meetings were cancelled and reconstituted.

In 2004 I sued again over the contradictory claims being offered.

I had hoped to be able to inform you before these hearings were over. The information was very poor. There was little recognition that the hearing were about all the branches in a district. Your chance at leadership was missed.

Item 4: Every Child Ready to Read (ECRR) – Early Literacy Program

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

Commissioner Randlett's question conveyed the pretense of dialogue and sincere desire for an answer. We were not fooled. Your history of bad faith will not be reversed in an instant.

It is interesting that a presentation about professionalism in early child development comes now, in place of the usual sales promotion for yourselves as visionaries. The children have been the victims.

Just a few years ago there was talk of a digital divide. That is reversed now, and recent studies show that rich children spend less time on the Internet than poor children. The concern now is the Internet's interference with development of socialization and critical reasoning.

An international group studying the effects of education found that countries with fewer resources have higher per capita income because with education the children are the resources.

Item 6: Approval of the Minutes (September 20, 2012)

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

These minutes are not too bad, but there are some mistakes and clarifications. If you again refuse to take corrections from the public, this will be a challenge.

On page 1, I did say Commissioner Breyer resigned on June 11. Social capital is defined as a reservoir of trust. The phrase should be "scraping the bottom of the barrel," a common idiom.

On page 2, there is one open quotation mark and two close quotation marks. Mr. Hartz stated that the City Librarian deliberately withheld documents.

On page 3, "sine" should be "since" and "previous speakers'" should be "previous speaker's" – there is only one.

On page 10, Mr. Hartz' phrase, "tired of the old angry guy" is not a reference to Commissioner Munson. It is self-reflexive, "tired of being the old angry guy."

On page 12, "wait a few days," not "want a few days."