

ELECTIONS COMMISSION
City and County of San Francisco

Christopher Jerdonek, President
Jill Rowe, Vice President
Charles Jung
Dominic Paris
Rosabella Safont
Winnie Yu



John Arntz, Director of Elections

Nadya Hewitt, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, June 17, 2015
6:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 408
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Jerdonek called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Present: Commissioners Jerdonek, Jung, Rowe, Safont, and Yu. Commissioner Paris arrived at 6:04 p.m. during item 4. The seat appointed by the City Attorney is currently vacant. Also present: Director of Elections John Arntz and Deputy City Attorney Joshua White.

2. General Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes for previous meeting

Moved by Vice President Rowe and seconded by Commissioner Jung to approve the draft minutes of the May 20, 2015 Elections Commission Meeting. No public comment. The vote was UNANIMOUS to approve.

4. Alternative Election Security Plan

Vice President Rowe summarized the BOPEC discussion regarding the alternative security plan.

Director Arntz explained that the plan is being put forth to remove any real or perceived conflict of interest with the current sheriff, Sheriff Mirkarimi, who is running for re-election. Chief Deputy Sheriff Waters II will be in charge under the alternative plan.

Lieutenant James Shannon addressed the Commission and noted that the security plan will be run exactly the same as it had been in the past.

Moved by Commissioner Safont and seconded by Commissioner Paris to approve the alternative security plan. No public comment. The vote was UNANIMOUS to approve.

5. Discussion and possible action regarding open source voting systems

Mr. Jason Fried, Executive Officer of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), gave a presentation summarizing his office's draft report on open source voting systems. LAFCo was asked by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to study this issue. The report included things like feasibility and cost; San Francisco's current needs; and interviews with experts, local advocates, and state and local officials. Mr. Fried noted that the current voting system contract expires in 2016, so now is a good time to examine this issue. He also noted that there are currently no open source voting systems certified for use in any jurisdiction.

President Jerdonek said that the cost of San Francisco's current voting system described in the draft report includes only the per-year costs but not the upfront costs. President Jerdonek said there is a nonprofit that the Board of Supervisors resolution mentions called the Open Source Initiative (OSI) that maintains a definition of open source software and approves whether software licenses are open source. Their definition includes not just that the source code can be viewed by the public, but also that the software can be freely used, modified, and redistributed by the public.

Public comment: Mr. Brent Turner, Mr. David Cary, Mr. Jim Soper, and Mr. Roger Donaldson spoke in favor of open source voting. Ms. Sylvia Johnson also spoke.

6. Commissioners' Reports

President Jerdonek reported that the two annual reports approved at the last meeting are now on the Commission website and that he will be forwarding them to the Mayor and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. President Jerdonek thanked Director Arntz for his assistance in printing business cards for the Commissioners. President Jerdonek discussed an event he attended on the weekend of June 6 called the National Day of Civic Hacking organized by Code for America. The San Francisco location had two projects focused on elections and open data. Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer Ed Felten participated in one of these projects and helped write software to process San Francisco elections data.

Commissioner Paris expressed support for the idea of San Francisco building its own open source voting system.

Public comment: Ms. Sylvia Johnson and Mr. Larry Edmund spoke.

7. Director's Report

Director Arntz updated the Commission on Department activities.

Administrative: The Division is closing out the fiscal year. Two positions will not be filled in the near term following budget and finance meetings.

Ballot Distribution will start running three Commercial Business District Elections. The Department is working with print vendors for ballots, figuring out how to package and label ballots in boxes as well as the vote by mail design. The Department is also figuring

out a timeframe for ballot processing including the 1% manual tally. The Department is continuing to work with SFGTV in making ten videos on the ballot process. They are also working on finalizing RFID software and procedures.

Campaign Services: the deadline is closed for Mayor and the special election for District 3. Six local petitions are currently circulating. July 6 is the deadline for signatures.

Voter Outreach: A Voter Information Network meeting was held May 21. Outreach and implementation for Filipino was discussed. Publications is putting together a glossary of terms for the Filipino translation to strike a balance between English and Filipino. Voter Outreach is working with the vendor that prints voter guides for the design of the ballots

IT: The timesheet application is almost finished for the July 6 deadline. Election reporting results will be revamped.

Warehouse: They are working on installing video conferencing and expanding internet coverage as well as getting ready for the move since the location of the warehouse will change.

Public comment: Ms. Sylvia Johnson spoke.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding the Commission web site

Vice President Rowe expressed concern over the fact that only President Jerdonek can post to the Commission website. President Jerdonek updated the Commission on the current situation with respect to the website and its social media accounts.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that President Jerdonek would ensure that the Secretary and Vice President are both given access to the passwords for the various administrative accounts, including the Commission's master Google account. President Jerdonek will also ensure that all Commissioners have access to the Commission Twitter and YouTube accounts for posting and deleting. President Jerdonek will also set up a meeting with the Department of Technology and Secretary Hewitt to explore options and see whether and how the Department of Technology can assist.

Public commenters: Mr. David Cary, Mr. Roger Donaldson, Ms. Sylvia Johnson, and Mr. Larry Edmund spoke.

9. Agenda items for future meetings

President Jerdonek raised two topics for the next meeting: San Francisco's next voting system and the IRIS report.

Public comment: Ms. Sylvia Johnson and Mr. Larry Edmund spoke.

10. Discussion and possible action regarding the July Commission meeting

President Jerdonek raised for discussion the idea of canceling the July meeting. There was no objection among the commissioners.

Public comment: Ms. Sylvia Johnson and Mr. Larry Edmund spoke.

11. Public Employee Performance Evaluation for Director of Elections John Arntz

Public comment: Ms. Sylvia Johnson and Mr. Larry Edmund spoke.

Moved by Commissioner Paris and seconded by Commissioner Safont to go into closed session. No discussion. The vote was UNANIMOUS to approve.

The Commission went into closed session at 8:47 p.m. Pursuant to Sunshine Ordinance section 67.16, the closed session attendees were the Commissioners, Deputy City Attorney Joshua White, and Commission Secretary Nadya Hewitt. The Commission resumed open session at 9:11 p.m.

Moved by Vice President Rowe and seconded by Commissioner Paris not to disclose any portion of the closed session discussion. No discussion or public comment. The vote was UNANIMOUS in favor.

Adjourned at 9:12 p.m.