

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, August 19, 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, Paris, Rowe, Safont, and Yu. Also present: Director of Elections John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Joshua White, and Commission Secretary Nadya Hewitt.

2. General Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes for previous meeting

Moved by Commissioner Jung and seconded by Commissioner Paris to approve the draft minutes of the June 17, 2015 Elections Commission Meeting. No public comment. The vote was UNANIMOUS to approve.

4. Commissioners' Reports

President Jerdonek announced that the annual evaluation of Director Arntz is now complete. The Commission Annual Reports for the 2013 and 2014 calendar years have been filed with the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's office. The Alternative Security Plan will be sent to the Board of Supervisors soon. President Jerdonek said he will give an update on the Commission website tasks during agenda item 10.

Commissioner Paris said he will be following up with the Board of Education about voter education efforts and a possible collaboration.

No public comment.

5. Director's Report

Director Arntz reported that the Department is hiring and testing for the 1840 management position and hiring about 20 seasonal staff to increase operations for the upcoming election. The Department is bringing in supplies and sending out contract bids for vendors and voting materials.

The Secretary of State pulled back on an appeal that was filed by the previous Secretary of State. The previous Secretary of State took a position causing certain ex-offenders to lose the right to vote. The new position brings the current Secretary of State into agreement with the Department's interpretation of the law.

On August 26, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, Secretary of State Alex Padilla, and Mayor Ed Lee will be celebrating the Voting Rights Act and Women's Equality Day outside the Department of Elections.

Outreach: Director Arntz said that Outreach had their meeting for the Voter Information Network. They also put together demo ballots showing the new bilingual ballot format for San Francisco. The Department will host an open house on September 22.

The poll-worker side sent out availability letters to about 2,500 people in preparation for the election. Precinct Services has been working with the Department of Technology on using a new program for mapping and populating precincts by colors and highlighting polling places. The open data section of the Department website is increasing every day. More election-specific information is being added rather than only legacy information. The warehouse has begun installing webcams as the current security system and is also using web streaming hardware for the election overall. Voter Services has been processing incoming feedback on language preferences and has seen about 41% participation.

No public comment.

6. Election Plan

Vice President Rowe reported that BOPEC voted unanimously at its meeting to recommend that the full Commission approve the election plan.

Public comment: Mr. David Cary thanked Director Arntz for a good plan and spoke about his e-mail regarding the certification of RCV results. Mr. Brent Turner spoke about logic and accuracy testing.

Moved by Vice President Rowe and seconded by Commissioner Paris to approve the election plan. The vote was UNANIMOUS to approve.

7. City Employee Waiver

Moved by Vice President Rowe and seconded by Commissioner Safont to request from the Board of Supervisors a waiver to let city employees assist the Department of Elections in the upcoming election. The vote was UNANIMOUS to approve.

8. Discussion and possible action regarding San Francisco's next voting system

President Jerdonek reminded the Commission that at a previous meeting, the Commission had voted to appoint him to the RFP panel if the City Attorney found that it were allowed. President Jerdonek asked Deputy City Attorney White to explain his findings. Deputy City Attorney White explained that after researching things, it was determined that such participation would be an overreach of the Commission. The Commission discussed the RFI.

Public comment: Mr. Jim Soper, Mr. David Cary, Mr. Brent Turner, Mr. Bruce Wolfe, Mr. Roger Donaldson, Mr. Tim Mayer, and Mr. Jay Corrales spoke in support of open source voting.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding the Incident Reporting Information System (IRIS)

Director Arntz gave background on IRIS, which is an electronic system for tracking and handling incidents at polling places. Director Arntz commented that it was not originally meant to be a reporting tool for the Commission, but rather an internal Departmental tool. Commissioner Rowe made a point that IRIS is helpful in giving an accurate depiction of the process, but caution needs to continue to be upheld to protect privacy. The Commission agreed that they are comfortable with seeing how IRIS works for the upcoming election and could revisit the topic if necessary.

Public comment: David Cary spoke.

10. Discussion and possible action regarding the Commission web site

President Jerdonek gave an update on the tasks agreed on during the previous Commission meeting. He has given instructions to the Commissioners on how to gain access to the Commission's social media accounts.

President Jerdonek also met with the Department of Technology over the phone and said that Secretary Hewitt would be attending a technology training on Thursday, August 27 to learn about maintaining the election website. President Jerdonek proposed to the Commission a solution for Secretary Hewitt to update the website on her own to meet the minimum legal requirements in case updating the HTML grids is too difficult. The proposal involves creating a public folder on the website for new documents that Secretary Hewitt could post documents to on her own, and President Jerdonek could then separately move the documents into the HTML grids. The Commission agreed that the proposal would be satisfactory.

11. Agenda items for future meetings

President Jerdonek suggested discussing the next voting system again at the next meeting since the RFI responses would be in by then.

Public comment: Mr. Jim Soper suggested the idea of state legislation involving waiving testing fees for open source voting systems.

Adjourned at 7:38 p.m.