

**ELECTIONS COMMISSION**  
*City and County of San Francisco*

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



John Arntz, Director of Elections

Nadya Hewitt, Secretary

**MEETING MINUTES**

**San Francisco Elections Commission**  
**Wednesday, October 21, 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 Donaldson, 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**

Mr. Peter Lindener spoke on the subject of voting system theory. Mr. Fred Nisen of Disability Rights California delivered a statement via a representative on the subject of voters with disabilities and the RFP for a new voting system.

**3. Approval of Minutes for previous meeting**

Moved by Vice President Rowe and seconded by Commissioner Paris to approve the draft minutes of the September 16, 2015 Elections Commission Meeting. No public comment. The motion passed with six voting in favor and Commissioner Donaldson abstaining.

**4. Commissioners' Reports**

Commissioner Jerdonek welcomed new Commissioner Roger Donaldson, who was appointed to the Commission by City Attorney Dennis Herrera. Commissioner Donaldson introduced himself to the Commission.

**5. Director's Report**

Director Arntz reported that the Department is working with the Post Office this election to ensure that vote-by-mail ballots are accounted for and handled for the upcoming election with the new "E+3" deadline. Director Arntz mentioned that he received a phone

call from the Chinese paper, the World Journal, asking about complaints from voters regarding people impersonating staff from the Department and CCDC. The Department has not received any complaints from voters regarding the issue. Director Arntz contacted the District Attorney's Office and reported the incident.

#### **6. Discussion and possible action regarding open source voting systems**

The following invited individuals gave presentations about open source voting followed by questions and answers for each: Mr. Brent Turner of the California Association of Voting Officials, Mr. Alan Dechert, Mr. Gregory Miller of the Open Source Election Technology Foundation, Dr. Joe Kiniry of Galois, and Dr. Juan E. Gilbert of the University of Florida. Digital Foundry and IDEO did not present for schedule reasons.

The following members of the public spoke: Mr. Alec Bash, Mr. Tim Mayer, Mr. Jim Soper, Mr. John William Templeton, Mr. Dylan Hirsch-Shell, and Mr. Peter Lindener.

President Jerdonek proposed the idea of the Commission passing a resolution directed at the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor stating that San Francisco should lead the development and certification of an open source voting system ready to be used by the Department of Elections by a certain date. President Jerdonek offered to draft such a resolution for the next meeting. Commissioner Paris agreed and suggested further that we designate individuals to advocate on this issue to the Board.

Commissioner Yu expressed interest in learning more about New Hampshire's experiences.

#### **7. Discussion and possible action regarding San Francisco's next voting system**

Commissioner Donaldson asked Director Arntz for his thoughts on how the previous discussion impacts the next voting system. Director Arntz asked if a response could wait until December's meeting since the election is happening. Director Arntz also said the answer depends on how the Commission decides to proceed.

The following members of the public commented: Mr. Brent Turner, Mr. Peter Lindener, Mr. Tim Mayer, Mr. Jim Soper, Mr. Alan Dechert, and a San Francisco resident.

#### **8. Agenda items for future meetings**

Commissioner Paris suggested the final LAFCo report.

Public comment: Mr. Brent Turner and Ms. Holly Allen.

**Adjourned at 9:47 p.m.**