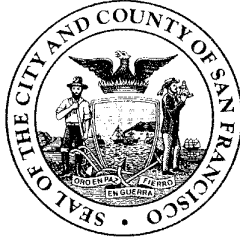


Elections Commission
City and County of San Francisco

Christopher Jerdonek, President
Dominic Paris, Vice President
Roger Donaldson
Charles Jung
Viva Mogi
Jill Rowe
Rosabella Safont



John Arntz, Director of Elections

Don Chan, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, October 18, 2017
6:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 408
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

President Jerdonek called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Commissioners present: Donaldson, Jerdonek, Jung, Mogi, Paris, Safont. Excused absent: Commissioner Rowe. Also present: Director of Elections John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Joshua White, Commission Secretary Don Chan.

2. General Public Comment

None.

3. Open Source Voting

a) President Jerdonek reported: 1) Travis County cancelled its public voting project. He believes they couldn't find a full complement of vendors to provide a voting system that was open source, so they returned to pursuing a conventional voting system. 2) He met with Carrie Bishop, San Francisco's new Chief Digital Services Officer. The Digital Services team was created to bring agile processes to the City's technical projects. 3) He met with the Slalom team and exchanged information on the state of open source voting for the City. 4) He spoke on open source voting at an elections conference in Berkeley. 5) He reviewed the RFP responses.

b) Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) member Roan Kattouw reported on what the committee has been discussing regarding open source voting, including how procurement could be expedited so that a system could be implemented in a shorter time frame.

President Jerdonek commented that the TAC members are concerned that their work and resulting recommendations may not be reviewed by relevant individuals in the Department. He therefore made a motion that the Commission “encourage the Department to review the TAC’s recommendations going forward.”

Commissioner Safont seconded.

There was a discussion regarding the intent and impact of such a motion, like whether this was meant to be a directive to have the Department read and accept the recommendations, or to have the Commission approve them and direct their implementation, or to include them in the final Slalom report. It was stated that this should be a higher-level policy matter or it might border on directing management activities, which the Commission is not allowed to do. President Jerdonek said that his intent was to have it stated that the TAC’s recommendations are encouraged to be reviewed and considered by the Department as the project goes forward, and that the this approach could be revisited and refined in subsequent meetings.

Public Comment:

Jim Soper commented that he couldn’t imagine the Director not reading the recommendations, but the Commission could periodically have presentations for certain recommendations and have the Director respond right there. He cautioned overloading the Director with tasks.

Alec Bash offered more language to the resolution, namely “to review and consider and provide to the consultants for their consideration.”

Upon voice vote, the motion carried unanimously 6-0.

c) Director Arntz reviewed that the contract has been approved and the contractor has begun working on the process by doing fact gathering.

Vice President Paris asked Director Arntz if he could find any more information on the Travis County situation. President Jerdonek said that the County had issued a press release, and it appeared they couldn’t find a combination of respondents to provide all ten components called for.

Director Arntz was asked if Los Angeles County’s new Tally System is open source and if its submission to the Secretary of State meant that components that are not entire systems could be certified. He said he would look into that.

Vice President Paris asked about AB 1817, which pertains to registering high school students to vote, and what the Department did. Director Arntz said they met with eleven student “ambassadors” and then with the student advisory council, which is connected to the School Board. They discussed the issue of registering students at their own schools. He believes San Francisco’s efforts are one of the best in the state on this topic.

Commissioner Donaldson asked about the impact of the earlier primary date in 2020. Director Arntz said that for now many other things are drawing their attention (primarily preparation for the 2018 and 2019 elections), but certainly the earlier deadlines will add more stress to the situation.

President Jerdonek commended Director Arntz for his work on the RFP and contract.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Commissioner Jung moved to approve the draft minutes. Commissioner Donaldson seconded. There was a short discussion regarding whether Commissioner Mogi needs to vote. She is required to vote unless the Commission votes to let her abstain. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 6-0.

5. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Donaldson commented that he attended the conference President Jerdonek spoke at and was very impressed at the interest and activism of participants in electoral processes, for example hand vs. machine-tallying of votes and open source. He also asked the other commissioners to turn in their evaluation forms.

President Jerdonek mentioned that AB 840 was signed by the Governor last Sunday. He said he will be drafting a policy statement for the Commission to be considered at the next meeting.

In reference to a statement made by a member of the public in the last Commission meeting, he said he researched the statement and found the speaker was incorrect in the assertion.

President Jerdonek informed the Commission that the Department on the Status of Women is doing a survey and that Secretary Chan will be sending the survey for each person to complete. Also, the Ethics Commission has new requirements that might affect the Commissioners. Deputy City Attorney White said he will email the Commissioners the details.

6. Director's Report

Director Arntz had nothing to add to his written report.

President Jerdonek asked about the remote ballot system and the sole-source process if there is only one available provider. Director Arntz said that he is still going through the documents and so couldn't give a breakdown of the process yet. He is working on the RFP for the interim system now, which will take at least a few weeks to complete.

President Jerdonek asked if the new date for the primary elections is consistent with the City's Charter. Director Arntz said that the City's codes reference the State's codes.

7. Agenda items for future meetings

President Jerdonek mentioned the Director's evaluation and reminded commissioners to get their forms in; the Commission's annual report for last year, which Commissioner Rowe is working on; and a Commission policy related to AB 840.

Vice President Paris asked for information on AB 1403, related to military and overseas voters.

Commissioner Donaldson reported that he will not be able to attend the November meeting, but will complete the evaluation for the next meeting.

Public Comment:

Jim Soper said he felt that the final version of AB 1403 did not contain anything he would consider “problematic,” so the resolution by the Commission would cover future cases.

Adjourned at 6:38 p.m.