

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

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

There was none.

3. Open Source Voting

- a. President Jerdonek reported: 1) the Travis Co. public voting project was cancelled. He believes they couldn't find a full complement of vendors to provide a complete package for open source voting so they returned to their conventional voting system. 2) He met with Carey Bishop, SF's new Chief Digital Services Officer. (the DS 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 (who's been doing what). 4) He spoke at a conference in Berkeley on open source voting. 5) He reviewed the RFP responses.
- b. TAC member Roan Kattouw reported on what the committee has been discussing regarding many aspects of an open source system, and questions of how procurement could be expedited so that a system could be implemented in 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 proposed a resolution that;

"As a Commission, we encourage the Department to review the TAC's recommendations, going

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forward.”

Comm. Safont seconded.

There was a discussion regarding the intent and impact of such a resolution. 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 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 (not the power of the Commission). President Jerdonek said that his intent is to have it stated that the TAC’s recommendations would be reviewed and considered by the Department as the project goes forward, and that the wording of this could be revisited and revised/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.

Alex Bash offered more language to the resolution: “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, fact gathering.

Comm. Paris asked Director Arntz if he could find any more information on the Travis Co. situation. President Jerdonek said that they had issued a press release and it appeared that they couldn’t find a responder to provide all 10 components called for.

Director Arntz was asked if the LA County tally system is open source and if there was the ability to employ components and not entire systems, that haven’t been certified. He said he’d look into that.

Comm. Paris asked about AB 1817, regarding registering high school students to vote, and what the Department did. Director Arntz said they met with 11 student “ambassadors” and then with the student advisory council (connected to the School Board) and 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.

Comm. Donaldson asked about the impact due to the earlier primary date in 2020. Director Arntz said for now many other things are drawing their attention (primarily preparation for the 2018 and 2019 elections, but for sure the earlier deadlines for everything will be stressful.

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

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Comm. Jung moved to approve. Comm. Donaldson seconded. Upon voice vote, the motion carried 6-0 (there was a short discussion regarding Comm. Mogi’s voting. She is allowed to vote despite her absence last meeting).

5. Commissioners' Reports

Comm. 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; e.g. hand vs machine tallying of votes, 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 the speaker was incorrect in one of his assertions.

President Jerdonek informed the commissioners that the Commission on the Status of Women is doing a survey and that Secretary Chan will be sending that to them to complete and return to him. Also, the Ethics Commission has new information 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 voting requirements. Is there only one available provider? And if so, what is the sole source process. Director Arntz said he's still going through the documents so couldn't give a breakdown of that process yet. He is working on the RFP for the interim system now. May take a few weeks at least to complete.

President Jerdonek asked if the new date for the primary elections was consistent with the City's Charter. Director Arntz said that the City's municipal code references the State's code.

7. Agenda items for future meetings

President Jerdonek mentioned that the Director's evaluation will be done, and reminded commissioners to get their forms in.

The Commission's annual report (Comm. Rowe is working on it).

The statement on AB 840.

Vice President Paris asked for AB 1403 (military and overseas voters), not necessarily a separate agenda item but some information on it.

Comm. Donaldson reported 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 AB 1403 took out anything that he would consider "problematic" so that any resolution by the Commission would cover future cases.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.