

Elections Commission
City & County of San Francisco

Viva Mogi, President
Lucy Bernholz, Vice President
Roger Donaldson
Christopher Jerdonek
Charles Jung
Jill Rowe



John Arntz, Director of Elections

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, May 27, 2020
3:00 p.m.

Remote meeting via WebEx

(Note: The Commission's regular meeting for May 27, 2020 was held at 3:00 p.m. rather than 6:00 p.m.)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 3:02 p.m.

In attendance: President Viva Mogi, Vice President Lucy Bernholz, Commissioners Chris Jerdonek, Jill Rowe, and Charles Jung

Excused Tardy: Commissioners Roger Donaldson

Also in attendance: Deputy City Attorney Jenica Maldonado, Director John Arntz

2. General Public Comment

Natalie Zohuri commended the commission for a great job on getting this test run up and running.

3. Planning for November 2020 Election in Light of COVID-19 Health Emergency

Vice President (VP) Bernholz asked about plans for voting centers. Director Arntz reported having to wait for the Governor to issue an Executive Order 64-20 to determine the methods of in-person voting for November.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked about potential Board of Supervisors (BoS) actions and how they would relate to the Governor's Executive Order. Director Arntz stated the Governor's Executive Order would set the minimum requirements for the State, and that BoS could increase local requirements.

Commissioner Jung commented on the extraordinary amount of planning and activity in the Directors Report, and thanked Director Arntz for leading this effort.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked about the possibility of consolidating off year election (2023) with 2024 elections and potential cost saving. Director Arntz responded there has been no such planning yet. Deputy City Attorney (DCA) Maldonado stated that Commissioner Jerdonek's proposed consolidation of elections would require a charter amendment.

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President Mogi thanked Director Arntz for his work on a tremendous amount of detail and asked if he has any idea of the number of polling places. Director Arntz stated the department is planning to have a full complement of polling places, as would typically occur.

Commissioner Jung asked Director Arntz about reducing the number of polling places. Director Arntz stated that we would need to analyze any potential changes in light of the Governor's Executive Order.

Public Comment

Britta Gustafson, a poll worker, was happy to hear there will be in-person voting.

4. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Jerdonek reported:

- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Open Source Election System met in March.
- TAC terms ending next month.
- Santa Clara sent an email to John Arntz, Director of Elections, and Linda Gerull, Director of Department of Technology, in early March to ask about Open Source Voting collaboration.

President Mogi reported:

- Will meet with San Francisco Foundation and Director Arntz in June, to pursue the matching of funds for outreach to communities with typical low turnout.
- Department needs to submit a new budget to the City in June or July.

Public Comment

None

5. Director's Report

The new budget deadline is August. Due to some precincts' review of voter information and demographics, three facsimile ballots were added to this election in Burmese, Japanese, and Thai. VBM ballots are in the design stage earlier than usual, in anticipation of the increase due to the pandemic.

Commissioner Jerdonek, President Mogi, and Director Arntz discussed impact of budget cuts on department personnel.

VP Bernholz and Commissioner Jerdonek asked Director Arntz for general information on polling locations hosts. Survey revealed most were planning to move forward with supplying a polling location, approximately 25% said it depends on where things are with COVID, and some said no they would not do it. Some poll workers have also said they will not be working either.

Public Comment

None

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6. Public Employee Appointment/Hiring: Class 1450 – Elections Commission Secretary

Discussion regarding the hiring of commission secretary is open until June 5, 2020. President Mogi and DCA Maldonado gave a brief explanation of the discussions between Department of Human Resources Michael Cerles, and the Elections Commission. After the budget is confirmed, the position will be posted. Commissioner Jerdonek asked if the secretary would be able to work remotely. President Mogi stated it is for now, and may have the potential to be in the future.

Public Comment

None

7. Agenda items for future meetings

- a) Technical Advisory Committee reappointments
- b) Planning for November 2020 Election in Light of COVID-19 Health Emergency
- c) Move back to a regular schedule (3rd Wednesday of the month; time TBD depending on remote status)
- d) Budget to be submitted in July, depending on the time of the meeting it could be August - no BOPEC needed

Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned 4:00 pm