

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, June 17, 2020
3:00 p.m.

Remote meeting via WebEx

(Note: The Commission's regular meeting for June 17, 2020 was held at 3:00 p.m. rather than 6:00 p.m.)

The meeting took place remotely:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call at 3:00 p.m.

In attendance: President Viva Mogi, Vice President Lucy Bernholz, Commissioners Roger Donaldson, Chris Jerdonek, Jill Rowe

Absent: Commissioner Jung

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

2. General Public Comment

Brent Turner of California Association of Voting Officials (CAVO) thanked the commission for their work on Open Source Elections (OSE) systems.

3. Department of Elections Amended Budget Proposals (FY2020-2021, 2021-22)

Director Arntz noted that worksheet 1A provided the summary of budget cuts for the Department of Elections and the impact of these cuts.

Commissioner Rowe and Director Arntz discussed required budget cuts. Commissioner Rowe asked if there would be an opportunity to be heard before final budget decisions are made. Director Arntz stated Individuals could contact the Mayor's Office to express concerns.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked questions regarding the proposed budget cuts.

Commissioner Donaldson asked if it would be possible to encourage people to request electronic voter guides. Director Arntz stated that the option to opt out has existed for years and very few people do.

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President Mogi asked questions about the proposed budget and also suggested advocating to the Mayor's Office regarding budget cuts.

Commissioner Rowe made a motion that (1) the Elections Commission announce that it is deeply concerned that the City's proposed budget cuts to the Department of Elections budget dramatically compromises the ability of the Department to hold free, fair, and functional elections; (2) the Elections Commission express these concerns to the Mayor's Office, and the Board of Supervisors with regards the negative affect that these budget cuts will have; and (3) authorizes the President to submit this announcement to the Mayor's Office and the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Jerdonek seconded the motion.

Commissioner Donaldson suggested amending the motion to refer to election integrity.

Commissioner Rowe amended the motion to refer to election integrity.

Public Comment - None

President Mogi discussed the proposed amended budget.

Commissioner Rowe asked DCA Maldonado about the effect if the Commission does not approve the budget cuts. Commissioner Rowe then moved not to approve the amended budget. Commissioner Jerdonek seconded the motion.

Public comment: No public comment on either motions.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION:

Communication to Mayor's Budget Office and the Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed budget cuts.

AYES: President Mogi, Vice President Bernholz, Commissioners Donaldson, Jerdonek, Rowe
Nos: None
5 Ayes 0 Nos 0 Abstain
Motion carries unanimously.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTIONS:

Not approve the amended budget.

AYES: President Mogi, Vice President Bernholz, Commissioners Donaldson, Jerdonek, Rowe
Nos: none
5 Ayes 0 Nos 0 Abstain

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Motion carries unanimously.

Commission returned to discussion of Item #3 regarding the department budget.

After reviewing, DCA Maldonado noted that Charter Section 4.102 requires Commissions to approve budgets and budget modification and advised that the Commission would need to revisit its prior vote.

Commissioner Rowe motion to rescind prior resolution and to approve the modified budget, under protest. Commissioner Jerdonek seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION:

Rescind prior motion and to approve the modified budget, under protest.

AYES: President Mogi, Vice President Bernholz, Commissioners Donaldson, Jerdonek, Rowe

Nos: None

5 Ayes 0 Nos 0 Abstain

Motion carries unanimously.

4. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Jerdonek:

- TAC membership – appointments are expiring. 90 day hold over to address.
- City of SF being joined by other CA cities in using Ranked Choice Voting.
- Included memo in agenda packet on possibilities of consolidating elections.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked DCA Maldonado to look into possibility of consolidating elections.

President Mogi thanked Director Arntz for joining her in meetings with the San Francisco Foundation (SFF), modeled on an outreach plan in Kings County, WA, with the Seattle Foundation.

Public comment: None

5. Director's Report

Director Arntz reported:

- Department will have full complement of polling places in November.
- Working on how safe practices for poll workers and voters.
- Request for Proposal (RFP) for community outreach was sent out yesterday.
- Still figuring out where department will process Vote By Mail (VBM) ballots.
- AB 860 moving to Governor's desk – will allow all voters to use remote accessible VBM system.

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Commissioner Jerdonek asked about the department's upcoming report to the Board of Supervisors regarding the November 2020 election.

Commissioner Rowe asked if it is possible to make a motion requesting Director Arntz to attach the Commission's resolution regarding budget cuts to the Director's report to the Board of Supervisors.

Proposed Motion:

Commission urges the Director of Elections to include the Commission's prior resolution regarding budget cuts in the Department's report to the Board of Supervisors, pursuant to Board File No. 200400, to the extent legally permitted by the ordinance.

Seconded: Commissioner Donaldson.

Public Comment: None.

Roll Call Vote

AYES: President Mogi, Vice President Bernholz, Commissioners Donaldson, Jerdonek, Rowe
Nos: none

5 Ayes, 0 Nos, 0 Abstain
Motion carries unanimously.

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

President Mogi reported applications closed Monday June 8. Applications have been received (over 50). DHR has vetted for minimal qualifications, leaving about 22 candidates. DHR sent President Mogi top five candidates and then the full 22 cleared. President Mogi requested Commission's permission to pursue this process including interviews, with a goal of having a candidate for Commission consideration by next meeting.

Public Comment: None

Motion: Commissioner Rowe moves that the Commission authorize President Mogi to review resumes, interview at her discretion, and invite candidates to appear for final interviews before the full commission.

Second: Commissioner Donaldson

AYES: President Mogi, Vice President Bernholz, Commissioners Donaldson, Jerdonek, Rowe
Nos: none

5 Ayes 0 Nos 0 Abstain
Motion carries unanimously.

7. Agenda items for future meetings

- Interview of secretary candidates in July prior to August recess.
- Put open source back on agenda, address TAC member terms
 - Would like to request specific recommendations from Commissioner Jerdonek on new appointments and reappointments.
 - Would like to invite Director Gerull for an update on accomplishments and maintenance plans on open source.
- Legal advice on potential consolidation of elections.

Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned. 4:46 pm