# 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 - \*\*DRAFT\*\*

San Francisco Elections Commission Wednesday, October 21, 2020 3:00 p.m. Remote meeting via WebEx

## **Order of Business**

## 1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 3:08 p.m.

**Present:** President Mogi, Vice President Bernholz, Commissioners: Rowe, Jung, and Jerdonek

Also present: Elections Director John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Andrew Shen, Information Systems Tech James Smith

## 2. General Public Comment

Mike Zubas spoke about ranked-choice voting.

# 3. Open Source Voting

Commissioner Chris Jerdonek provided an update regarding the Open Source Voting Technical Advisory Committee.

## **Public Comment:**

Mike Zubas recommended further development of open source voting in San Francisco.

Jen Tse asked whether the Open Source Voting System Technical Advisory Committee would be updating information posted on GitHub. Commissioner Jerdonek clarified that GitHub would be updated, and that she should check the website periodically.

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# 4. Redistricting Task Force Committee

Commissioner Jill Rowe reviewed the memo she provided the commission about the Redistricting Task Force and past criteria used to select appointments.

President Mogi invited comment from the commission.

Vice President Lucy Bernholz thanked Commissioner Rowe for her time and effort.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked when the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor would make their appointments to the Redistricting Task Force.

DCA Andrew Shen stated that there is no requirement for a specific order for the appointments.

Commissioner Rowe stepped out of meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Vice President Bernholz asked whether the prohibition on employees working for City elected officials should be extended to State elected officials.

Commissioner Donaldson asked whether other criteria could be added.

DCA Shen explained that the Commission might add more selection criteria.

Commission Donaldson commented that the criteria that applicants not reside in the same district as other applicants, does not make sense, as they will not know where other applicants live.

President Mogi asked whether the requirement that applicants have voted in SF in the last five years is appropriate.

Vice President Bernholz observed that these criteria would give younger people less opportunity.

Commissioner Jung and Commissioner Donaldson discussed other ways to measure electoral engagement.

Commissioner Rowe rejoined the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

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Commissioner Rowe provided background regarding past use of these criteria and expressed preference for a larger pool of candidates.

After further conversation, Commissioner Jung made a motion to apply the following criteria to applicants for the Redistricting Task Force, and provide applicants with a written description to describe their civic and electoral engagement, including without limitations, whether they have been eligible to vote and have voted:

- 1. Represents San Francisco's diverse population.
- 2. Has not been paid by a political campaign in the last 5 years.
- 3. Has general knowledge of San Francisco's neighborhoods and geography.
- 4. Has a flexible schedule for attending meetings.
- 5. Has no conflict of interest prohibited under the conflict laws applicable to other City officers; and
- 6. Is not currently a direct hire employee of an elected official in San Francisco.

Commissioner Donaldson seconded the motion.

President Mogi asked for public comment.

# Mike Zubas commented that he found redistricting to be improving.

# **ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION:**

President Mogi Yes
Vice President Bernholz Yes
Commissioner Rowe Yes
Commissioner Jung Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek Yes

Commissioner Donaldson Yes

With 6 votes in the affirmative and 0 votes opposed, the motion is approved unanimously and carried.

Commissioner Donaldson volunteered to draft guidelines for applications.

# 5. Commissioners' Reports

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Commissioner Bernholz recently met with designers and consultants working with Center for Technology and Civic Life and she shared documents from that meeting with the rest of the commission and the Director.

No public comment.

Commissioner Jung exited meeting at 4:58 p.m.

# 6. Director's Report

Director Arntz provided a brief summary on voter turnout.

Director Arntz answered questions from Commissioner Chris Jerdonek (regarding funding, ballot drop-off locations, and rental vehicles), Commission Roger Donaldson (regarding VBMs), and President Mogi (regarding poll workers).

No public comment.

# 7. Objectives and Process for Annual Performance Evaluation of Director of Elections

President Mogi asked the commission whether anyone would like to make changes to process.

Commissioner Rowe commented in the past annual performance reviews have been done the next calendar year.

President Mogi asked the commission whether anyone would like to make changes to the evaluation criteria.

Commissioner Rowe made a motion that the commission use the prior criteria for the Director's performance review, and that each commissioner complete an evaluation and the Director complete his evaluation before the December commission meeting.

Commissioner Donaldson seconded the motion.

No public comment.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION:** 

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President Mogi Yes
Vice President Bernholz Yes
Commissioner Rowe Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek Yes

Commissioner Donaldson Yes

With 5 votes in the affirmative and 0 votes opposed, the motion is approved unanimously and carried.

# 8. Agenda items for future meetings

Commissioner Donaldson to follow up on criteria/guidelines for Redistricting Task Force. President Mogi reminded the commission about their December 1 deadline for Evaluation of Director Arntz.

No public comment.

Adjournment at 5:24 p.m.