

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, February 17, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Remote meeting via WebEx

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 3:21 p.m.

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

Also present: Director of Elections John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Andrew Shen, and Information Systems Tech James (Jim) Smith
Quorum met.

2. Public comment

David Pilpel encouraged the commission and department to monitor the Census Bureau on release dates, affecting the redistricting process. He also suggested amending the bylaws to reflect the new meeting start time to 3:00 pm start time if the commission continues to meet at 3:00 pm instead of 6:00 pm as stated in the bylaws.

Brent Turner provided background on Open Source Voting. He stated San Francisco might be leading the country and the state on a more advanced model.

Jen Tse asked how local redistricting information would be distributed to the public and how the redistricting process would roll out.

Lauren Girardin expressed concern on the timeline for the Redistricting Task Force (RTF) delay. Feels community feedback affecting the delayed process may create

negativity from the public. She mentioned that the California Redistricting Commission is already working on redistricting.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings July 15, and December 16, 2020

Due to minutes not having been posted in advance of the meeting, the minutes were postponed until the next meeting.

Public Comment

None

4. Department of Elections' Budget Proposals: Fiscal Year 2021-22 & Fiscal Year 2022-23

Commissioner Donaldson, Chair of the Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Commission (BOPEC), reported on the meeting held on February 2, 2021.

Attachments from today's meeting were also covered at the BOPEC meeting. RTF budget was discussed and the impact of COVID-19 on the budget. Commissioner Donaldson made a motion to recommend the full commission approve the budget at the BOPEC meeting.

Director Arntz provided an overview of the BOPEC meeting. He provided specific budget information and how equity will play a part in the process. He also gave a brief explanation of the Voter's Choice Act and its impact on voting, the budget, and grants. RTF funding is required to provide information and outreach to the public.

Vice President Lucy Bernholz asked Director Arntz if there would be an increase in the budget for community outreach, specifically to parolees. He did not have a number. She also asked if there would be any funding for Open Source Voting. He responded by saying it would be included in the Department of Technologies budget.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked Director Arntz questions regarding the budget and election processes. The Director responded to Commissioner Jerdonek's questions.

President Mogi asked Director Arntz if the secretary position was going to be changed, because the position is already a 1450 classification. Director Arntz stated Department of Human Resources requested a change from the previous classification.

Public Comment

David Pilpel stated that the commission secretary position was not properly classified in 20 years.

Vice President Bernholz moved to approve the department's proposed budget as presented by Director Arntz.

Commissioner Donaldson seconded the motion.

President Mogi	Yes
Vice President Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Donaldson	Yes
Commissioner Chappell	Yes
Commissioner Jung	Yes

6 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passed

5. Election of Commission President and Vice President for 2021 Term

Commissioner Donaldson nominated Vice President Bernholz to be the new President for the 2021 term. Vice President Bernholz accepted.

Commissioner Jung seconded.

There were no other nominations for President.

Public Comment – None

President Mogi	Yes
Vice President Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Donaldson	Yes
Commissioner Chappell	Yes
Commissioner Jung	Yes

6 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passed

Commissioner Donaldson nominated Commissioner Jung to be Vice President. Commissioner Jung accepted.

President Mogi seconded.

Commissioner Jung nominated President Mogi for Vice President. She graciously declined.

Public Comment

David Pilpel reminded the commission that serving on BOPEC is also an option.

President Mogi	Yes
Vice President Bernholz	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Donaldson	Yes
Commissioner Chappell	Yes
Commissioner Jung	Yes

6 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passed

6. Commissioners' Report

Commissioner Jerdonek stated that the Elections Assistance Commission passed an updated version of the Voluntary Voting Systems Guidelines. Director Arntz stated that the guidelines apply to new systems not existing voting systems. The commission advertised the vacancy for the Board of Education appointment on Twitter through March 11, 2021.

Public Comment

Lauren Girardin asked if the application revisions have been paused for now.

Commissioner Donaldson stated it would be discussed in Item 8.

7. Director's Report

The Request for Proposal (RFP) has not been issued yet to identify a consultant to assist with RTF.

Deputy City Attorney Andrew Shen stated that the Census Bureau estimated that it would release redistricting data at the end of September instead of March, and discussed the possibility of convening the RTF early to get the preliminaries out of the way.

President Mogi asked Director Arntz when he might be hiring a consultant. He responded by the end of March.

Public Comment

David Pilpel suggested drafting a short memo for the next meeting, from the Director or the DCA, regarding any progress made and the processes required for redistricting.

Jen Tse commented that the timeline for any redrawing might happen in January 2022, and there is also the option of seeking an extension from Superior Court.

Lauren Girardin mentioned providing public education before redrawing the map by the RTF, prior to having the redistricting data.

8. Discussion and Possible Items for Future Agendas

Final review of RTF Application

Review of BOPEC Membership

July 8, 2020 and December 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Public Comment

David Pilpel made suggestions on redistricting and a broader review of the commission's bylaws.

Adjournment at 5:22 pm