

Elections Commission
City & County of San Francisco

Lucy Bernholz, President
Charles Jung, Vice President
Roger Donaldson
Viva Mogi
Christopher Jerdonek
Becca Chappell



John Arntz, Director of Elections

Martha Delgadillo, Secretary

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, March 17, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Remote meeting via WebEx

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Present: President Bernholz, Vice President Jung, Commissioners: Jerdonek, Mogi, and Chappell

Commissioner Mogi joined the meeting at 3:29 pm

Commissioner Donaldson joined the meeting at 3:05 pm

Also present: Director of Elections John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Andrew Shen, and Secretary Delgadillo

Quorum met.

2. General Public Comment - None

Commissioner Donaldson joined the meeting at 3:05 pm, during this item.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings July 8, December 16, 2020, and February 17, 2021

Motion to approve all meeting minutes made by Vice President (VP) Jung. Seconded by Commissioner Jerdonek.

Public Comment

David Pilpel suggested minor changes to the July 8, 2020, and the December 16, 2020 minutes.

President Bernholz	Yes
Vice President Jung	Yes

Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Donaldson	Yes
Commissioner Chappell	Yes
Commissioner Mogi	Yes

6 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passed

4. Resolution on Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

Commissioner Jerdonek asked if the acknowledgement matches the Board of Supervisors' (BoS) acknowledgement. President Bernholz confirmed that it was the same acknowledgement.

Commissioner Donaldson asked if other commissions are adopting similar acknowledgements. DCA Shen stated other commissions would likely be adopting similar resolutions in the upcoming months.

VP Jung asked DCA Shen if the acknowledgement was reviewed by the City Attorney's Office. He also asked if this acknowledgement will be stated, orally recited, at the beginning of each meeting? DCA Shen responded, confirming that his office had reviewed it. DCA Shen explained the commission could make further amendments if they choose to, and yes, the acknowledgment would be recited at the beginning of each meeting.

President Bernholz asked if the "sovereign rights as first people" phrase is the same as in the BoS acknowledgment. DCA Shen responded that yes, the same phrase is in the BoS acknowledgment, the only replacement being inserting Elections Commission and removing reference to the BoS.

Commissioner Jerdonek moved to adopt the acknowledgement. Seconded by Commissioner Chappell.

Commissioner Jerdonek's motion to adopt was withdrawn. VP Jung moved to continue to the April meeting to allow for further consideration. Commissioner Jerdonek seconded the motion.

Commissioner Mogi joined during the discussion of this item at 3:29 pm.

Public Comment

David Pilpel expressed concern about the land acknowledgment.

Lauren Girardin commented on the reasons for honoring the acknowledgement.
Motion to continue this item to the April Meeting

Motion to continue this item to the April Meeting

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

6 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passed

5. **Redistricting Task Force**

Commissioner Donaldson provided a revision to the earlier draft of the Redistricting Task Force (RTF) application materials first provided at the December 16, 2020 meeting.

Commissioner Mogi asked about outreach. Director Arntz explained there are mailing lists used for community organizations during election cycles with follow-up emails and/or a press release. A more detailed plan for outreach will be presented to this commission at the April 2021 meeting. VP Jung and President Bernholz's suggestions to be sent to Commission Donaldson. Commissioner Chappell suggested that the first question on the RTF application provide a statement describing why they are interested in a seat, instead of asking if they are interested in a seat.

VP Jung's moved to approve the proposed plan and application contained in the attachment, with appropriate grammatical revisions, and adjustments to the proposed timeline. Seconded by Commissioner Chappell.

Public Comment

Anonymous caller asked about schedule for RTF meetings

David Pilpel asked questions regarding the timeline, logistics, and the possibility of changes.

Jen Tse expressed concern on timelines for outreach on the memo. Commissioner Donaldson stated the idea was to concentrate on focused outreach. President Bernholz suggested changing the date on the memo to reflect that outreach would continue until applications are due.

Lauren Girardin volunteered to assist with outreach.

President Bernholz	Yes
Vice President Jung	Yes

Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Donaldson	Yes
Commissioner Chappell	Yes
Commissioner Mogi	Yes

6 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passed

6. Discussion on Continuation of Budget Oversight of Public Elections Commission (BOPEC)

President Bernholz presented the item as a time to discuss how to proceed with BOPEC, since the committee is referenced in the Commission's bylaws but does not meet on a regular basis. The opportunity is for the Commission to determine if BOPEC should continue, with named participants, and the regularly scheduled meetings will be canceled unless necessary, or if the Commission wanted to revisit the need for a standing committee, which would require amending the bylaws.

Commissioner Jerdonek suggested that the frequent cancellation of BOPEC meetings might confuse the public and perhaps the way forward would be to change the bylaws and to state the BOPEC meets as needed/ad hoc.

Public Comment

David Pilpel made recommendations on how to proceed regarding the meeting frequency of the committee.

DCA Shen will prepare proposed amendments to the bylaws for discussion and possible action at the April 2021 meeting.

7. Commissioners' Report

President Bernholz reported she would be reaching out to the Human Rights Commission regarding the Elections Commission's Racial Equity Action plan and for outreach opportunities regarding the Redistricting Task Force.

Public Comment - None

8. Director's Report

Director Arntz reviewed his report included in the meeting packet. The discussion focused on the likelihood of recall elections prior to June 2022. A special election for Governor will likely occur in November based on preliminary information provided by the Secretary of State. There are also possible recall elections for the SF District Attorney and members of the school board. Director Arntz also discussed the Voter's Choice Act and its implications for ballot drop off boxes, voting centers, and all mail ballots. In addition, Director Arntz discussed costs associated with these options.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked about election costs and recalls.

Commissioner Mogi asked about voting centers.

President Bernholz asked about the Voters Choice Act.

Public Comment - None

9. Discussion and possible action regarding items for future agendas

- a) Action plan and outreach for the RTF.
- b) Revisit the land acknowledgement.
- c) Amended commission bylaws.
- d) Review November election.

Public Comment - None

Adjournment at 5:02 pm