

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 - **DRAFT******

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, May 19, 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, Donaldson, and Chappell

Excused Tardy: Commissioner Mogi joined at 3:50 pm

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

2. General Public Comment – None

3. Approval of Minutes for April 21, 2021 Meeting

Public Comment

None

Motion to approve all meeting minutes made by Commissioner Jerdonek, seconded by VP Jung

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

5 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passed

4. Assessment of March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election

Commissioner Donaldson commended Director Arntz on the logistics of running the election.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked Director Arntz if the percentage of challenged ballots for the March elections was 5% for this election per the Vote by Mail (VBM) report. Director Arntz stated he did not know the exact percentage.

Vice President (VP) Jung asked if the Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Commission (BOPEC) was convened and make a recommendation to this commission. Commissioner Donaldson said BOPEC was not convened due to pandemic.

Motion made by VP Jung that with respect to the March 3, 2020 primary election this commission finds that the department carried out a free, fair, and functional election. Seconded by Commissioner Chappell.

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

5 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain

Motion passed

Public Comment

David Pilpel asked where Commissioner Jerdonek was able to obtain the information referred to when asking Director Arntz about the VBM report. Mr. Pilpel was directed to the department's website.

5. Assessment of November 3, 2020 Consolidated General Election

President Bernholz commended Director Arntz and the department on a tremendous job done with the elections during the pandemic.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked Director Arntz whether the extended deadline for VBM returns would be permanent. Director Arntz stated there was legislation passed for 2021 that may have extended the return date, and that he would get back to the commission with the specifics.

Public Comment

David Pilpel asked if in the future, the raw numbers could be added to reports, and the percentage.

Motion by VP Jung with respect to the November 3, 2020, general election this commission finds the department carried out a free fair and functional election. Seconded by Commissioner Donaldson.

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

5 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain
Motion passes

6. Redistricting Task Force

President Bernholz thanked Director Arntz for his department having translated the Redistricting Task Force (RTF) applications to Spanish, Chinese, Filipino, and Arabic. As requested by the commission, Commissioner Mogi and President Bernholz penned an op-ed. The San Francisco Chronicle has chosen not to run it. Commissioner Mogi has submitted to the San Francisco Examiner.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked if the press release was written by VP Jung and how many applications have been received, the frequency, and if more were needed.

President Bernholz asked if any members of the commission have any plans on doing outreach to groups. DCA Shen reminded the Commission that the Board of Supervisors (BoS) has not introduced an ordinance formally convening the task force. The application deadline is June 1. Commissioner Jerdonek stated the commission could authorize President Bernholz to extend the deadline date, if needed.

After discussion, Commissioner Donaldson moved that the BOPEC hold a meeting on June 9, 2021 to elect a slate of candidates and alternate candidates to be interviewed and recommended to the full commission. Seconded by Commissioner Chappell.

After further discussion, Commissioner Donaldson's motion was amended to also authorize the President to encourage the BoS to move forward with the passage of an ordinance convening of the RTF and to extend the deadline for applications as necessary, seconded by VP Jung.

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

6 Yays 0 Nays 0 Abstain

Motion passes

Public Comment

David Pilpel asked if it is possible to post the op-ed piece on the website.

Jen Tse commented on outreach.

Lauren Girardin gave background information on the 2011 applicants.

Two of the three members of the public urged the commission to reach out to the BoS to encourage the introduction of this ordinance.

President Bernholz asked the commission if anyone would like to join the BOPEC sub-committee. Commissioner Chappell volunteered. BOPEC now consists of three members, President Bernholz, Commissioner Donaldson, and now Commissioner Chappell.

Commissioner Mogi offered to reach out to President Walton, BoS and the Clerk of the BoS.

7. Commissioners' Reports

VP Jung and President Bernholz have made efforts to reach representatives of the Association of Ramaytush Ohlone (ARO), the American Indian Cultural District, and Stanford Professor Michael Wilcox. VP Jung was informed the ARO is reconsidering its approach and the process is on pause for now. Commissioner Mogi is working on getting an op-ed piece published regarding the RTF.

Public Comment

Brent Turner commented on a recently issued directive asking Governor Gavin Newsom to move to open source systems.

8. Director's Report

The consultant Q2 Data Research has been selected as a consultant for the Redistricting Task Force, the same consulting firm as in 2011-12.

The commission also discussed the upcoming recalls.

Public Comment

None

9. Discussion and possible action regarding items for future agendas

- a) Discussion of recommended candidates from BOPEC
- b) Annual Report
- c) Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

Public Comment

Lauren Girardin asked to consider continuing meetings on a hybrid format by retaining virtual access to these meetings.

Adjournment at 4:59 pm