

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, June 16, 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 Jerdonek joined at 3:04 pm

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

Comment by President Bernholz – Some items on the agenda will be reordered. Item #5 will be postponed to a later date. Item #7 Directors Report will be moved to Item #4 in the interest of efficiency.

2. General Public Comment

Public Comment - None

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve both sets of minutes, May 27, 2020, and May 19, 2021, made by Commissioner Jerdonek, seconded by Commissioner Mogi.

Public Comment

David Pilpel suggested minor edits.

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. (Moved from Item #7) Director's Report

Director Arntz reported elections officials and the Secretary of State expect the Gubernatorial Recall to be held on September 14, 2021 or earlier, pending signature verification on the recall petitions. Commissioners asked questions regarding operational concerns, dates for local elections, and the possibility of consolidating elections. Director Arntz noted that there is not enough time for consolidation of local election measures with the recall date in September. He also explained that funding sources for the recall election come from the State. Deputy City Attorney (DCA) Shen clarified this item is noticed only as a discussion item.

President Bernholz asked Director Arntz about Item 3A, in his report, regarding the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee, its work with Dominion voting systems, and the recommendations being considered. He gave examples of types of disability accessibility options being explored by Dominion to create independent voting.

Commissioner Jerdonek supported having a San Francisco Elections Commission Special Meeting soon. DCA Shen stated that the commission would need to provide at least 72 hours notice before any special meeting. President Bernholz will call a special meeting, on a date to be determined with a strong possibility that it will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2021.

Public Comment

David Pilpel made suggestions on the dates of the special elections and contributing factors to the election.

Jen Tse suggested the Elections Commission not recess for July.

Lauren Girardin also suggested the commission, not recess for July.

5. Redistricting Task Force

Commissioner Donaldson reported a total of 33 applicants for the three seats on the Redistricting Task Force (RTF) and explained that all applicants were invited to speak on their behalf. He also explained the process and ranking system for selection. He observed that the pool of applicants was impressive in terms of enthusiasm, skills, and aggregate diversity of candidates.

Vice President Jung asked if the alternate appointees were listed in order of their rankings. Commissioner Donaldson explained applicants were listed in the order in which the applications were received.

The three applicants recommended by the BOPEC were allowed to state why they feel they are a good fit for the RTF seat and to answer commissioners' questions if any.

DCA Shen reported the Board of Supervisors (BoS) introduced the ordinance convening the task force a couple of weeks ago. The BoS approved it on its first reading yesterday, and the BoS would likely approve this coming Tuesday, and then the Mayor would need to sign. He then clarified that the commission does not need to name alternates, and could focus on its three appointees for now.

Commissioner Mogi noted that one-third of San Francisco residents are Asian and Pacific Islanders (API). If the three, top-ranked applicants were appointed, there would not be an appointee for the API community.

This item will be put on the agenda and discussed further at the Special Meeting next week.

Public Comment

David Pilpel expressed his opinion on the qualifications of appointees selected, their knowledge of the City, diversity, and the districts in which they reside.

Jen Tse expressed appreciation for the suggestion made by Commissioner Mogi to include an API candidate.

Lauren Girardin stated being able to cover all attributes could possibly not happen.

Andrew Sun made suggestions on the selection of appointees.

Tiffany Ng spoke in behalf of Chema Hernandez Gil and Jeremy Lee and recommended both for selection to the RTF.

Hoa Long Tam stated he was impressed with the RTF appointment process and thanked the commission for their efforts. Also agreed with Commissioner Mogi's suggestion to include an API appointee.

Jill Shankar recommended Chema Hernandez Gil and Jeremy Lee for appointment to the RTF.

6. Annual Report

Postponed until next month's regular meeting.

Public Comment - None

7. Commissioners' Reports

None

Public Comment - None

8. Discussion and possible action regarding items for future agenda

- 1) Resolution on free, fair, and functional elections
- 2) Selection of RTF appointees deferred to the Special Meeting - Date and time TBD

Public Comment - None

Adjournment at 5.32 pm