

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

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

San Francisco Elections Commission **DRAFT******
Wednesday, June 22, 2021
2:00 p.m.
Remote meeting via WebEx

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.

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

Excused Tardy: Commissioner Donaldson arrived at 2:34 pm during Item #4.

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

2. General Public Comment

Public Comment – None

3. Gubernatorial Recall Election

Director Arntz reported he had not received any updates on the proposed timing of the election.

President Bernholz asked if commissioners had tried to reach out to anyone regarding the proposed date of September 14, 2021. Commissioner Mogi reported speaking briefly to Supervisor Mandleman's Office. Director Arntz reported connecting with Assembly Member Chiu and Senator Weiner on the issue as well as speaking with Manager of, State, and Federal Legislative & Government Affairs Eddie McCaffrey. The Mayor's Office is going to contact the City's Sacramento team regarding the date of the election. All shared that the date was too soon.

President Bernholz drafted a letter on behalf of the commission addressed to Secretary of State Weber, Lieutenant Governor Kounalakis, Senator Scott Wiener, Assembly Member Chiu, and Assembly Member Ting and cc'd the Mayor, Members of the Board of Supervisors, and the Director of Elections. President Bernholz asked commissioners if they agreed with sending the letter or would they rather take another action.

Commissioner Jerdonek suggested adding an introductory paragraph to the beginning of the letter. Commissioner Mogi pointed out the formatting in the header information had warped and caused it not to align correctly. She also asked if the commission could be cc'd.

Vice President Jung moved to authorize President Bernholz to draft, finalize, and submit a letter in substantially the same form as included in the agenda packet. Commissioner Jerdonek seconded the motion.

Public Comment

David Pilpel noted possibly adding the Attorney General and the California Association of Clerks and Election Officials to be cc'd.

Chris Bowman suggested specificity, in the last two paragraphs of the letter, from an operational standpoint having the election on specific days.

MOTION

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

5 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain

Motion passed

4. Appointment to the Redistricting Task Force

Recommendations suggested by the Budget and Oversight of Public Elections Committee (BOPEC) were made to the Elections Commission to consider the slate in its entirety and to represent the San Francisco population. A list of selected candidates was submitted by BOPEC Chair Donaldson and included in this meeting's packet, with ordinal rankings.

DCA Shen explained the next steps after the selection of candidates for Redistricting Task Force seats are selected.

Commissioners who were not in attendance at the BOPEC meeting on June 9, 2021, expressed their observations on candidates after viewing the WebEx recording of the meeting. They expressed how difficult the selections process was due to the high quality and diversity of the candidates. Commissioners made suggestions to change the initial choices to encompass as many areas of diversity as possible.

Commissioner Donaldson joined the meeting at 2:34pm during this item.

After discussion, Commissioner Mogi motioned to select Raynell Cooper, Ditka Reiner, and Chasel Lee for the RTF. DCA Shen suggested adding an amendment to the motion, that the Commission's selection are subject to the Mayor's approval of the ordinance. Commissioner Mogi amended the motion to include "subject to the approval of the ordinance by the Mayor of San Francisco." VP Jung seconded the motion.

DCA Shen asked for clarification if the commission would like to forward the list of top 12 alternate appointees of all applications to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors. President Bernholz stated a short letter would be included commenting on the quality of applications. DCA Shen stated a motion is not needed on this item. Commissioner Jerdonek stated the letter should include the diversity in districts for the three top candidates.

Vice President Jung proposed a resolution we as a commission observe and condemn the rise of anti-immigrant and anti-Asian hatred in our country. We specifically observe that in the course of selecting members of the Redistricting Task Force, the derogatory term "illegal" was apparently used by a member of the public to disparage one of our candidates. This commission unequivocally condemns the use of this hateful language as it dehumanizes immigrants and misleadingly connotes criminality. We observe that acts are illegal and people are not.

President Bernholz motioned to adopt the resolution as proposed by President Jung. Commissioner Donaldson the motion. Publishing the resolution on the website and broadcast through communication channels was suggested.

Public Comment

Anonymous caller supported Commissioner Mogi's suggestion to have Asian Pacific Islander (API) representation on the RTF.

David Pilpel agreed with the selection of the three RTF candidates.

Hoa Long Tam brought out that a derogatory remark was made in response to Commissioner Donaldson's' comment during the meeting. This language has no

place in the City and especially not on a commission like this one. Also brought out there should be representation for the API population in the City.

Lauren Girardin asked if thus far there are lessons learned in the process.

Anonymous caller from District 6, self-identified as a Filipino American, expressed support in the inclusion of representation of API population.

Jose Chema Hernandez Gil also commented on the derogatory remark made by a member of the public. He mentioned the passing of Proposition C, which allows non-citizens to join task forces or committees.

Cynthia Wang, a District 4 resident, a parent, business owner, and a Chinese American. Strongly recommended having a RTF seat filled by the members of the API population.

Chasel Lee thanked the committee for considering their application. Thanked Commissioner Mogi for the suggestion to have API representation.

Jen Tse felt the slate lacked LGBTQ representation.

MOTION

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

6 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passed

Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 3:18 pm