

Elections Commission
City & County of San Francisco

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



John Arntz, Director of Elections
Martha Delgadillo, Secretary

MEETING MINUTES

San Francisco Elections Commission
Wednesday, November 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 Lucy Bernholz, Vice President Charles Jung, Commissioners: Chris Jerdonek, and Viva Mogi

Absent: Commissioner Becca Chappell

Also present: Director of Elections John Arntz, Deputy City Attorney Ana Flores, and Secretary Martha Delgadillo

2. General Public Comment

David Pilpel commented on upcoming elections, and asked if a Budget & Oversight of Public Elections Committee (BOPEC) meeting would be necessary.

Brent Turner commented on the newspaper articles regarding the Department of Elections. President Bernholz requested clarification from Deputy City Attorney (DCA) Flores to ask if responding to the comments on the articles was a topic that could be discussed. DCA Flores confirmed that the articles could be addressed during other items on the agenda.

3. Resolution on Continuation of Remote Elections Commission Meetings

Vice President (VP) Jung clarified the inclusion of BOPEC in the San Francisco Elections Commission criteria for remote meetings, so it is not necessary to include the resolution during their meeting also.

Public Comment

David Pilpel suggested perhaps moving this item up on the agenda.

Motion to adopt the resolution was made by VP Jung. Seconded by Commissioner Mogi.

MOTION

President Bernholz

Yes

Vice President Jung	Yes
Commissioner Jerdonek	Yes
Commissioner Mogi	Yes

4 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Commissioner Jerdonek moved to approve the October 20, 2021, meeting minutes. Commissioner Mogi seconded.

Public Comment

David Pilpel made minor edit suggestions.

MOTION

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

4 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

5. Open Source Voting

Attachments included on the website are the proposed resolution and email from Brandon Phillips, a letter from President Walton, Board of Supervisors (BoS) Legislation request comments, and a letter from Dr. Shirley Weber, California Secretary of State (SoS).

Commissioner Jerdonek reported the SoS replied to the letter from BoS President Walton and Supervisor David Canepa, and outlined items needed to move forward with an Open Source Voting (OSV) pilot program.

Commissioner Jerdonek stated that President Walton made a request for OSV legislation to the City Attorney's Office at the BoS meeting on November 16, 2021. Director Arntz reported the contract template was sent to VotingWorks.

Commissioner Mogi asked questions about the pilot programs' bidding process and whether it would apply to the OSV pilot program. DCA Flores and Director Arntz responded.

VP Jung commented on the SoS letter and on necessary procedures and next steps. Commissioner Jerdonek stated that only preliminary steps would be taken without a guarantee that the process will be done before the November 2022 election. The Commission discussed Commissioner Jerdonek's OSV draft resolution and edits were suggested.

President Bernholz moved to approve the resolution presented by Commissioner Jerdonek, as amended. Seconded by Commissioner Mogi.

Public Comment

- Alec Bash spoke in support of the resolution.
- Jim Soper expressed support.
- Judith Reese, self-identified as a voter in San Francisco, and expressed a desire for more information on the issue.
- Brent Turner expressed support on this issue and feels that it should be expedited.
- Trent Lange, President of the California Clean Money Campaign, expressed support.
- Matt Roe, VotingWorks, explained the process in other California counties.

MOTION

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

4 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain

Motion passes

6. Remote Ballot Completion and Submission for People with Access and Functional Needs Project

Director Arntz spoke on the timeline and sequence of activities and stated that the project is not to develop blockchain voting. Director Arntz described other actions taken for this project and the reason for the project.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked questions regarding the Request for Proposal's (RFP) for the project and expressed his opinion about it. Commissioner Jerdonek expressed his desire to gather more information on the project. DCA Flores suggested inviting people from other departments involved in this matter to discuss the RFP and suggested the Commission hold a fact-finding hearing before asking the BoS to hold a hearing on this issue.

VP Jung moved to authorize President Bernholz to draft a letter to the BoS, outlining the concerns reflected in Commissioner Jerdonek's memo, and recommended a hearing or an investigation take place. VP Jung added that the Commission would urge the BoS to stop the execution of any contract immediately, and that Commissioner Jerdonek would contact President Walton's staff. Seconded by Commissioner Jerdonek.

Public Comment

- Brent Turner expressed that there are people using funding unwisely.
- Mr. Jefferson commented on proposals to move forward with enabling disabled voters, except internet voting.
- Barbara Simons stated that there is research showing that internet voting is insecure and suggested bringing in cyber security experts.
- Trent Lange suggested that the motion include the delay of the contract, and perhaps in addition have an Elections Commission meeting.

- Jim Soper stated that the BoS should not approve a contract until necessary hearings have happened.

MOTION

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

4 Yays Nay 0 Abstain 0
Motion passes

7. Commissioners' Reports

None.

Public Comment

None.

8. Director's Report

Director Arntz mentioned the Ballot Simplification Committee meetings, and gave information as to when their meetings will occur.

Commissioner Jerdonek asked Director Arntz about the use of video cameras. Director Arntz explained that they are used for monitoring the ballot processing.

President Bernholz asked about VotingWorks costs to the City for a pilot project.

Discussion ensued on elections plans for upcoming recall elections. The recent Controller's Office audit report was discussed.

Public Comment

None.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding items for future agendas

- a) Election Plans and waivers for upcoming elections
- b) Remote Ballot Completion and Submission for People with Access and Functional Needs Project will require a special meeting
- c) Annual performance review for the Director of Elections
- d) Election of new commission officers
- e) Commission Annual Report

Public Comment

None

Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm