

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,
December 15, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Remote meeting via WebEx

Order of Business

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 3:04 p.m.

Present: President Lucy Bernholz, Vice President Charles Jung, Commissioner Becca Chappell, Commissioners: Chris Jerdonek, and Viva Mogi

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

2. Resolution on Continuation of Remote Elections Commission Meetings

President Bernholz noted due to the status of COVID, in person meetings are not allowed to date. Motion to adopt the resolution was made by Vice President (VP) Jung. Seconded by Commissioner Chappell.

Public Comment

None.

MOTION

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

5 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

3. General Public Comment

David Pilpel commented on the November 17, 2021 meeting minutes needing minor edits.

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Motion to approve the meeting minutes for the November 17, 2021 meeting made by VP Jung. Seconded by Commissioner Mogi.

Public Comment

None.

MOTION

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

5 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

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

A Request For Proposal (RFP) was issued on April 2021.

Guests in Attendance: Francis Zamora, Chief of Staff of Department of Emergency Management; Craig Dziedzic, General Manager of Bay Area UASI; Linda Gerull, Director of the Department of Technology; and Deborah Kaplan, Mayor’s Office on Disability.

A statement about the Remote Ballots Project from the Department of Emergency Management and the Bay Area UASI Management Team was included in the agenda packet. The Commission discussed the project and the statement with the four guests. The project was changed not to include the design and development of any new technology, which is the part that contained the references to internet voting that the Commission was concerned about. The April 2021 RFP would be canceled, and equipment purchases would be made instead that are acceptable under current election regulations. Director Gerull also stated in response to a question that the identity and access management project would not continue in the future as a San Francisco only project either.

Public Comment

Jim Soper, Barbara Simons, and Mr. Jefferson expressed concern about the project and internet voting.

Brent Turner stated that open source voting has a record of accomplishment of resistance.

6. Election Plan

Director Arntz discussed the election plan and responded to questions from the Commission regarding drop box locations, translation services, costs/funding for security, supplies, polling places, and poll worker recruitment challenges due to COVID-19.

Commissioner Jerdonek moved to approve the Election Plan. Seconded by Commissioner Chappell.

Public Comment

None.

MOTION

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

5 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

7. Employee Waiver

Commissioner Mogi asked for the dates of upcoming elections for which the waiver was presented today. Elections dates are February 15, potential April 19, and June 7, 2022.

Motion to approve the employee waiver for the next three elections was made by Commissioner Chappell. Seconded by Commissioner Mogi.

MOTION

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

5 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

Public Comment

None.

8. Open Source Voting

An Open Source Voting (OSV) Pilot Ordinance was introduced by President Walton at the December 14, 2021 Board of Supervisors (BoS) meeting. Commissioner Jerdonek submitted a new resolution for today’s meeting in support of the Ordinance. Deputy City Attorney (DCA) Flores suggested changes to the resolution.

Director Arntz reported VotingWorks sent a draft of use procedures.

Public Comment

Brent Turner provided information on efforts initiated on OSV.

Motion made by Commissioner Mogi in support of the resolution as drafted by Commissioner Jerdonek in support of the BoS OSV Ordinance, with amendments suggested by DCA Flores. Seconded by Commissioner Chappell.

MOTION

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

5 Yays 0 Nay 0 Abstain
Motion passes

9. Annual Performance Evaluation of Director of Elections

President Bernholz stated that the Materials for the 2020/2021 performance evaluation will be reviewed at the January 19, 2022 meeting, and the evaluation would take place on February 16, 2022.

Public Comment

Brent Turner suggested the elections commission invite representatives from Dominion to discuss derogatory statements made by Steve Bennett in newspaper articles.

10. Commissioners’ Reports

President Bernholz mentioned the University of California at Berkeley had initiated a study commission on voting technologies and persons with disabilities.

Public Comment

None.

11. Director's Report

None

Public Comment

None.

12. Discussion and possible action regarding items for future agendas

The Commission discussed whether to invite Steven Bennett, a sales representative of Dominion Voting Systems, to a future meeting. Mr. Bennett was quoted in a November 14, 2021 San Francisco Examiner article as telling the Examiner, "The Elections Commission doesn't know anything about California elections," and "Most people in San Francisco don't care about voting." President Bernholz will meet with the City Attorney's Office and Director Arntz to discuss how to best proceed with this matter.

- a) Director Arntz Performance Evaluation

Public Comment

Brent Turner suggested that Director Arntz have a conversation with the sales representative who was quoted in the article as making derogatory remarks.

David Pilpel suggested allowing the sales representative to explain what was said in the article.

13. Meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm