



San Francisco International Airport

SAN FRANCISCO AIRPORT COMMISSION

Special Advisory Committee to Consider and Recommend Action on the Nomination of Edwin M. Lee for Naming or Dedication at the San Francisco International Airport

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 13, 2019

9:00 AM

Room 400 - City Hall
#1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
(400 Van Ness Avenue)
City and County of San Francisco

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Larry Mazzola (Chair), Linda S. Crayton, Anni Chung,
Melinda Yee Franklin, Eleanor Johns, John L. Martin, Anthony Ribera,
Peter A. Stern, and Candace Sue

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**SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, May 13, 2019**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Larry Mazzola, Airport Commission President and Chair the Special Advisory Committee called the meeting to order at approximately 9 AM.

Committee Chairman Larry Mazzola said so this the fifth meeting of the Special Advisory Committee to name or dedicate something for ex-mayor, Ed Lee. We are at May 13, 2019 and I want to welcome everybody here for this meeting. I think we have a resolution that meets everybody's approval. We will be discussing it though to see we're all on the same page. I want to thank the public whose out here and I also want to thank the Committee Members again for their time. So Corina, can you call the roll.

2. ROLL CALL

Present:

Larry Mazzola
Anni Chung
Linda Crayton
Melinda Franklin
Eleanor Johns
John Martin
Anthony Ribera
Peter Stern
Candace Sue

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES Meeting of February 22, 2019.

The February 22, 2019 minutes were adopted unanimously.

4. PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION TO THE AIRPORT COMMISSION (Discussion and Possible Action)

Resolution recommending that the San Francisco Airport Commission:

- Dedicate the International Terminal Departures Hall for Edwin M. Lee, and that the signage on the wood-paneled wall on the Departures Lobby reads as follows (all letters to be the same size):

Mayor Edwin M. Lee International Terminal
Departures Hall

- Direct Staff to work with the San Francisco Art Commission in commissioning a statue to honor Mayor Lee, to be funded from the Art Enrichment Funds; and
- Approve funding for a bas-relief plaque, similar to those in place now at the Airport, to honor Mayor Lee; and
- Direct Staff to provide a video link, under the bas-relief plaque, to allow passengers to connect to a video on Mayor Lee's life that might be prepared and funded by private organizations including the coalition of Asian Pacific American organizations that spearheaded the Edwin M. Lee nomination; and
- that a large photo of Mayor Lee be placed underneath the wood-paneled sign that will remain in place until the bar-relief plaque is installed.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said okay, Thank you. Committee Members, you have the resolution before you and I think we need to discuss it. If you want to discuss it, anybody, you have any questions about it or. Why don't we get and put it on the floor, why don't we have a motion to put it on before the Committee.

Mr. John Martin made a motion that was seconded by **Mr. Tony Ribera**. The Committee voted unanimously to discuss the item.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said okay, I think this is a good compromise. We've had five meetings. It's kind of a long process but, I think it was a good process. We were able to go out, to actually go out to the Airport and look at different venues out there, different places out there, and I think we come up with a good compromise here. Everybody should be happy I hope. And it's something that I'm very proud of this committee to do for a great man, Ed Lee. I think we all feel the same way about that. So we have this before us on the floor here. Is there any discussion at all on the resolution? Do we understand what it is, does everybody understand what it is? We have a couple of speakers, so maybe we will call on them. So we have Walter Wong.

Mr. Walter Wong said I'm reading a message from Anita, Tania, and Brianna. On behalf of Lee family, we thank you this special naming committee for considering renaming the Airport in memory Ed Lee. We are honored and humbled to witness the groundswell of community support. My father dedicated so much his life to San Francisco. He loved this City and built long lasting international friendship around the world. Our families are moving by this petition to honor his life and legacy naming Edward M. Lee International Terminal. Thank you so much for Committee for all incredible work push forward. Thank you, you again for committee making this recommendation to the Airport Commission consideration. Thank you.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said okay thank you very much for those comments. I think you said that was from the Lee family? You were reading from the Lee family, thank you and thank the Lee family for us too. Thank you very much. Okay the next speaker is Goretta Lui.

Ms. Goretti Lui Commissioner of War Memorial said Good Morning, Commissioners, and the Special Naming Committee. I'm reading a letter on behalf of retired Judge Julie Tang whose also co-chair of the "Comfort Women" Justice Coalition. Dear Ms. Chung, and this letter is for, he wrote it to Anni and members of the special Naming Committee. We are writing to support the resolution to rename the International Terminal Departures Hall for the late Mayor Edwin M. Lee. Mayor Lee was a great mayor who provided leadership in many ways, we will forever remember him for his leadership in supporting the "Comfort Women" memorial in San Francisco. He wrote on October 29, 2016 ia letter supporting the Comfort Women memorial and I quote, "As the first Asian American Mayor of San Francisco, I fully support the recognition that "comfort women" were wrongfully exploited in Asia during World War II. Many "comfort women" are no longer with us but hundreds across Asia, Asians are still survivors. This memorial will be a reminder of the need to increase awareness of modern day human trafficking and San Francisco is leading in this effort to address this global issue that denigrates women and girls. San Francisco is an International City that promotes human rights for everyone. So it is most befitting that the International Terminal of the San Francisco Airport be named after a man who promoted human rights for everyone, especially victims of human trafficking exemplified by the hundreds of thousands of women and girls, euphemistically called "comfort women" who were sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces in World War II. We need to honor Mayor Lee for his courage, vision, and leadership in making San Francisco truly an international city that promotes human rights. We not only support dedicating the International Terminal Departures Hall for Mayor Lee, but we also fully support the commission of a statute in honor of Mayor Lee. Sincerely, Judge Julie Tang, Co-chair, "Comfort Women" Justice Coalition.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said okay thank you very much for reading that. Okay Bruce Agid.

Mr. Bruce Agid said Good Morning. I'm a Mission Bay resident and the President of the Eastern Neighborhood's Democratic Club. I'm speaking again today in support of the resolution before you to honor Mayor Ed Lee at the International Terminal at SFO. As I mentioned before, Mayor Lee accomplished so much on behalf of the City of San Francisco not only what he accomplished but how. Through a leadership approach of collaboration and consensus building and with little fanfare, he methodically addressed the issues and challenges of the day and laid down the foundation of much future success. I think the recommendation in front of you today is so fitting, it finds the right balance honoring Mayor Lee by displaying prominent signage, a statute and plaque while addressing the concerns mentioned in previous committee meetings. I've also reviewed this recommendation with several organizations who wrote letters of support which were submitted at the last meeting back in February. They asked me to share with you that they too are in support of the resolution in front of you today. These organizations are the United Democratic Club, the Willie B. Kennedy Democratic

Club, the Westside Democratic Club, San Francisco Housing Action Coalition, and Joe Koppel as a Director from the San Francisco Electrical Construction industry. Thank you.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said thank you very much for your comments and announced Thomas Wong.

Mr. Thomas Wong said Good Morning esteemed Committee Members. I've been a life, a long-time supporter of Self-Help for the Elderly. And I would like to express my support for the resolution for which is the dedicating the International Departures Hall for Edwin M. Lee along with commissioning a statue and along with the funding for providing a plaque for Mayor Lee as well. He was a champion of the people of San Francisco and a dedication. It would be a lasting memory of his legacy. I actually have a group of Self-Help people who are here. They're actually trying to get up here but they're like, because of traffic and they have actually been here since the beginning to support this resolution. And I'm hoping that you would take this into consideration and make this dream a reality. Thank you.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said thank you for your comments and announced James Wong, can't read it good. If I said it wrong, please state your name.

Mr. James Wong said Good Morning Chair, Committee Members. I'm the Director of Housing at Self Help for the Elderly. Mayor Ed Lee had visited our seniors who live at the Lady Shores Senior Center many times. Every Thanksgiving, Mayor Ed Lee and Mrs. Lee would attend our annual Thanksgiving lunch at the Lady Shores Senior Center and served meals to over 3,000 seniors. Our seniors love Mayor and would take a lot of pictures with him and Mrs. Lee during their visits. Some of them are here this morning with me to support the dedication of the International Terminal Departures Hall after Mayor Ed Lee. We also support the proposal to put up the statue of the Mayor at the San Francisco Airport as a tribute of Mayor Lee. When all of this is done, we would take, many of us seniors at Lady Shores to the Airport to attend the dedications ceremony and to celebrate his many accomplishments as Mayor of San Francisco. Please approve the proposed resolution. Thank you.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said okay thank you for your comments. Alright that's all of the request for speakers I have so it's back to the committee.

Ms. Candace Sue said Commissioner Mazzola, I have a comment. So first of all, I want to just say that I think is a very good solution. I'm really pleased that it's all on one floor and it really provides the opportunity to honor Mayor Lee in this way. And I also want to commend a fellow, City department, SFO for the process you have undertaken to do this work. I think it has been a long, very thorough process and its had a really important result of involving community members in the way it has. And then I also want to say I have been honored to be a part of the process but, what I haven't said as

being part of this Special Committee, is how important this work is to me and my family and what we represent. So I belong to descendants of the Lee, no relation, and Sue families who have been in Chinatown since before the turn of the century. And I think my great aunties and uncles who came to this country for a better life and have served it as herbalists, and accountants, and dentists, and business people, and government employees, and the like would have never believed perhaps, way back when that there would have been a Chinese Mayor for this City. And I think back to how important that is and how important and special to those who still survive or who's still living to have been able to cast a vote for Mayor Lee in their lifetime. And I just think that, that being part of this process has been so important to be able to represent and to see that a member of the Chinese community who came here for a better life who isn't, who came as a family member of immigrants could rise to be Mayor of this city. And so to all of those who's part of the Chinese diaspora in this city and to all those who will come through the Airport in the future, I think this has been a great honor. And I think a great process.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said thank you. And we thank you for being on the committee. Thank you very much. We know you have a busy schedule and we appreciate you coming to these meetings.

Ms. Anni Chung said thank you Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee, and Commissioners. So on behalf of our community, we really want to thank you for bringing us to this resolution. I want to especially thank Mr. John Martin and Ivar and Judi, and Corina and the team for being very patient and also working with our community to arrive at the position that both the Lee family and our original committee chairs, many of them are here today and our seniors, and all of those 22,000 people that signed the petition for Mayor Ed Lee. We think that this is something that we will all honor Ed in a very, very special way whenever we travel to SFO and see his picture, his plaque and later on his statue and to have the Lee family and all of our community to be at the dedication ceremony. Thank you very much Larry for supporting this and thank you, every one of you for supporting our efforts.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said thank you too, thank you also for being on the committee.

Ms. Eleanor Johns said so I just would like to thank my committee members, Anni Chung and John Martin and President Mazzola. I think this process has been excellent. I think that our tour of the terminal, having the departments at the Airport give us some of these sketches and then the talking that we have been able to come to a consensus today where we have heard speakers from the community and from our fellow committee members. I just think the process has been an excellent one. And I would love to thank all of you for your input and for coming to such a successful conclusion. Thank you so much.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said thank you Eleanor.

Ms. Melinda Franklin said I just want to echo what everyone is saying. It's a day of pride for all of us, and the Chinese American community and the business community, the Airport community. It's something that's very important to a lot of us for a lot of different reasons and to be able to reach a compromising, going through a thorough process has been quite invigorating and heartfelt. So to my fellow Commissioners, congratulations to the community. We're looking forward to the unveiling and looking forward to spending time with the Lee family truly to honor Mayor Ed Lee. Thank you.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said thank you very much. Thank you for also being a committee member.

Ms. Linda Crayton said I wanted to just say to the Special Advisory Committee, to all of the members who are sitting in the audience, to the leadership of this committee, to Ivar and to John and to all of those that sit here on the platform, to work out this particular issue here. It just shows you San Francisco is a melting pot not only LGBT community, the Asian American community, the Black community, just a regular Americans who work around, the Italians. We embrace everybody in San Francisco but what's more important is that we can get along together and come to a compromise. And I applaud the leadership for coming together with this resolution that not only makes people proud of their heritage, but to stand up and say I am counted along with the others whether I'm an elected official or just an ordinary citizen that votes. So everybody means something to everybody and I'm so grateful that this important decision could be made whereas everyone walks away with their head held high and we move forward as a united San Francisco. Thank you very much to the leadership team.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said thank you.

Mr. John Martin said I just wanted to say I think this is very much a fitting honor for Mayor Lee. And I think he would have appreciated the process, Commissioner Mazzola's leadership, Anni Chung's leadership of the community, and the fact that we all came together unanimously. I think that's what Mayor Lee always look for and why he led the City. So I think he would be proud of this outcome and what we have done.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said thank you.

Mr. Anthony Ribera said I concur with what everybody had said. I met Mayor Lee in 1992 when I was appointed Chief of Police. He was always open, he was always a great administrator, and he was always very kind. And I think about our last meeting with him, he wanted to discuss the selection process for the new Chief of Police. Chief Scott, our current chief. And it just, I was so impressed that he was so well informed

conscientious, but most importantly so kind. It was a great meeting and when I left, it was just felt really, really good. And I think the conclusion of appointing Chief Scott was a great thing for the City also. So it just adds to Ed's legacy. So I'm just proud to be a part of this committee. And I thank President Mazzola for putting me on this committee. Thank you.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said thank you very much for your attendance and being on the committee. Anybody else care to speak? Okay I want to be sure to thank John Martin. John Martin was the lead behind this resolution. He kind of, he attended all of our meetings. He heard what we all said, he could figure out who kind of wanted what, and he was able to put a resolution together that fit all of our needs. So I want to thank you very much John for doing that. Also I want to thank the Airport staff and Judi for all the renderings that you guys produced out of your office. It's like almost being at the Airport you know. Okay so this resolution, we just voted to put the resolution before us. Now we have to vote to adopt the resolution to recommend it to the full Commission. So we need a motion for that.

Ms. Linda Crayton made the motion to vote and the motion was seconded by **Ms. Eleanor Johns**.

Ms. Monzón, called for the vote:

Larry Mazzola - yes
Anni Chung - yes
Linda Crayton - yes
Melinda Franklin - yes
Eleanor Johns - yes
John Martin - yes
Anthony Ribera - yes
Peter Stern - yes
Candace Sue - yes

The motion was adopted unanimously.

Committee Chairman Mazzola said okay our next step this will be put before the full Commission on the June 4th meeting of the Commission. So that'll be the official thing. Okay we also want to thank everybody among the committee for all of your hard work. And doing so, we have a little something to remember this committee by. A little goodie bag from the Airport. Corina will pass those out.

Mr. Mazzola further stated I think that concludes our work here and once again, I want to thank everybody very much for your attendance and your hard work and we know you're all busy and you took time out to do this. We appreciate it. We stand adjourned.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 AM.

(Original signed by: Corina Monzón)
C. Corina Monzón
Airport Commission Secretary

NOTE: Since this was the last meeting of the Special Advisory Committee these minutes were never formerly adopted.

A message from Anita, Tania and Briana Lee:

On behalf of the Lee family, we thank this special naming committee for considering this renaming effort in memory of Ed Lee.

We are honored and humbled to witness the groundswell of community support.

My father dedicated so much of his life to San Francisco. He loved this city and built long lasting international friendships around the world.

Our family is so moved by the petition to honor his life and legacy in naming the Edwin M. Lee International Terminal. Thank you so much to the community for all of your incredible work to push this forward.

Thank you again to the committee for making this recommendation to the Airport Commission for consideration.



May 9, 2019

Dear Ms. Chung and members of the special Renaming Committee:

We are writing to support the Resolution to rename the International Terminal Departures Hall for the late Mayor Edwin M. Lee.

Mayor Lee was a great mayor who provided leadership in many areas, but we will forever remember him for his leadership in supporting the "comfort women" memorial in San Francisco.

He wrote on October 29, 2016 in a letter supporting the "Comfort Women" memorial, and I quote, **"....As the first Asian American Mayor of SF, I fully support the recognition that "comfort women" were wrongfully exploited in Asia during World War II. Many "comfort women" are no longer with us but hundreds across Asia are still survivors. This memorial will be a reminder of the need to increase awareness of modern day human trafficking, and San Francisco is leading in this effort to address this global issue that denigrates women and girls. San Francisco is an International City that promotes human rights for everyone....."**

It is most befitting that the International Terminal of the San Francisco Airport be named after a man who promoted human rights for everyone, especially victims of human trafficking exemplified by the hundreds of thousands of women and girls, euphemistically called "comfort women" who were sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces in WW2. We need to honor Mayor Lee for his courage, vision, and leadership in making San Francisco truly an international city that promotes human rights.

We not only support dedicating the International Terminal Departure Hall for Mayor Lee but we also fully support the commission of a statute in honor of Mayor Lee.

Sincerely,

Judge Julie Tang, ret.
Co chair, "Comfort Women" Justice Coalition