



**MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 22, 2016 MEETING**

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
City Hall, Room 416  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice President Matt Stiker called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present:  
Marlene Sharon Saritzky  
Mark Fishkin  
Melanie Blum  
Matt Stiker  
Jonathan Moscone  
Jim Beaumonte  
Belle Taylor-McGhee

Commissioners Excused:

Villy Wang  
Peter Bratt  
Jon Rubin  
Denise Bradley-Tyson

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DATE MEETING (ACTION ITEM)**

Vice President Stiker asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Blum made the motion and Commissioner Fishkin seconded the motion. Vice President Stiker asked for comments and none were given. The minutes were approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT (DISCUSSION ONLY)**

Vice President Stiker began by stating that President Wang, as stated in the last meeting, could not be here today so he is facilitating meeting and giving the report.

A new Doodle poll was sent out with a new date for the Film Commission retreat – the last date proposed was only available to 9 out of the 11 total Commissioners. Vice President Stiker asked for the Commissioners to submit availabilities as soon as possible on the new poll.

Vice President Stiker shared with the Commission a report he found while researching in preparation for the



Commission Retreat. It is called “The Media and Entertainment Industry in NYC: Trends and Recommendations for the Future” (<http://www.nyc.gov/html/film/downloads/pdf/bcg-report-10.15.pdf>) created by the Boston Consulting Group for New York City which can be found on their website (<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/mome/index.page>). He feels that this report has some useful information regarding trends in the industry that are applicable to San Francisco and encourages everyone to read it before the retreat. Vice President Stiker ends his report and asks for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Fishkin asked if there will be a report from the facilitator of the retreat in regards to the pre-retreat interviews they each had with him.

Vice President Stiker answered that there could be and if there is, it can be shared.

Commissioner Blum asked if it can be sent to everyone and Vice President Stiker confirmed that it can. We can try to send it before the next Commission meeting.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (DISCUSSION ONLY)**

Executive Director Susannah Robbins began her report by giving an update on the number of recent film permits and notable productions which have shot in San Francisco. This past month the office had 53 permits with 131 shoot days and \$23,450 in permit fees. Last year at the same time, there were 41 permits with 81 shoot days and \$16,350 in permit fees. That is a 24% increase in projects; 61 % increase in Shooting Days and 43% increase in permit fees since this time last year. Notable productions have been 2 episodes of *Chance*, shooting for a total of 27 days and Netflix’s *GirlBoss*, which shot 20 days, wrapping last Friday morning after an overnight shoot in the Haight.

Executive Director Robbins then gave an update on the current Hulu production, *Chance* and Netflix’s *GirlBoss* which recently filmed in the City. *Chance* is currently shooting episode 7 out of 10 episodes in all. We expect them to film through October 12th. She’s currently looking for stage space next year and might have one prospect, but is waiting to hear back from the City Real Estate Department to find out more about the status of the space.

In an email sent to the Director today from the UPM of *Chance*, Ms. Kathleen Courtney, it seems that the producers have found San Francisco extremely difficult and expensive. They think the Commission should know that it’s more difficult than anytime in San Francisco history to shoot here - not to mention the politics involved. There is a constant city-wide hotel room shortage, rental cars, etc. The cost of everything has been inflated due to the tech businesses taking away a tremendous amount of parking, storage, office space, etc. They are reconsidering basing in San Francisco for season 2. Like many businesses in San Francisco, they have found it to be expensive. The hope is that creatively, they will continue to stay here and that the rebate will continue to be a good incentive. The Executive Director will set up a meeting to hear more specifically about their challenges and how the office can help.

*GirlBoss* just wrapped filming last Friday, shooting for 20 days in San Francisco. They filmed at Dolores Park, the Mission, heavily in the Haight (at various thrift stores and also where the main character’s apartment was), the Castro Theater, Telegraph Hill, Russian Hill, and North Beach.

During the shoot in Telegraph Hill (near Coit Tower, which was a late night shoot) a Ms. Patricia Shean of the Telegraph Hill neighborhood called to compliment *GirlBoss* and our office on doing a great job. She singled out Laura Wagner from the production who had been in communication with her during the process. She also congratulated the office on having so many shoots in San Francisco as she ran into *Chance* when heading over to the dentist. She’s a longtime resident of the City and in general had really nice things to say about the production.

Executive Director Robbins concluded her report by giving an update on upcoming productions. An Amazon production will be shooting in San Francisco for 6 or 7 days starting around September 28<sup>th</sup>. The show is called “*Budding Prospects*” – based on the TC Boyle novel, about a guy who plans to grow rich by illegally growing pot

(the main character lives in San Francisco). Kat Landsberg, one of the producers from HBO's *Looking*, is the producer of this project.

Vice President Stiker asked for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Blum asked if the Mayor's Office has been, and is usually, notified about challenges faced by productions. Executive Director Robbins stated that she normally brings this up to Mr. Todd Rufo, head of the Office of Economic and Workforce Development, but not usually to the Mayor directly. She asked Commissioner Blum if she should follow up with the Mayor. Commissioner Blum responded that the problems brought up by the producers of *Chance* are issues faced by other industries trying to work in the City and we can add TV and Film as another industry hurt by the problems faced by the City.

A discussion ensued amongst the Commission about the issues faced by film productions and other businesses in San Francisco.

Vice President Stiker asked if there is a forum or platform where the Film Commission can meet with the Mayor directly to discuss these issues. Executive Director Robbins stated that when she needs to speak with him, she just connects directly and he is responsive but she can ask.

Commissioner Fishkin asked if we can meet with other Commissions that face similar problems, for example Small Business. Commissioner Blum agreed that this would be helpful.

Commissioner Beaumonte asked if this would be something we can talk about at the retreat which goes back to the Mayor. The Commission agreed that this should be a topic during the retreat.

Commissioner Fishkin suggested that we keep a record of quotes for the future so we can have comments made about the office for future use.

Commissioner Taylor-McGhee stated that there is a group of people involved in businesses within the City that meets with the Mayor every month, maybe this could be an opportunity for film productions to be a part of the discussion. Vice President Stiker agreed and stated that the Mayor is probably already aware of the issues faced by people and companies that want to work in San Francisco but it would be good to figure out a forum for us to be included. Executive Director Robbins added that Mr. Todd Rufo gets regular meeting with the Mayor as well and this could again be another opportunity to let the Mayor know.

Vice President Stiker asked if there are any negative financial implications if *Chance* wraps out earlier than the date stated in their contract. Executive Director Robbins answered no.

Commissioner Beaumonte commented that in response to some of the issues the producers brought up, sometime the problems faced are due to their need to re-schedule a shoot or re-write and it's hard to accommodate these changes. The Commission agreed. Executive Director Robbins stated that our office has worked really hard to accommodate and solve issues when they arise.

#### **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT (DISCUSSION ONLY)**

Vice President Stiker asked if there were any additional public comments.

Mr. Frank Simeone, representative for SAG-AFTRA and DGA, agreed with Commissioner Beaumonte's comment and shared that the crews from San Francisco are also doing their best to work with productions here. He went on to report that the DGA again couldn't get a quorum for an official meeting but they have heard about projects coming to San Francisco. They are also looking into getting a foothold in Silicon Valley.

The productions in the City employed 1,056 background union members and over 40 principle union actors in the last 30 days. Everyone is working and staying busy – happy actors on *Chance* and *GirlBoss*. He spoke with a casting director who said they are having a hard time finding actors of color so the union is working on that.

Executive Director Robbins asked Mr. Simeone to clarify his comment about Silicon Valley.

Mr. Simeone stated that there are companies in Silicon Valley that have big stages. A lot of the projects they produce are in-house and we want to try and have union workers on these projects as well.

**ADJOURNMENT (ACTION ITEM)**

Vice President Stiker asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm.