

Minutes — Sonoma County Library — Healdsburg Library Advisory Board
Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 5:30 PM — via Zoom Teleconference

1. Call to Order & Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 5:33. Present were LAB Chair Rebecca Simons; LAB members Paul Grill, Carolyn Harrison, Margaret McPeake, and Barbara Rosen; SCL Healdsburg Branch Manager Jon Haupt; SCL Acting Co-Deputy Director Jaime Anderson; Healdsburg Library Commissioner Andy Elkind; Friends of the Healdsburg Library President Tracy Logan; and Healdsburg Mayor Osvaldo Jimenez. The Board welcomed Margaret McPeake as new LAB member as well as Mayor Jimenez and Acting Co-Deputy Director Anderson.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting. The minutes were approved.

3. Public Appearances. There were no public appearances.

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Library Refresh Update. Architects Noll & Tam have started working with staff on the planning phase. Staff have received draft floor plans which are still conceptual and do not represent the scope of the project but will help provide the team with a sense of what could be accomplished. Noll & Tam have now completed a cost plan analysis which will assist the team in determining what might be possible within the roughly \$1.5 million budget. Another meeting coming up next week.

5. Reports

5.1 Library Director's Report. Jaime Anderson offered a report on behalf of Library Administration. September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. Anyone creating a new library card will be entered into a prize drawing this month. Next week is Banned Books Week, which the libraries are paying a lot of attention to this year in particular given the high number of book challenges nationwide. The most challenged book of 2021, Gender Queer, is by a Sonoma County author, Maia Kobabe. The following week, on Thursday, September 29, all libraries will be closed in order to provide a space for SCL All Staff Day, a training day for staff. A new capital campaign is kicking off this fall, with Sonoma County Public Library Foundation, in an effort to ensure that SCL embodies the 21st Century library system. The campaign will begin with fundraising for the new Roseland Library, but fundraising will continue for the other libraries as well, with an eye on the new Facilities Master Plan. The campaign has already received funding through the efforts of the City of Santa Rosa, Marc Levine, Mark McGuire, and most recently, a donation from the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria. These donations help a great deal with the kickoff of this campaign.

5.2 Commissioner's Report. As Chair of the Finance Committee, Andy Elkind has been especially involved in the ongoing financial picture of the library system. Myrna Lopez, SCL's new CFO, has helped ensure a very well-handled end of fiscal year transition. We are on track for audit results to be in before year-end, a big improvement over prior years. Last fiscal year, the Library was very sound financially; revenues were higher than expected, expenses were lower than expected. Two main reasons for that were overestimated benefit costs as well as

major capital work being delayed (the Petaluma Refresh) until the following year. Director Ann Hammond has retired, and the Commission has placed Deputy Director Erika Thibault as Interim Director while an external search is underway. Jaime and Mike are filling in as co-Acting Deputy Directors. The Commission approved a new MOU with the Foundation; it is short and just makes clear what the things are that the Library and the Foundation will do, and how we will coordinate. This MOU will be important in completing the serious capital campaigning we need. Craig will help in spearheading that effort. The new Facilities Master Plan, which was approved at the last meeting, does a great job of assessing future needs. It contains jaw-dropping numbers of what it would take to do all of the capital work needed to transform the library system as desired; the current goals around the Roseland Library will, it is hoped, provide a template for future campaigns. Sunday hours will be coming soon at the Libraries, which will be a welcome expansion of our service model. The Library system is looking at the upcoming need for the public to re-approve the 1/8 of a cent sales tax measure, which will expire in 2026. The Library could possibly seek to place the measure on the ballot early in 2024.

5.3 Branch Manager's Report. SCL's Reimagining Plan features a significant lean toward outreach, particularly to underserved communities. The Healdsburg Library has been getting to know and love our BiblioBike, provided by the Friends of the Healdsburg Library; Charity has been providing Storytimes in the Park most of 2022 and Donna has started bringing the bike to the Farmer's Market. Two weeks ago, Jon and Charity brought the bike out to Giorgi Park for a spur-of-the-moment BiblioBike Pop-Up and provided services and book giveaways to 20-25 people at the park. We are planning to take the bike to other places around town, such as Burbank Housing communities, the Plaza, and area preschools. Healdsburg Staff are looking forward to Día de los Muertos again this year; we will be able to bring the BiblioBus and the BiblioBike, our new outreach vehicles, along with a cadre of staff. We are gearing up for opening on Sundays by working to fill our vacancies, of which we have had three this summer. We have a new Teen Librarian coming soon as well as part-time Specialist and Associate positions.

5.4 Friends' Reports. Tracy Logan offered a report on behalf of the Friends of the Healdsburg Library. The Friends and the Library have been working together on a plan for the Friends to provide snacks at Library events, as done in the past. The Friends requested a list of snacks needed and the Friends are having them delivered to the library on a quarterly basis. FOHL's first full sale (four days) will take place this November at the Library and the Friends are working hard at getting ready for that. FOHL is working on updating their communication methods with the membership, which should help with attracting volunteers and keeping everyone in the loop.

5.5 City Council Liaison Report. Mayor Jimenez offered a report on behalf of the City Council. Recent City projects have included a proclamation for Latino Heritage Month and the kickoff of a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion campaign for the community. Community listening sessions have been held at the Community Center as well as at the Library--these sessions are bilingual and have provided lively conversation for the community. There are a variety of taxes and ordinances that are under consideration that will impact funding around the TOT (language changing) as well as funding outside the TOT. For example, the Planning Commission has been working on an ordinance around cannabis--the ability to have cannabis-related businesses, such as dispensaries, requires taking a look at many regulations, including

distances between parks, enforcement, and rules around smoking. There will be a measure on the ballot this fall, which will help determine direction from the public. There are so many details that we cannot put all the detail in the tax measure, but the RFP will provide more detail. There is an effort to make sure that some money that is collected can be used for youth programs, which could intersect with library programming. Another recent project was the new Universal Basic Income, a progressive program that the City is doing now after collaboration with groups such as Corazón. The City is seeking a better understanding of how we can serve our residents. A project of the City Manager has been to ensure that students and others with tablets, etc., will have access to quality wi-fi around the Plaza and City buildings, and the effort is working to install high speed fiber to that end. The bridge lighting policy and the Arts & Culture Master Plan implementation will soon be before the Council; residents can get a free compost bin from City Hall.

6. Other items. There were no other items.

7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32.

Upcoming Meetings

The meetings of the Healdsburg LAB for 2022 will be held: March 9, June 8, September 14, and December 14. All Meetings take place on the Second Wednesday and begin at 5:30 PM.