**Minutes**

**Santa Rosa Library Advisory Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 31, 2023 @ 6:00 PM**

**Central Santa Rosa Library**

1. **Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404**

**PRESENT/ATTENDING:** LAB Chair Pamela Van Halsema; LAB members Lisa Pollack, Serge Zimberoff, Noah Harris (7:10 PM), and Cynthia Denenholz; Library Commissioner David Cahill; Friends of the Library representative Joe Seymour; Library Division Manager, Public Services, Sarah Vantrease; Northwest Branch Manager Ana Dawe, Central Branch Manager Jessica Romero, Roseland Branch Manager Rosalie Abbot (via Zoom); Santa Rosa City Councilperson Eddie Alvarez (6:42 PM); and Guest Pat Kuta.

**1. CALL TO ORDER –**6:01 PM

**1a. INTRODUCTIONS—**All those present introduced themselves.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF** March 29, 2023, and April 26, 2023. The minutes of both meetings were approved unanimously.

**3. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

*An opportunity for members of the public to address the Library Advisory and Friends’ Boards; times are limited to 3 minutes and may be changed at the Library Advisory Board’s discretion.* None

**4. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

4.1 Guest: Pat Kuta, Sonoma County Public Library Foundation – Pat Kuta addressed the LAB about supporting the Hearn Hub project, including the Roseland Library (a 21st century library) and the Multicultural Center.

Pat Kuta gave a history of herself, of her affiliation with the Sonoma County Public Library Foundation, and of the Foundation’s campaign for a permanent Library branch in Roseland. Pat and the Foundation have been at the forefront of efforts to secure a permanent Roseland branch since 2015. She has also led the Roseland Coalition, which advocates for a permanent Library branch in Roseland. The Foundation both advocates and raises funds for the Library. There have been important milestones along the way, including the opening of the first temporary site after the Foundation raised $150,000 in three months and the Friends contributed $40,000, the passage of Measure Y, the City’s agreement to pay $150,000 for the move to the current branch site, and the City's change to District elections, which gave the Roseland area a dedicated advocate.

The City has committed to infrastructure at the Hearn Hub site, which will include a fire station, library, and a community center. Towards the Library, the City has committed $10 million, the State has committed $6 million, and the Federated Tribes of Graton Rancheria has committed $3.5 million. The City is in the design phase and has contracted with 2 groups to design and build the site. The current thought is that the community center will be a 2-story building with the Library in it, and each entity will have 20,000 square feet. The Library has committed to having a significant Native American collection and there will be a significant Spanish language collection as well.

The Foundation is conducting a 3-year capital drive to raise $ 2.6 million to pay for furniture, fixtures, equipment and collections, and an additional 1 million for last minute, unexpected things. Pat heads the Fundraising Committee, which is working closely with the Library’s Development staff. The Foundation has raised $400,000 thus far and hopes to get $250,000 from the Community Foundation soon. The wine world is being approached and there will be a major donor event in September. There will be an architects’ preview event in November, which they hope that Los Cien will co-sponsor. There will be another kick-off at some point as well. The Foundation is identifying donors at all levels and thinks that the excitement for Roseland will bleed over to the entire Library system. The Foundation is asking supporters to host “house parties” and is planning for 2 per month with Erika Thibault and a Board member presenting its vision.

Pam voiced the LAB’s support for the project and Pat suggested that the LAB ask Erika Thibault and Ray Holley for regular updates.

4.2 Sonoma County Library’s New Website—request for public feedback - <https://new.sonomalibrary.org/>

Sarah Vantrease stated that LAB members and others interested should listen to the [May] Commission meeting for a presentation about the new website and then give feedback. The design and content are done, so please give feedback soon. The website is in both Spanish and English in all aspects, and the hope is that it works well on all devices.

Joe Seymour stated that the Friends also have new website, which is srfotl.org

4.3 Celebrate Pride with the Library, Saturday, June 3, Courthouse Square, Santa Rosa

**5. ACTION ITEMS**

The LAB unanimously approved Bylaw amendments to provide for a substitute when the Recording Secretary is absent, to change the regular LAB meeting time to 6 PM, and to change line 1 of the Bylaws to Library rather than Libraries.

**6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

6.1 Youth LAB Member Recruitment – P. Van Halsema

The recruitment should begin in July. The Library now has flyers in English and Spanish and social media graphics. Jessica Romero has a large poster which she will put up.

David Cahill advised that due to timing, the LAB might have to invite a potential youth member to come to meetings as a member of the public until their application is approved.

6.2 Hearn Project Update – Santa Rosa City Council Member Alvarez

Councilman Alvarez just spoke to Jason Kitchell with the design group for the Hearn Hub. The cost is now estimated to be $116 million. There is money to assure the building of the Library and fire station. Meetings with the community will begin in about 2 weeks. The City will apply for a grant in 2024 for $30 million to assure the building of the Community Center and other infrastructure, such as bike lanes. The Hearn Hub will be a driving force for Roseland and the entire Southwest area.

The community has some distrust given past broken promises, and there have to be assurances that the Multi-Cultural Center will really be multi-cultural---but it is a new era with the City in charge. The City expects to break ground later this year, with completion of the fire station and library in 2024 or 2025.

Councilmember Alvarez said that the Library and the Community Center will be separate buildings.

6.3 LAB Vision and Goal Setting – P. Van Halsema

How does the LAB go about creating goals, in particular representing the community to the Library and the Library to the City of Santa Rosa?

This will be a discussion item at the next meeting.

6.4 Is Northwest the best name for the Coddingtown Library? – S. Zimberoff

Everyone seems to call the Northwest branch the Coddingtown Library and the real estate maps call an area Northwest Santa Rosa that isn’t close to the Northwest branch.

Commissioner Cahill: The Library may not want to call a branch by a corporate name and per Joe Seymour, doing so might cost money. He also advised Ana Dawe to submit a request to the Friends for money to help defray the costs of events in the Coddingtown Mall.

**7. REPORTS**

*Reports and updates on library governance, management, programs, services and support group activities as well as City Council matters. All items are for discussion only.*

7.1 LAB Members’ Reports

All members reported on their interactions with the community and the Library.

7.2 Youth Members’ Report: None

7.3 Friends of the Santa Rosa Library Report: The Friends has a new president, Julia Freis. They will be holding a book sale from 6/30-7/2, and are also hoping to have a pop-up sale at the Rincon Valley branch this summer.

7.4 Library Commissioners’ Report

The budget is the big issue, and the Library has money for this year. The Commission is creating scenarios regarding the renewal of Measure Y, with one scenario assuming that it passes and the other that it fails. The Commissioners do not want to use the petition process to place the renewal on the ballot.

7.5 Library Director’s Report

Library management prepared a balanced budget for Commission approval. The Summer Reading Program will begin soon, with the kick-off event on June 10 at the Central branch.

The Library is transitioning to the Microsoft SharePoint program which the LAB should be able to use for minutes, bylaws, and other documents. Regarding the Hearn Hub, Group 4 is to prepare bridging documents and it will be going to the community to get feedback regarding priorities. Group 4 is looking for direct community input now, but expects to have ways for other groups associated with the stakeholders (the Library, Parks and Rec, the Fire Department) such as the LAB to be involved later. The Library administration and Commission have met with legislators including Jim Wood and Bill Dodd. They might involve the LAB with this interaction in the future and LAB members should let the Administration or Commission know if have they contact with a legislator who is interested in the Library and/or in speaking to the Library.

7.6 Feedback to Branch Managers’ Reports

There was very positive feedback, especially regarding the increase in patronage at the Roseland branch.

Jessica Romero invited everyone to Lectura Fest on June 10th.

Ana Dawe said that Northwest will be hosting Lunch at the Library this summer. It is the only branch with the program that will have paid interns.

Joe Seymour asked that whether books from the Friends will be included as prizes for summer reading, and Ana Dawe will check.

7.7 City Council Liaison Report: Given earlier

**8. ADVISORY BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

*An opportunity for Members to present brief, factual information about their library, respond to public comments, place items on the next agenda, or request information from the Library Commissioners, Director or Branch Managers.*

**9. FOLLOW-UP & NEXT STEPS**

*A review of follow-up responsibilities for members and staff.*

10. **ADJOURNMENT**—Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 @ 6:00 PM at [Roseland Regional Library]