

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

1. Call to Order & Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. Present in the meeting were LAB Chair Rebecca Simons; LAB Members Tom Colbert, Paul Grill, Barbara Rosen, and Margaret McPeake; FOHL President Tracy Logan; Library Commissioner Andy Elkind; SCL Public Services Division Manager Sarah Vantrease; and SCL Healdsburg Library Branch Manager Jon Haupt.

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. Currently the plan is that the branch will close in Spring 2023 for several months to complete the refresh project. SCL is consulting with City of Healdsburg on possible small-scale services offsite as well as the possibility of using the Meeting Room for other small-scale services. SCL is also working with City of Healdsburg on a possible grant proposal to the CA State Library to fund additional site improvements; the status of that grant may not be known for several months, so it's possible that the refresh project will be delayed by a few months in order to complete only one project. The refresh will be an extensive overhaul of the inside of the building, including finishes (carpets, walls), shelving, and furniture. The layout will be revised to accommodate the various activities inside the building. The restrooms will be completely revised to provide several single-use, gender-neutral restrooms. There has been an increase in funding from \$1.3M to over \$2M mostly owing to this restroom project. The additional funding comes from carryover funds from other capital projects that will not be completed this fiscal year.

4.2 Election of LAB Officers. Becky agreed to run for Chair for a second year. Barbara agreed to run for Vice Chair. They were elected in a unanimous vote.

5. Reports

5.1 Library Director's Report. Sarah Vantrease offered a report on behalf of Library Administration. The Library is now open on Sundays. Our foot traffic seems immediately comparable to other days of the week in terms of people per hour and we are looking forward to seeing more data over time. SCL is working with city partners on grants for the different facilities (including Healdsburg) through a California State Library infrastructure grant project. Administration is starting to look forward to the 2023–24 Fiscal Year budget.

5.2 Commissioner's Report. Andy offered a report on behalf of the Library Commission. Sunday hours were part of the promise for Measure Y and SCL is excited to make good on that promise. SCL and the Union have completed a joint staffing study and are looking at ways to provide better service to patrons and better utilize staff. At the Finance Committee on Monday, commissioners reviewed a draft of the audit for 2021–22 Fiscal Year; we are happy to be back on track with a regular audit schedule. The search is underway for a new SCL Library Director. This week, a committee is interviewing 5 semifinal candidates including Interim Director Erika

Thibault. Continuity and hopefully a longer term are absolutely part of the discussion with the various candidates.

5.3 Branch Manager's Report. Jon offered a report on behalf of the Healdsburg branch library. The new Sunday hours are going very well. We immediately found that we were seeing a different group of visitors on Sunday, with a noticeably larger percentage of Spanish-speaking patrons—we are pleased that our Sunday staffing includes bilingual staff. One of the main hopes with adding Sunday hours was to reach more of our community that are unable to come on other days. We are very excited about our teen programming right now; immediately after Lara came on board as our new Teen Services Librarian, we began a series of events on Wednesday afternoons, and we are seeing 20–30 middle school and high school students each week for gaming, anime, and other teen programming. We are grateful to Friends of Healdsburg Library for providing snacks for our programs—particularly the teen programs. They do appear to come in very hungry after school.

5.4 Friends' Reports. Tracy offered a report on behalf of FOHL. FOHL has continued to provide book sales when possible and completed a book sale in November this year. It has been a long story during the pandemic, with no sales, followed by a Sunday parking lot sale, and finally in-person sales once again in March and November of this year. FOHL is donating a little over \$100,000 for the building Refresh project, a number that has been made possible through decades of saving and planning for this effort. FOHL is offering to support specific improvements to the Children's Area and YA areas, providing for special features and windows to add more light to the room. FOHL is accepting donations, except on Sundays. Another change to the sales is that the "Special" books, that were once found back in the Wine Library, are now right in the main area of the sale. There has been a lot of discussion about professional booksellers at Friends sales, and a patron at one branch was pretty upset about people using scanners. FOHL scans all donated books initially when determining which books to keep or to sell online; so FOHL is aware of what they are selling and are unconcerned about booksellers so long as they are not impacting other potential buyers.

5.5 City Council Liaison Report. There was no report from Healdsburg City Council.

6. Other items. There were no other items.

7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Upcoming Meetings

The meetings of the Healdsburg LAB for 2023 will be held: March 8, June 14, September 13, and December 13. All Meetings take place on the Second Wednesday and begin at 5:30 PM.