

Minutes — Sonoma County Library — Healdsburg Library Advisory Board
Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 5:30 PM

1. Call to Order & Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 5:30. Attending were LAB Chair Rebecca Simons; LAB members Tom Colbert, Barbara Rose, and Margaret McPeake; FOHL President Tracy Logan; Healdsburg City Councilmember Chris Herrod; 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. The building refresh is on schedule now for a 2024 completion. The work will not begin until the outcome of the California State Library infrastructure grant application is determined – that application was submitted by the City of Healdsburg and an answer is expected by October. The money would allow for some of the ADA work that we are required to do as part of the refresh project and free up committed funds for other improvements. The expectation is that Noll & Tam, the architecture firm, will be ready to deploy RFPs at that time. Staff explained generally the ongoing planning phases, including in-person and virtual meetings with Noll & Tam, furniture sample reviews, staff visits to other branches to view new furniture in those locations, and the like.

4.2 Bylaws Review. The idea of reviewing the Healdsburg LAB Bylaws for potential revision was brought to the group by Andy Elkind and Jon Haupt. There may be a larger-scale review of LABs by a Commission committee, but Healdsburg LAB can work on improving its own bylaws as well in order to help address questions about term length, etc., which are not covered in the current bylaws. We will also look for areas that are no longer filling the needs of the LAB that could be removed. Essentially, the bylaws can be designed to support the LAB and help it run better. The group agreed that Jon will coordinate with Andy Elkind and Rebecca Simons to make proposals at the next meeting.

5. Reports

5.1 Library Director's Report. Sarah Vantrease offered a report on behalf of SCL Administration. Work on the budget for the next fiscal year starting in July has completed and there are a variety of new and upcoming things including the creation of a new division in our structure, in line with our Reimagining Plan, that will be focused on engagement with the community and on partnerships. SCL is transitioning to using Microsoft Sharepoint as a file sharing tool, and a cloud sharing platform for each LAB will be a part of that ongoing plan. The platform will probably mostly be used for internal matters and documents.

5.2 Commissioner's Report. Andy offered a report on behalf of the SCL Commission. The budget approval is definitely the biggest news. Financially, things look good, in part because of underbudget spending; lower staffing spending in particular, given the various unfilled positions. Capital projects are an exciting and important part of the budget as well, and

Petaluma and Healdsburg's refresh projects figuring heavily into that section. Working with Myrna Lopez has been a great experience; the Commission feels much more confident with the financial reporting as a result of her work. The Commission is excited about the Community Engagement Division and the opportunity to work in conjunction with other agencies to extend services out into the community. A large number of people showed up at the Commission meeting to protest against the few drag queen story hours that have been hosted in June. It was disturbing to hear their perspective on what they think is going on at the story hours and what they think it means, in contrast to the actual experience at the story hours. A protest at Petaluma that followed featured a number of supporters that far exceeded those who were there to protest the programs. There are continuing misconceptions that provide a reminder that we have a lot of work to do with regard to acceptance in our community. Staff have talked about how to make the events safe and welcoming, alerted law enforcement to the possibility of crowds, and come up with Plan B in case of disruptions.

5.3 Branch Manager's Report. The library has been very busy of late, with in-person numbers very close to our pre-pandemic statistics. Events and programs have been going strong, and staff are particularly enjoying using the BiblioBike to help with outreach. Those include Storytimes in the Park, outreach to the Emergency Expo, the City of Healdsburg St. Patrick's Day event, Earth Day, and more. Staff will be using the bike to join the BiblioBus at Burbank Housing sites in coming months, with visits already planned for Harvest Grove and Canyon Run apartment complexes. Summer Reading is in full force already and we encourage everyone to take part. Lunch at the Library is a new experience this year with paid teen interns and teen volunteers running the show, overseen by our Teen Services Librarian. Our branch has held its first Social Services Fair, bringing together several social services agencies to meet with the public, and we had around 15-20 participants, which seems good for the first attempt.

5.4 Friends' Reports. Tracy offered a report on behalf of the Friends of the Healdsburg Library. The May book sale in the meeting room produced about \$6,000 for the organization. In addition, the bookshelves in the lobby bring in about as much as a book sale over the course of a year. The FOHL are donating approximately \$100K to the Refresh project and will be helping to make great improvements, in particular in the Teen and Children's areas. The fountain's ceramic frog was damaged by the company hired to maintain the fountain; Michael Rosen, the ceramicist, was able to create a new frog and lily pad combination. FOHL will do the maintenance directly on the fountain now, rather than hiring an outside firm, with some guidance from Jay Tripathi from Gardenworks, Inc., who has helped make and keep the fountain operational over the last few years. FOHL are saving a lot of money by not hiring the outside maintenance firm.

5.5 City Council Liaison Report. Chris provided a report on behalf of the City Council. He suggested emailing him before the meeting next time if there are questions that we would like him to respond to. The City is producing an excellent email newsletter now from the City Manager in a new format, with lots of photos. It tells about what is coming up, events, changes, etc. The hope is that the newsletter will lead to more involvement in the community. City Council is moving forward with an events plan, trying to consolidate and create a master calendar for what is going on around the city. There will be a meeting in the fall to discuss moving forward with that. Chris noted a few items on the upcoming City Council meeting, including an upcoming report from consultants related to the DEI project that has been ongoing

with a series of meetings throughout the year on a variety of DEI topics. The Council is excited to hear about the results and direction to the City and the Council on those issues.

6. Other items. There were no other items.

7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 6:31.

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.