

**MINUTES**  
**Rohnert Park – Cotati Regional Library LAB Meeting**  
**October 17, 2023 @ 5:00pm**  
**Held at the Rohnert Park – Cotati Regional Library**

**One participant will be attending the meeting via teleconference from 421 S McDowell Blvd,  
Petaluma, CA 94952 in accordance with Government Code Section 54953(b).**

**VOTING BOARD MEMBERS – TERM ENDS JUNE 30 YEAR LISTED**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Loreen Atallah – Chair (2025)              | Lisa Neuson (2024)    |
| Catherine Crotty – Vice Chair (2024)       | Jill Jorgensen (2025) |
| Gabriela Dewald – Youth Member (2024)      | *Vacant               |
| Glenn Brassinger Jr. – Youth Member (2024) |                       |

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Barbara Mackenzie (RP Library Commissioner) | Susan Adams (Rohnert Park City Council Liaison) |
| Cyan McMillan (Cotati Library Commissioner) | Jennifer Ryder (RP-C Branch Manager)            |
| Jake Mackenzie (FOL President)              | Barbara Maes (SCL District Manager)             |

**Absent:**

Kay Rivers (Cotati City Council Liaison)

**1. CONVENING & INTRODUCTIONS**

Loreen Atallah convened the meeting at 5:01pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRIOR MEETING**

**2.1 APPROVAL OF AUGUST MEETING MINUTES**

Barbara Mackenzie submitted corrections of the August meeting minutes to consolidate items in her report. Glenn B made a motion to approve the August meeting minutes with corrections. Lisa N seconded. All approved, motion passes.

**3. REPORTS & UPDATES**

**3.1 LIBRARY COMMISSIONER’S REPORT**

Barbara Mackenzie:

- The library is in good shape financially. Measure Y is a ten year measure, and it expires in 2026. Renewal of the measure may be on the 2024 ballot.
- A recent poll showed that Measure Y is favorably received at 80%.
- Commissioner Mackenzie wrote a short history of the Friends of the Library Bookstore at the request of the FOL Board.
- In September, the library had an outreach table at the Green Music Center’s Global Music Festival.

- There is a Rohnert Park history and archives project underway. The City of Rohnert Park is now involved and has hired an SSU intern to inventory the collection. Barbara coordinated a meeting with the History and Genealogy Library staff to assist with evaluation and recommendations for organization and preservation.
- On September 28 Los Cien held a major event at SSU, the annual State of the Latinx Community, with a theme this year of belonging and inclusion. Commissioner Mackenzie attended the event along with other Commissioners and Admin Staff.
- Barbara attended the October Rohnert Park Chamber of Commerce Noontimes; new State Assemblyman Damon Connely was the featured speaker.
- Library Administrative staff held a reception for National Friends of the Library week before the October 4 Library Commission meeting. It was well attended by several Friends groups around the County, and much appreciated.
- Commissioner Mackenzie attended and enjoyed the Saturday Story Time program at the library, with local teacher Kiyoko Nakano reading her books about growing up shy and growing up biracial. This program was supported by the FOL.
- Commissioner Mackenzie attended the Library Commission Training on October 14. It covered a range of topics including the Brown Act. Marcela Piedra, the Rohnert Park City Manager, also attended as a member of the public.
- Commissioner Mackenzie reported that the Library Commission Finance Committee met and recommended mid-year budget adjustments; included are additional funds for more biblioboxes to be installed throughout Sonoma County. Rohnert Park – Cotat Library will get one, although there are complications due to the building's lack of roof overhang.

Cyan McMillan:

- Commissioner McMillan met with Barbara Maes and Jen Ryder on the last week of August to meet and share ideas about the library.
- Commissioner McMillan is fairly new and has only attended 3 Library Commission meetings.

### **3.2 LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Barbara Maes:

- The library made a presentation about the Bibliobus to the Library Commission at the last meeting, particularly about the expanded community stops.
  - Mostly in rural and remote communities.
  - Barbara is meeting with municipal leaders about more Bibliobus stops.
  - The library just hired a PT specialist for the Bibliobus.
  - They are hiring Extra Help for Sundays and Mondays.
- There is a new "Find Your Path" at the library map, printed and available at all libraries.
- She reminded the LAB that they have \$500 allotted to them for the year.

### **3.3 BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **3.4 YOUTH MEMBER'S REPORT**

Glenn Brassinger:

Glenn reported that the Teen Film Festival was rescheduled due to bad air quality in the building, and that it successfully occurred in October. He did not attend.

Gabriela Dewald:

Gabriela shared that she has noticed Little Free Libraries in the community, and she wondered how they could be useful for the public library.

### **3.5 FRIENDS OF THE ROHNERT PARK – COTATI REGIONAL LIBRARY REPORT**

Jake Mackenzie:

- Jake reported that he was very happy that the Rohnert Park – Cotati Friends of the library were recognized at the Appreciation event.
- He reported that the biannual book sale was successful.
  - They made over \$4000.
  - The Sunday event to give away books to teachers and a jail staff worker was very successful.
- The FOL have a full Board of Directors.

### **3.6 CITY COUNCIL LIAISONS' REPORTS**

Susan Adams:

- Susan reported that in a recent debate, the City decided to keep the Farmer's Market in the Plaza rather than move to the Community Center.
- On Tuesday, October 24, Marcela Piedra (City Manager of RP) will be giving a status report of the downtown development, including RFQs.

### **3.7 LAB CHAIR REPORT**

Loreen Atallah:

- Loreen regrets having missed the last meeting; there was a very unpleasant situation at her worksite.
- She reported visiting the Occidental Library.

## **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

**5.1 Bylaws Change Proposal (from April) – Changing election months to October and adding language to allow for elections to occur in the following months if there isn't a quorum in October. Voting item.**

- The LAB agreed that October was the best month to hold officer elections.
- They will do so at the December meeting since the action item did not make it onto the agenda for this month.

Lisa N made the motion to approve the change in bylaws. Catherine C seconded. The measure passes with 6 yays and 0 nays.

### **5.2 Hosting anime & hang-out events. (Gabriela)**

Gabriela:

- Gabriela was talking to classmates about books, and gathered that her peers wanted to talk about their favorite genres of books (drama, manga, etc.) rather than read for a book club.
- Jen Ryder offered to connect Gabriela to Allison Palmer to talk about these ideas.
- Lisa Neuson suggested that teens might be interested in a treasure hunt activity. Some of the \$500 could be spent on an event. Lisa made a motion to have the LAB host such an event, Glenn seconded. Lisa made a motion for the LAB to fund this program, and Loreen seconded. The LAB was in agreement.

### **5.3 Tabling events at high school fairs/fundraisers (Gabriela)**

Gabriela:

- Gabriela mentioned that the LAB could table at different school events.
- She shared that Thomas Page is having a harvest night on October 25, and she could find out if the LAB could participate. No further action was taken.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Combined LAB meeting topics**

The Library is organizing a combined LAB meeting where representatives from all the LABs in SCL could be together. Lisa Davison from OMT asked the LABs to come up with meeting topics. Here are topics from the Rohnert Park – Cotati LAB.

- What are other LABs doing to attract new board members?
  - Ask each LAB to share for 2-3 mins each.
  - Provide contact info for LAB groups to follow up with each other.
- What are some general activities and events that LABs do/participate in?
- Would it be possible to have inter-LAB discussions between community groups?
- How do we strengthen communication between LABs and the Library Commission?
- How do LABs find community members?
- Does the public attend any LAB's meetings?
- What was your biggest accomplishment from 2023?

- What do you (as a LAB) do best?

This meeting has not been planned yet. It will likely happen early next year, 2024.

## **6.2 2023 LAB Planning**

- Meant to be 2024 LAB Planning agenda item.
- The LAB will discuss Farmers Markets at the next (December) meeting.
- Talked about creating an events calendar for the local area so that the LAB knows what events they could participate in.
- These will both go on the agenda for next time.
- The LAB decided to host a social before the next LAB meeting and have Jen help advertise it. Jen will coordinate with Loreen.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Loreen adjourned the meeting at 6:15pm.

**Next LAB meeting: December 19, 2023 at 5:00pm**