

MINUTES
Rohnert Park – Cotati Regional Library LAB Meeting
December 19, 2023 @ 5:00pm
Held at the Rohnert Park – Cotati Regional Library

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

VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

Loreen Atallah – Chair (2025)

Catherine Crotty – Vice Chair (2024)

Gabriela Dewald – Youth Member (2024)

Lisa Neuson (2024)

Jill Jorgensen (2025)

Heather Worker (2025)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Barbara Mackenzie (RP Library Commissioner)

Cyan McMillan (Cotati Library Commissioner)

Jake Mackenzie (FOL President)

Jennifer Ryder (RP-C Branch Manager)

Barbara Maes (SCL District Manager)

Absent:

Kay Rivers (Cotati City Council Liaison)

Susan Adams (Rohnert Park City Council Liaison)

Glenn Brassinger Jr. – Youth Member (2024)

1. CONVENING & INTRODUCTIONS

Loreen convened the meeting at 5:00pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRIOR MEETING

2.1 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Loreen moved to approve the minutes. Catherine seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. REPORTS & UPDATES

3.1 LIBRARY COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Cyan:

He attended the Commission meetings and the LAB meetings. He also attended the Finding History Center event.

Barbara:

Barbara attended the Finding History Day at the Finlay Center in October as well as All Staff Day on October 26th.

Barbara attended a November Noontimes luncheon where Marcela Piedra gave updates about the downtown development. She asked if the Library (as well as the LAB and Friends) could participate in the Holiday Lights Parade. The event was cancelled but we all hope to attend next year.

Barbara visited the Playback Memory Lab at the History & Genealogy Library in downtown Santa Rosa, digitizing photos, negatives, slides, and VCR tapes.

She attended the City Council District 2 Neighborhood Meeting. Barbara represented the library, handed out maps and pens, and answered some questions.

SCL Public Library Foundation is raising money, particularly for the Roseland Library. Barbara attended the Nov 9 Foundation Breakfast at the SOMO Village event center.

She attended the first waste reduction program with Recology. They presented very good information.

Tons of stuff going on with the Rohnert Park archives – no major updates at this time.

Holiday light celebration – we were going to participate but then the parade was cancelled due to weather concerns. The Mackenzies attended the fair, which continued successfully.

FOL had a Holiday Luncheon on Dec 12 to honor Friends Volunteers. A few library staff members attended, and Barbara also attended.

The Rohnert Park City Council elected new officers. Susan Adams was installed as the new mayor for the coming year. Gerard Giudice was installed as the Vice Mayor. Both are huge library advocates.

The Sonoma County Library financial audit was completed; we have a totally clean audit.

3.2 LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In October, the library celebrated LGBTQIA+ history month and the celebration of Latin American Roots.

In November, the library celebrated Indigenous Heritage month, Veteran's Day, and launched the Send Our Seniors Mail program.

Winter Reading has begun, spanning from December 1 to January 12. When patrons complete 4 activities, they win a prize. If they complete all 16 activities, they are entered into a drawing to win a Nintendo Switch.

The Mock Caldecott has begun. Patrons may visit any SCL library and read the books. They may also watch recorded readings through the Beanstack app. Voting ends in mid-January, and then the Mock Caldecott winner is picked.

The SCL Staff recommendations list for 2023 is up on the website.

3.3 BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

Jen shared:

In October, the Oaks of Hebron adult day center visited the library. Some of the participants received new library cards, they toured the library, and checked out materials.

In November and December, the library is partnering with Recology to provide sustainability crafts and advice during the holidays. We also purchased compost bins and gave them away to attendees.

In November, the library hosted a Bilingual Paint Party. The event was very popular and well attended. The instructor did a fabulous job.

The Rohnert Park – Cotati Library has a new 3D printer. Denise (our Library Associate) and Jen are learning how to use it. The library has received many requests for print jobs.

Jen put in a request to purchase another study pod with leftover Friends of the Library donation funds.

Rohnert Park – Cotati's CA state-funded grant was renewed for 2024. The children's librarians will receive \$4500 for the spring session of programming. Programs will begin on January 24. Due to the success of the 2023 grant, the Rincon Valley library also successfully applied for the grant and will be participating alongside RP-C.

3.4 YOUTH MEMBER'S REPORT

Gabriela shared that she is overhearing classmates talk about meeting at the library and doing homework after school, which is cool.

3.5 FRIENDS OF THE ROHNERT PARK – COTATI REGIONAL LIBRARY REPORT

Jake:

Board meetings are held regularly, not in December. In December, the Friends hosted their winter luncheon event to honor volunteers.

January: The Friends are hoping to replace their secretary.

The Friends are piloting opening the bookstore on Monday afternoons from 2-4:30pm. With this update, the bookstore is open every day.

The Friends will be giving a big thank you to the Missionaries from the LDS church for their work moving books throughout the year.

In the coming year, the Friends will have 2 book sales – one in March (March 6-9), one in the fall.

There are now 64 active volunteers including 11 board members. General membership is 120.

3.6 CITY COUNCIL LIAISONS' REPORTS

None today.

3.7 LAB CHAIR REPORT

Visited the CENT, NORT, and HEAL library.

Hearing organic buzz about the library programs. They love Libby and free eBooks, excitement about Parks Passes, and the 3D printer. Saw an article about the library map in a local paper.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Voting Item. Hold elections for Rohnert Park – Cotati LAB Officers.

Open positions are for Chair and Vice Chair.

Loreen nominated Jill as the Chair. Lisa seconded.
Jill nominated Loreen as the Vice Chair. Lisa seconded.

All in favor, Jill elected as LAB Chair.
All in favor, Loreen elected as LAB Vice Chair.

5.2 Discussion Item. 2024 LAB Planning.

Ideas shared for 2024:

- Annual Summer Farmer's Market at Rohnert Park.
- All LAB meeting early next year.
- Gabriela: how to get teens more interested, they could come and make their own story for a scavenger hunt. – Share their stories and have a party.
- Cotati Farmer's Market – need to get started on that in February.
- Have a Farmer's Market meeting specifically.
- Think about the Holiday Lights next year – tabling and walking in the parade.
- Have a LAB calendar?
- Thought about interpretation possibilities at LAB meetings.
- Always opportunities to add ideas over the year.
- Jen will send out a link to a Brown Act training.
- If the LAB has presentations to take to the Library Commission meetings, they can do that.

5.3 Discussion Item. LAB Accomplishments 2023.

- Tabling during the Rohnert Park Farmer's Market alongside the Friend of the Library was a big accomplishment.
- The LAB like to see a menu of things we could possibly do.
- It would be good to do more in Cotati.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Discussion Item: Library Scavenger Hunt

Discussed lightly – Gabriela left early.
This could be a potential event in the summer.

6.2 Action Item: Plan Pre-Meeting Social.

Barbara Maes talked about bringing this idea to the Library Commission meeting. Any presentation would then be recorded, the LAB could promote the idea, etc.

The LAB will work on a presentation and submitting it to a Commission Meeting it after more planning.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 6:22.

2024 LAB Meetings (all at 5pm):

**February 20 | April 16 | June 18
August 20 | October 15 | December 17**