

MINUTES
Rohnert Park – Cotati Regional Library LAB Meeting
February 20, 2024 @ 5:00pm
Held at the Rohnert Park – Cotati Regional Library

VOTING BOARD MEMBERS – TERM ENDS JUNE 30 YEAR LISTED

Loreen Atallah – Vice Chair (2025)

Lisa Neuson (2024)

Gabriela Dewald – Youth Member (2024)

Heather Worker (2025)

Jill Jorgensen – Chair (2025)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Barbara Mackenzie (RP Library Commissioner)

Susan Adams (Rohnert Park City Council Liaison)

Jake Mackenzie (FOL President)

Barbara Maes (SCL District Manager)

Kay Rivers (Cotati City Council Liaison)

Allison Palmer (Librarian on behalf of Jen Ryder)

ABSENT

Glenn Brassinger Jr. – Youth Member (2024)

Jennifer Ryder (RP-C Branch Manager)

Catherine Crotty (2024)

Cyan McMillan (Cotati Library Commissioner)

1. CONVENING & INTRODUCTIONS

Loreen convened the meeting at 5:00pm.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRIOR MEETING

2.1 APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

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

3. REPORTS & UPDATES

3.1 LIBRARY COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Barbara Mackenzie:

Invites everyone to Rohnert Park History Day on Sat., Feb. 24th from 10am-2pm at 190 Arlen Drive in Rohnert Park.

Library Finance Meeting indicates SCL’s position is strong and in good shape. Presently there is an education campaign going on to shout the library’s praises to make everyone aware of its successes. An extension to Measure Y may go back to the voters this year in the fall.

Attended an event at the Central Library on housing and racism called “Razing Liberty Square.” This was a collaboration between SCL, Generation Housing, and KRCB. Perhaps the Rohnert Park-

Cotati Library could also do a collaborative event with KRCB. BM will touch base with Jennifer Ryder about this.

Attended the "Telling Our Stories" event at the Rohnert Park-Cotati Library.

Wrote a document called "The Story of the Friends of the Library Bookstore" and brought it to share.

3.2 LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Barbara Maes:

February is Library Lovers' Month – SCL is encouraging people to share what they love about the library.

Gearing up for SCL's budget season alongside the system's Branch Managers.

February is also Black History Month! Rohnert Park-Cotati Library has great displays up to celebrate.

SCL's innovation grants just finished first round and a summary of the four winners was provided.

3.3 BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT

Allison:

Coventry & Kaluza on Jan. 2nd hugely popular with 143 attendees.

How Money Works workshops in January. There were three sessions and the first session had seven attendees. The library is looking into having them come to do one session every quarter.

Jennifer Ryder and Lisa Sigler attended the Graton Rancheria Wellness Fair on Jan. 17th, providing library services and free books to Graton employees.

Stay & Play Cafe started on Jan. 24th and is a hugely popular program for young kids.

First Chapter Book Club has had full attendance or signups in January and February. This is a program that encourages literacy for first to third graders by providing free books and a space for kids to practice reading aloud.

The Flores Room has had a huge amount of private reservations, which is great!

The Tamale Making workshop very successful.

The library is hosting Tai Chi programs from Feb. 13th through Mar. 12th.

Bilingual Paint Party for teens very successful with ten attendees and a great facilitator.

The "Telling our Stories" panel on Feb. 18th was very successful with 52 attendees. There was a great conversation about why ethnic studies should be in California classrooms.

Storytimes were highly attended through January and February.

3.4 YOUTH MEMBER'S REPORT

Gabriela:

She went on a road trip with her family and visited Powell's Books in Portland. She loved the new and used books. (Jake says it's a "must stop!" in Portland.) Barbara Maes was concerned that Youth Member Glenn Brassington hasn't attended the last two sessions.

3.5 FRIENDS OF THE ROHNERT PARK – COTATI REGIONAL LIBRARY REPORT

Jake:

Book Sale for Rohnert Park-Cotati Library is coming up. Become a member and get advanced access!

The Friends are reviewing pricing of books in bookstore. They sent a search team out to see what price structure other Friends groups used in their sales. "We haven't raised prices in 20 years!"

Loreen wants to know if LAB members will help set up for the Book Sale. Jake says yes, sign ups are currently available, inquire at the Friends Bookstore.

3.6 CITY COUNCIL LIAISONS' REPORTS

Susan:

On Wed., Mar. 6th from 6-7:30pm at the Foxtail Golf Course there will be a Townhall Q&A with Susan, City Manager Marcela Piedra, and Director of Public Safety Timothy Mattos. Topics will include what's next for Robert's Lake Park & Ride, public safety, status of downtown, water, and community events.

Regarding homelessness in Rohnert Park – Robert's Lake Park & Ride is now closed. RVs and other vehicles that haven't moved in awhile are being towed. Between two and three years ago, Rohnert Park had around 350 homeless individuals and now it's under 100. That difference is due to offering them services and housing (like at Labath Landing).

The SAFE Team has been a worthwhile investment. The City of Rohnert Park shares SAFE expenses with Sonoma State University and the City of Cotati.

Barbara Mackenzie brought up the ongoing subject of security in libraries. She said the Finance Committee had just been presented with a mid year budget adjustment to increase expenditures for library system security. She pointed to an article about the Bay Area's Antioch Library that closed temporarily due to safety concerns. Also, the Central Library just had many of its windows broken overnight.

Barbara Maes says the window-breaker was apprehended. The Central Library, Petaluma Library, and Northwest Library presently all have full-time security guards. The Guerneville Library is also experiencing security concerns. Sonoma Sheriff in Guerneville is very short-handed but they do check in with Guerneville Library staff every day.

Kay:

There is interest in creating a “bridge” library in Cotati aka “rural station” or “community branch” on par with Forestville and Occidental. It would ideally offer Wi-Fi, after school services, a forum room, and a focus on senior patrons.

3.7 LAB CHAIR REPORT

Jill:

Napa Valley’s CanDo organization has launched “Neighborhood Reads: Rescued Books for Napa’s Little Free Libraries.” Volunteers adopt community libraries and stock Little Free Libraries with children’s and young adult books.

Calistoga Library is having a centennial celebration. They have a gold library card available for patrons.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Review & Discuss Draft 2024 LAB Calendar

Jill created a first draft of the 2024 LAB Calendar for LAB to evaluate to plan for the whole year. The group reviewed the calendar and made suggestions.

5.2 Prioritize 2024 Goals & Ideas

Could the LAB participate in Cotati’s Farmer’s Market?

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Brainstorm Library Commission Presentation Topics

When would be a good time to present to the Commission? March no good because that’s during the book sale. June might be good.

Barbara Mackenzie says it doesn’t have to be an extensive presentation; even just stopping in more informally is great. Rohnert Park-Cotati’s LAB serves as an inspiration to other branch’s LABs, particularly the Petaluma LAB, especially where it comes to organizational skills!

Would Gabriela like to do something in Summer? She feels Fall might be better. Will talk with Allison.

How to get more public involved in LAB meetings? Maybe the Holiday Lights Parade would be a good time to reach out to community members.

6.2 Discussion: LAB considering small grants?

Keep eyes open for grants for Rohnert Park-Cotati Library. Any potential grants must go through Jennifer Ryder, then it goes to library director.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 6:05pm.

2024 LAB Meetings:

April 16, 2024 at 5:00pm

June 18, 2024 at 5:00pm

August 20, 2024 at 5:00pm

October 14, 2024 at 5:00pm

December 17, 2024 at 5:00pm