

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Sebastopol Library Advisory Board

May 31, 2023, 4:30 p.m.

Location: Sebastopol Library 7140 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol 95472 and Zoom

Attendees: Kee Nethery, Walt Frazer, Dena Bliss, Helena Whistler, Stephanie Elliot, Una Hall, Jack Beiswenger, Isabella Ruder-Zilber, Fred Engbarth (Commissioner), Sue Fujita (Friends of Sebastopol Library), Jaime Anderson (Library Administration), Mathew Rose (Branch Manager)

1. Walt Frazer called to the meeting to order at 4:30 pm
2. Introductions were made.
3. Agenda was approved.
4. Minutes from March, 2023, were approved.
5. Announcements: None.
6. Public Comment on non-agendized items. Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per topic, unless otherwise noted: None.
7. Discussion Items:
 - a. Security Cameras at the Sebastopol Library
 - i. Discussion of security cameras: Questions from previous meetings have yet to be answered. The project is in the operating budget, but the exact cost of the project isn't at hand. The timing of the project is not at hand. The process will involve discussions with each jurisdiction, presenting the installation of cameras as the intent of the library, and following each jurisdictions' processes. A response to a question about the role of the community included reference to input always being welcome. Discussion of how the library should be seeking community input, the library commission should be hearing community input, and the city council should be hearing community input. Discussion of the City of Sebastopol Ordinance. Discussion of ubiquitousness of cameras and why not have them at the library? But also, why have them at the library? Members repeated the need for more information. Library values of privacy and confidentiality were shared. Using the cameras against unsheltered and the chilling effects they may have on library use were shared as reasons not to have cameras. Details of the parameters of use were requested, such as: how long is footage kept, who can access it, will the cameras only be on when the

library is closed? It was reported that the Library Commission did not discuss cameras. Commissioner Engbarth will resend documents on cameras from last year, when the issue was on his radar. A request for someone from the library with policy knowledge regarding cameras to come to the LAB to answer questions.

b. Commission Meeting on the FY 2023-2024 budget

- i. The agenda packet for the next Library Commission meeting should be out and it includes the budget documents. The final budget is set to be approved. Submit comments to Lisa Davison, contact information in the agenda. Hopes for participatory budgeting and transparency were shared. The process would be better with more community engagement. Commissioner Engbarth will referred to the resource list previously sent regarding participatory budgeting. A paper copy of the agenda packet will be made available at the library.

c. Placement of the Sebastopol Branch Manager on Administrative Leave

- i. A review of the known details were shared. Acknowledgement that the library has obligations to privacy for the involved. Due process details, as well as legal codification of protected speech, were shared. Opinions of shock and the negative impact on staff and community were shared. Compliments for the work Mr. Rose provides were shared. Appreciations for the work of Jason Duran were shared: His role was unenviable, but his contributions at the Apple Blossom Festival and in keeping the library running were appreciated. Treatment of Jason was unfair, too. Not only was he an unintentional focal point of negativity regarding Mr. Rose's leave, there was an impact on the operations of the Guerneville Library. Idea of providing input in writing for hearing officers was shared. Idea of official statement from the LAB was shared, as was the inability to provide opinions due to lack of information. Walt, Helena, Kee, and Dena will work on the statement.

d. Patron Comments

- i. Lots of comments to review. Aside from those referenced in discussion of 7c and mention of the importance of social services day, no further discussion ensued.

8. Reports:

- a. Commissioner's Report: Mary Shiff and Helena Whistler have requested to renew their LAB appointments, which will be a motion at the next Commission meeting. A new application for LAB membership will be presented, too. Please share comments on Commission agenda items or share with the Commission directly. A group will convene a brainstorming session on how to move forward getting a new library building, results of which will be shared out. Gratitude was expressed for patience with Commissioner Engbarth – availability and accessibility will improve soon.
- b. Admin Report: Library participation as an honoree in the June 3 Pride Parade was shared. Information on Lunch at the Library, including the introduction this year of library interns paid with grant funds, was shared. The library website is being updated and means of accessing the new site were shared. Question about new furniture: how has it been received? Referred to positive patron comments and shared positive reception of the furniture.
- c. City Liaison Report: Mr. Rose shared on behalf of Councilmember Zollman: The City Council and City staff are focused on budgets.
- d. Youth Report: Mr. Beiswenger shared the results of the survey distributed at Analy High School. There were 161 respondents.
 - i. Audiobooks or books
 - 1. 75.2% books
 - 2. 24.8% audiobooks
 - ii. Printed or Digital Books
 - 1. 87.6 print
 - 2. 12.4 digital
 - iii. Was there a book at a library that was unavailable
 - 1. 84.7 no
 - 2. 15.3 yes
 - iv. List of books that weren't available:
 - 1. American Witch by Curtis Sittenfield
 - 2. Books about the Black Panther party
 - 3. Memory of Light, Wheel of Time Book 14

4. The Kind Heart of Mrs Benson
 5. Silent Patient by Alex Michalides
 6. Be Like Water, the teachings of Bruce Lee.
- e. Sebastopol Regional Library Report: Updates on staffing changes were shared.
 - f. Friends of the Library Report: Two new board members were added to the Board. The May 17-20 book sale brought in \$3000+. The quilt raffle fundraiser is occurring and tabling at the Farmers' Market is being coordinated with the Library.
9. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: July 26, 2023, 4:30 pm at Sebastopol Library, 7140 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472
 - a. Security Cameras
10. Additional Public Comment: None
 11. Adjourn: 5:50 pm