

SANTA ROSA LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
Sonoma County Library
Wednesday, January 31, 2024
Rincon Valley Regional Library

MINUTES

PRESENT: LAB Chair Pamela van Halsema, LAB members Cynthia Denenholz, Ana Diaz, Noah Harris, Robyn McManus, and Serge Zimberoff; LAB Youth members Lauren Chavez and Molly McNeill; Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries representative Joe Seymour; City Council Liaison Eddie Alvarez; Library Commissioner Sarah Laggos; Library Division Manager, Public Services, Sarah Vantrease; Community Engagement Division Manager Jessica Romero; Communications Manager Ray Holley; Central Branch Manager Jessica Hoover, History and Genealogy Branch Manager Zayda Delgado, Northwest Branch Manager Ana Dawe, Rincon Valley Branch Manager Jennifer Duran, and Roseland Branch Manager Rosalie Abbot

1. **Call to Order**---6:01PM
2. **Approval of Agenda**--The agenda was amended to change the meeting date in the heading from 2023 to 2024 and to delete "DRAFT." City Councilperson Eddie Alvarez's item will be called out of order so that he can speak when he arrives, as he has another meeting to attend this evening. In addition, there will be no Item 5.1, as Pamela was not able to secure an inResponse representative this evening.

The amended agenda was approved.

3. **Approval of minutes**—The November 29, 2023, minutes were approved.

4. **Public Comment**--None

5. Introductions and Announcements

5.1 Hearing from Our Santa Rosa Community--None

5.2 Announcements--Zayda Delgado from History and Genealogy introduced herself.

5.2.1 The All-LAB meeting is moving to April.

6. Reports

6.1 Branch Manager reports

Northwest: Ana Dawe heard back from Coddington regarding events. She was given short notice, but the Library can use the space for Valentine's Day. They will probably have an Easter event there too. She has been thinking about finding out more about what's going on in schools and what other than homework help would work to support students.

Roseland: Rosalie reported that Roseland has lots of book clubs. When driving down the street near the branch, she notices lots of trash everywhere. She doesn't see trash in Rincon Valley or Sebastopol and would like to see that change. She's also investigating shower services and other grooming opportunities for the unhoused, for back-to-school haircuts, etc. She is aware of someone who does haircuts in the area and will investigate entrepreneurship opportunities as suggested by Sarah Vantrease.

Rincon Valley: Jennifer Duran has lots of ideas. She met with Jan Burlingame who taught French in an adult education program and is thinking of doing a French conversation class at the branch. Dan Berger, who wrote for the PD wine section, is passionate about chess and they're thinking of having formal chess club. AARP tax assistance is really important and begins 2/1. Rincon is also going to be a vote center. In addition, the branch will be celebrating its 30th anniversary and, thanks to the Friends, is doing a yearlong reading challenge.

The branch's challenges seem to lie in being outnumbered after school gets out. They are having security a few days a week for 90 minutes during this time period due to certain kids' behavior issues and will see how it goes. The staff already feels better, more relaxed with this extra presence when so many kids are around.

Central—Jessica Hoover was congratulated for becoming the permanent branch manager. The Rose Parade is back, and all of the Santa Rosa managers will talk about participation. The branch is also talking about this year's Lectura Fest. The branch has a new diverse abilities book club.

They are looking to expand the checkout of equipment, such as cameras and ring lights, from E Street Studios and did a soft launch of an additional day for this purpose. For the most part, items are returned and the process is going smoothly.

History and genealogy: Zayda states that Playback Memory Lab continues to be slammed. The need is for more more staff, more time to devote to this activity. She is looking to partner with other branches and has been talking to Healdsburg to do the Memory Lab in a different way, maybe using digitization. The Friends gave money to make this happen.

6.2 Library Director's Report—Sarah Vantrease

They are preparing the balanced budget request this week and will submit it to the CFO and Director and then send it to the Commission.

An interpretation system for all languages is now available at the Library The challenge is to find the best way to reach people the Library is not already reaching through its publicity in English and Spanish. This new translation system is funded by Measure Y and, as a LAB, we should get the word out about this new system which will help those who speak other languages.

Lumacon, a joint venture with the Library, the Friends, and Petaluma High School, is this weekend.

Ray responded to a question of Pam's by stating that he and others reach out to the County Community Engagement group and that there are 1.5 commissioners who are appointed by the County.

Pam would like some staff support for the LABS and wondered whether Library surplus funds might be used for this purpose.

6.3 Library Commissioners' Report--Sarah Laggos.

The Library has a surplus because money has been committed for projects but there has been delay in starting them. Let Sarah know if you want to be on the Speakers Bureau. They are also working on the Library's Mission, Vision, and Values statements and will send a survey to LAB members about these. Funds are continuing to be raised for Roseland and there will be a gathering soon to connect with people who are interested in giving to Roseland.

Cynthia described house parties at which Erika and a Foundation representative speak and encouraged others to have one.

6.4 Youth Members' Report:

Lauren: She has been coming to the Library a lot, especially for Humanities class.

Molly: She has been coming to the Library a lot too, mostly to pick up holds, which is made easier with the Bibliobox. She is going to try to get to more of the events—she has not been inside the Library lately, and mostly does everything through the app. She later stated that her 10-year-old sister has asked for more "Read to a Dog" days.

Noah wanted to know about Homework Help. Neither of them knows anyone who has used Library Homework Help as far as they know.

6.5 Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries—Joe Seymour

The Friends has a healthy bank account balance and is still getting money. Their job will be made easier by Facilities removing some equipment from the Central branch basement that hasn't been used for 30 years. They are working on filling up their board. March 20th is the next meeting, and this would be a good time for the branch managers to get in requests.

The book carts in total brought in over \$12,000.

6.6 City Council Liaison Report--Eddie Alvarez

The JPA is up for review this year. He would like to talk to the Library about the JPA, understand its expectations, hear from us, and then talk with the Assistant City Manager and his colleagues on the City Council. He will report back at the March LAB meeting.

7. Discussion Items

7.1 Advocacy Talking Points from Ray Holley, Communications Manager--

It's important to talk about the renewal of the sales tax, which raises 40 per cent of the Library's revenue. The Library would like LAB members to speak to the public, and would like input regarding places to speak and what is important to talk about. The Library will give LAB members talking points.

See the attached handout regarding the Hearn Community Hub. The City has decided to keep momentum going regarding the Library, but the Community Center will move to the development's second phase.

The Library will have a Maker Center, and very importantly, meeting places for the community. Hopefully, there will be space for the Friends as well. They will work with the fire station on a fire-safe garden. They are working closely with Graton Rancheria Chair Sarris regarding the collection and the garden, among other things.

The cost is projected to be \$1200 per square foot, which is apparently standard. There is a \$5 million gap, and they're hoping for more grant money from government entities; Mike Thompson pointed them to specific funds, but the federal government has said "no" so far. The Commission chair will be in Washington, D.C. next week and will speak with both California senators. Dr. Garcia, the SRJC President, is on a White House task force and spoke with Erika. They are feeling good about the money raised so far.

Eddie Alvarez thanked Ray and others for all they have done on this project and said that they are looking at climate resiliency plans, such as pedestrian access.

Ray pointed out that individuals and government entities want to be part of this project.

Ray would like to wait until after any tax ballot measure for the 11 JPA signatories to do their JPA review. Others agreed.

7.2 Joint Powers Agreement and LAB Purpose --Pam said that the JPA will be on the March agenda and LAB members should review it before then.

7.3 Workshop: Defining this LAB's Assets

We did an exercise in pairs using a sheet which asked for our education and experience, heart and mind, passions and interests, and strengths and superpowers. Pam will transcribe the results and bring them to the next meeting as a discussion starting point.

7.4 Library Security Concerns

Rosalie made a spreadsheet regarding contacts she had when regularly walking around the branch. Things are going quite well, generally much better in the winter than in the summer. Concerning two lights at the end of the parking lot: Facilities got in touch with the City, but the repair requires special equipment and can't be done when it's raining. There are

staff who would like a full-time security guard, especially when Rosalie is not there. She feels that she can handle anything, and that having security would have non-beneficial effects due to the branch's small space.

Sarah V. noted that there are working security cameras outside of all library branches. There have been a few incidents and they have been able to go back and watch video. Security cameras provide good images and they were able to provide those to the police after one incident at Central.

Sarah pointed out that the use of cameras is guided by the Library's privacy policy. She is the only one who has access to the tapes. If the Library is giving images to anyone else, it can blur or redact things that are not relevant. If there is a public records request, the Library works with counsel to be sure that it doesn't divulge more than necessary. Footage is maintained for 14 days.

7.5 Defining and Prioritizing Current Topics for LAB to provide support and assistance to our library branches: Moved to March meeting

7.5.1 Brainstorming session and prioritizing: Moved to March meeting. Bring a bulleted priority list to the next meeting, where we will break up into small groups and then decide as large group what we want to prioritize.

8. Action Items

8.1 LAB elections and appointments

All officers were unanimously elected to the offices they currently hold, Pamela van Halsema to Chair, Noah Harris to Vice Chair, and Cynthia Denenholz to Recording Secretary

8.1.1 Appoint a Sonoma County Library Commission liaison.

Serge moved that we prepare our annual report and then select someone to take it to the Commission. The motion was approved unanimously.

8.2 It was agreed to present the report at the October 2nd Commission meeting.

8.3 November 20, 2024, was proposed as the date for the November LAB meeting. This will be on the March meeting agenda.

9. Advisory Board Information Items—None in addition to those presented earlier in the meeting

10. Follow-up and Next Steps--None in addition to those presented earlier in the meeting

11. Adjournment--The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

