

## DRAFT MINUTES

Sebastopol Library Advisory Board Meeting

July 31, 2024, 4:30 p.m.

Location: Sebastopol Regional Library 7140 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol 95472

Attendees: Dena Bliss (Chair), Kee Nethery (Vice Chair), Mary Shiff, Tong Ginn, Helena Whistler, Stephanie Elliot, Una Hall, Jennifer Peterson Hunter, Ruth Myers-Miyashita, Fred Engbarth (Commissioner), Stephen Zollman (City Council Liaison), Barbara Maes (Library Administration), Ray Holley (Library Administration), John Koetzner (Acting Branch Manager).

1. Dena Bliss called the meeting to order at 4:31 PM.
2. Introductions: Library Advisory Board members introduced themselves as well as the new LAB member Ruth Myers-Miyashita.
3. Consent Agenda Items:

Approval of Agenda: Moved: Una Hall    Seconded: Mary Shiff

Vote: Approved

May, 29 2024 meeting minutes: Moved: Kee Nethery Seconded: Helena Whistler

Vote: Approved.

4. Announcements: Sue Fujita announced there was an upcoming fall book sale.
5. Public Comment: No public comments were made at this time.
6. Regular Agenda Items (Discussion and/or Action):

- a. Requesting the Commission have first readings to propose actions and second readings to vote on actions

Commissioner Fred Engbarth reported that the Library Administration and Library Commission were considering moving to first readings and second readings on action items but was uncertain when it might be implemented.

- b. Keep LABs as a standing item on Commission agenda

Ray Holley asked to be recognized and reported that the LAB, Friends, and SCPL Foundation will be added back to Library Commission agenda in either August or September. (Note: The three agenda items were added back for the August 2024 agenda.)

- c. July 11, 2024 Sebastopol Times article “The battle heats up over pending dismissal of Sebastopol Library branch manager”

Library Advisory Board members and members of the public commented on the article expressing their agreement with the article and unhappiness with

Mathew Rose being on Administrative Leave with intent to dismiss. Public and LAB comments included questioning Library Administration's decisions and declarations of wanting Mathew to come back to the Library. The Library was unable to comment about personnel matters.

d. No Confidence in Library Administration

Chair Dena Bliss passed out copies of a "Motion for vote of no confidence in current administration" that read: Owing to your treatment of our highly respected Branch Manager, Mathew Rose, your disregard for the Sebastopol community, your presenting untruths to the LAB, your removal of a year's long standing LAB report as an item on the Library Commission Agenda,

We the undersigned members of the Sebastopol Library Advisory Board voice a complete lack of confidence in the administration of the Sonoma County Library.

The motion passed unanimously.

e. Change Sebastopol LAB Bylaws to exclude Library administration from LAB meetings.

Helena Whistler disagreed with leaving out the administration from LAB meetings. After much discussion, many of the LAB members said that they would like to keep communication open and not exclude library administration. One suggestion by Chair Dena Bliss was to possibly rotate admin into the meetings. Note: Vice Chair Kee Nethery said it was not about Barbara, but that they would like to know more about administration.

## 7. Reports

- a. Library Commissioner report: Commissioner Engbarth reported that the new commission packet was coming out and stressed reading it is important.
- b. City Liaison report: Councilmember Zollman reported that the City Council had approved going out for a ½ cent sales tax on the November ballot. He also mentioned that because the city was facing revenue shortfalls and budget cuts, the city would be looking at the library lease to increase some cost sharing for the building.
- c. Library Administration report: Barbara Maes reported that this was Disability Pride Month. She also noted that traffic was up at the Rohnert Park branch as a result of the Petaluma refresh project. Additionally, she also mentioned that she does bring other admin to LAB meetings and Ray Holley at the July meeting was a current example and that she has previously brought Dara Bradds, Deputy Library Director, at the previous meeting, and as well as Library Director Erika Thibault at other times.

Ray Holley also asked to be recognized and reported the good news that the Library Commission was indeed going out for a renewal of Measure Y (now labeled Measure W) in November. He also announced three new library card designs coming out for September. One is a student-designed card, and two others are Peanuts designs, one in English and one in Spanish.

- d. Youth Report: There was no youth report.
  - e. Branch Manager report: Acting Branch Manager John Koetzner submitted a written report, but he highlighted new staff members Mara Koslen, Library Associate, who had transferred from Rincon Valley branch and Lindsey Hiner, a new shelver. He also mentioned that IT had been upgrading the Hublet tablets at the branch, and they had delivered the Bibliobox, a book locker for 24/7 holds. **(Attachment to be added.)**
  - f. Friends of Sebastopol Library report: Sue Fujita reported that they were happy to make about \$3000 at their book sales. She also mentioned the quilt sale that is taking place currently and that money will benefit the FOSL. She additionally mentioned that the FOSL would be taking the quilt to the Farmer's Market to help promote ticket sales outside the branch. She also noted that the new vendor that picks up discards is charging \$100 per pick up. She asked Barbara Maes if the library was being charged for discard pick up and Barbara confirmed it was.
8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting: September 25, 4:30 pm, at Sebastopol Regional Library, 7140 Bodega Ave, Sebastopol, CA, 95472:
- A. Cybercivics
  - B. Update from Library Administration on \$500,000 bequest to Sebastopol Library on how much of the money has been spent/ is left.
  - C. Collaborative Letter to Labs. Helena, Ruth, Stephanie, and Kee volunteered. Helena noted they needed to be mindful of the Brown Act, and Chair Bliss said that six members was a quorum, so they will come with a draft letter to the next meeting.
  - D. \$500 stipend – for Outreach?
9. Additional Public Comment: Natalie commented that she curates the Meeting Room Art shows and that they were having the artist on Sunday from 3-5 pm.
10. Adjourn: The motion to adjourn was made by Kee Nethery and seconded by Tong Ginn. Approved at 6:00 pm.

## **Attachment A.**

Motion for vote of no confidence in current administration

Owing to your treatment of our highly respected Branch Manager, Mathew Rose, your disregard for the Sebastopol community, your presenting untruths to the LAB, your removal of a years long standing LAB report as an item on the Library Commission Agenda,

We the undersigned members of the Sebastopol Library Advisory Board voice a complete lack of confidence in the administration of the Sonoma County Library.

## **Attachment B**

### Branch Manager's Report

Sebastopol Regional Library Advisory Boarding Meeting

July 31, 2024

### **Sebastopol Regional Library Report**

Acting Branch Manager John Koetzner

**Visitors in June 2024: 13,653**

**Visitors (to date) in July 2024: 13, 369**

#### **June Events 2024**

**60 events held, total attendance:**

**1280 Representative programs:**

Lunch@ the Library, attendance: 262 (program started June10).

Babytime, attendance: 119

Sewing in Community, attendance: 30

Storytime in Ives Park, attendance: 147

Sol Flamenco, attendance: 30

Safari Encounters, attendance: 150

#### **July 2024**

**77 events held, total attendance: 1,364**

**Representative programs:**

Lunch@ the Library, attendance: 370 so far.

Babytime, attendance: 176

Sewing in Community, attendance: 30

Storytime in Ives Park, attendance: 215

Social Service Day, attendance: 10

Magician Mike, attendance: 110

#### Staffing

Mara Koslen joined the Sebastopol Library staff as a Library Associate on Sunday, July 28, 2024. She had requested a transfer from Rincon Valley branch to Sebastopol.

On August 12, Lindsey Hiner will join the Sebastopol Library staff as a shelver.

## IT Services

IT delivered a Bibliobox (book locker) and staff underwent training two weeks ago. It went live last week and we are now starting to promote it. The Bibliobox is accessible 24/7 and holds will remain there for three full days.

IT is also updating the Hublet tablets.

## Sample patron comments regarding the Sebastopol Lib

A mother of a Toddler approached the Reference Desk to ask us if Storytime would be resuming at Ives Park. The Mother said many great things about Children's Librarian Adriel and said that she was "very energetic and that she made the Storytime engaging and highly memorable!"

I have been enjoying Tai Chi. The teacher is wonderful and I am so appreciative that the library is offering this class. I hope it will continue to be offered.

Patron really liked the idea of the Tween Game Lounge (and appreciated how it kept the rest of the library a bit more calm/less noisy).

patron is very impressed with all the things happening at Sebastopol Library, She has been going to libraries since she was a child and nothing can compare to her experiences at Sebastopol Library Restroom closest to City Hall smells really bad, reported by patron.

"This film was really compelling. Thank you for screening this film!"

Staff observation during documentary film screening of "The Witness:" two older, female presenting people, met at the movie and enjoyed each other's company and were making plans to see one another!

"Are you Courtney? I just wanted to thank you for showing the total solar eclipse on the big screen. I walked over here, learned about it, and could just stroll in and take a seat and watch it. I appreciate that you took the time and effort to set up chairs and the projector."

"You guys are doing such a good job here! It's so great to see so many kids using the library. I love seeing them curled up on the couches and tucked into nooks reading. Libraries have really changed and I love it."

Patron visiting from San Francisco complemented the Sebastopol library as "Simply wonderful, you have a beautiful library. I'm from San Fran and this is just so much... so great." She loved that we were offering the Lit Crawl events here, and was so excited by our various services, particularly what we provide for the homeless population.

A patron came to the Reference Desk on Sunday (4/14) to ask if Django Reinhardt Style Open Music Jam was a regular performance because they really enjoyed hearing the live music in the library. "I came into the library right after the Sebastopol Farmer's Market and was surprised to see a live performance! This is really great and I love taking my kids to this library!" A few more patrons came to the desk to ask about the program: "How often does this happen? I would love to bring my friends along with their instruments! Really cool event!" "It's really nice to have live music on a relaxing Sunday at the library! Thanks for doing this!" One patron knew Rhonda Berney, one of the performers, and said "Dr. Berney is the best! She really takes care of the people she looks after. She's the one playing the mandolin!" - Alice (reg patron). As a Sunday staff, it has been a pleasure to host Django Reinhardt Style Open Music Jam because of the way the live music animates our library. This was our 2nd time hosting the group but already there's a lot of support. Rhonda is incredible and thanked the library for the opportunity to connect with the community. I told her that the library is grateful to her and for the community she's been forging with this program."

"This is really cool that you're doing Lit Crawl! Will you be doing this again next year?" "Thank you for hosting Lit Crawl! I really enjoyed all the panelist and what they had to say about their craft and literature." "Really wonderful and diverse panelists! I was really impressed by Aimee Phan!" It was a packed house and as staff for the day, I think this was an incredibly successful program and partnership! I observed a mostly adult crowd but there seemed to be young adults in attendance as well. A lot of buzz in the library during the programs!

Please provide toilet seat covers in restrooms.

Put a drop box in your parking lot! It's almost impossible to park and too many of us older people can't walk / climb stairs all that well.

