

SANTA ROSA LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
Sonoma County Library
Wednesday, September 25, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Rincon Valley Regional Library

Draft Minutes

PRESENT: LAB Chair Pamela van Halsema, LAB members Ana Diaz, Cynthia Denenholz, Serge Zimmeroff, Youth Members Lauren Chavez and Molly McNeill; Library Director Erika Thibault; Library Division Manager, Public Services, Sarah Vantrease; Central Branch Manager Jessica Hoover; Northwest Branch Manager Ana Dawe; Rincon Valley Branch Manager Jennifer Duran; Roseland Branch Manager Rosalie Abbott; Santa Rosa Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries Representative Joe Seymour

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:00 PM
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Approved unanimously with the correction of the spelling of Erika Thibault's first name
3. **Approval of Minutes of July 31, 2024:** The minutes were amended unanimously to delete the last sentence of page 1, beginning with "Jessica" and ending with "adults?" and to delete the 4th paragraph on page 4 beginning "Sarah Vantrease" and ending "campaign information". The amended minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
5. **INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - 5.1. **HEARING FROM OUR SANTA ROSA COMMUNITY**

The LAB will invite an individual or representative from a community organization to introduce themselves and their services, resources, concerns and needs to build stronger connections to and understanding of the community we represent.

The invitee this evening was **Ryan Kurada**, Program Coordinator, Preschool through Third Grade (P-3)
Equitable Education Services Division, Teaching & Learning Department
Sonoma County Office of Education

Before beginning his presentation, Ryan stated that he has learned a lot about the Library from Rachel Icaza and others and that he wants to learn more about the Library. He's talked to Rachel about new projects and learned about book bundles for families. Ryan tries to develop programs/projects for families to do at home.

Ryan is in charge of STEAM learning for early learners. He has found that teachers are scared of science and that entering science through literacy is a more comfortable way for many teachers.

He is working with the Exploratorium as part of a pilot program there with STEAM and early learning and is doing a STEAM experience based on a book. Look for STEAM and Library Literacy on the Exploratorium's website.

Ryan advised us all that part of his job is working with schools and school districts to get ready for a big shift for everyone with those children newly eligible for Transitional Kindergarten (TK).

He handed out a brochure, *Guide to Universal PreKindergarten*, that was developed by the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE).

Joe advised that the Lawrence Livermore Lab supports child development with STEAM programs. They do programs in the schools. Keysight also has STEAM programs and Ryan might want to be in touch with them too.

Molly would like a psychology class for her school, Sonoma Academy. She will send Ryan an email to help explore this.

Teachers have expressed the barrier of different languages with STEAM learning. Rosalie brought up a person who is an engineer and works with Pasitos and other programs with regard to STEAM programs.

Sarah Vantrease said that the TK students will also be part of the Library's Student One program to get their own Library card. Ana Dawe explained the Student One Card. Also, Rosalie noted that on the Library website there is a Student One Card page with all of the information about the cards and which schools have which cards.

Rosalie has requested from the Library's Community Engagement group that the Library have specific Kindergarten and TK programming; the new universal TK and Student One cards might help the Library decide to set up this programming.

Joe stated that The Grapevine is a publication that goes out to many educators and is a good way to get the word out.

Serge stated that books in Spanish are a big thing for the Roseland Library kids. Ryan could get help with Spanish counterparts of books he uses through this branch.

Ryan answered that the Library could be present at trainings he does regarding STEAM training for early learners.

5.2 Announcements

5.2.1. Measure W Campaign - Erika Thibault

Erika is here for the next few minutes as a member of the Measure W Campaign Committee. She wants to encourage everyone to attend the campaign event on September 26th where they can get yard signs, etc.

The campaign finally has a manager.

SEIU will be phone banking starting October 3rd and needs volunteers and volunteers are also needed to table at the Friends Book Sale in early October.

The campaign has about \$120K and need about \$80K more.

5.2.2 Erika speaking as the Library Director:

Tina Pols is the new commissioner from Cotati.

The [Hearn Hub](#) contractor decisions will be made this week by the City of Santa Rosa.

Erika has participated in design committees and they have coalesced around a design builder.

The City needs to score the choices of all of the interested persons. She is happy with whom they think will be chosen vendor.

The Library still has an approximately \$5 million deficit to have a 15k square foot branch in Roseland, but has time to get the rest of the money, which is needed by the spring. The supporters are going to the Commission and also to Graton Rancheria for the money. She is still hopeful. The Library is working on an MOU to get money from the Library to the City, and there will be a payment plan on signing of this contract. There is lots of accountability and transparency in the MOU.

Erika thanked Pam, Ana, and Joe for going to the Commission meeting advocating for the larger Library. Advocates may still be needed at a Board of Supervisors meeting.

The Library does have a \$2 million contingency fund to pay for any necessary change orders, etc.

6. REPORTS

6.1. Branch Managers' Reports

Central, Jessica Hoover: A highlight was the Meet the Director event. Thanks for feedback regarding tai chi. She would like ideas about what LAB members would like to see on social media.

Cynthia asked about the blocked sidewalk in front of the branch on Monday this week. Jessica talked to the group blocking the sidewalk, which declined to give its name, but they do plan to come weekly to hand out food, etc. Jessica got first names and introduced herself. Jessica will follow up to address access issues. Idea: go to the parking lot across the street?

Northwest, Ana Dawe: Northwest has a new librarian, a new teen librarian, and a Library specialist who has done weddings. Ana posted something today for Banned Books Week.

Roseland, Rosalie Abbott: Rosalie is going to the Los Cien Annual State of the Latine Community Address. The Roseland branch lighting issue has been resolved. One program to highlight is bilingual preschool yoga led by Sara Gagnon.

Rincon Valley, Jennifer Duran: The branch had its 30th anniversary celebration and is still getting fond messaging. She wants the LAB to know that the Library has transfer opportunities, with space made available for internal promotions. The Quilt Guild exhibit is up through October. The Santa Rosa Mineral and Gem Society has big box of rocks at the branch to promote a gem show later this year. They do have a large number of kids after school, but all seem to be working well, alone or with groups. Hopefully, this means the bad behavior from the COVID experience has resolved.

Jennifer also said that her son does a Library presentation for high school freshman English students. He is an education student at SSU.

6.2. Library Director's Report: See Above

6.3. Library Commissioners' Report: None

6.4. Youth Members' Report

Lauren: is a journalist and will write about Library services in the school paper.

Molly: went to Rincon Valley's 30th anniversary event. She uses the Library's online databases, but doesn't go to the branches much. She's surprised how many of her fellow students don't know about the Library's many services.

6.5. Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries Report

Each of the 3 sales this year have netted more than \$15K and there have been more than \$12K in book cart sales. There are additional proceeds from online sales, for a total of about \$70k so far. If the October sale at the Vets Memorial is like last year, the Friends will get about \$30k from that.

The Friends hope to to have space in the new Roseland branch.

The Friends are thinking about setting up a scholarship fund for librarian training.

They will be giving \$20k more to Measure W tomorrow.

The Friends are waiting for all requests from managers for *this?* year.

6.6. City Council Liaison Report: None

6.7. LAB member feedback to reports

Cynthia was particularly Impressed with the portable chargers at Central. The branch doesn't have cords, but is looking into this.

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.1. Annual Report to the Commission - Pam and Ana

Pam showed the Power Point and read the presentation. (See attachments to agenda) (Ana left at approximately 7 PM.)

Pam will make some small changes, but the LAB unanimously approved the presentation.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1. LAB Administration

8.1.1 LAB Master Calendar – Cynthia will add items to the Google calendar through the end of year and send it to the branch manager who sends out the agenda before the next meeting.

8.1.2 LAB Appointment Process - (see attachments to agenda) Cynthia will make the revisions suggested and this will be an action item at the next meeting.

8.1.3 Recruitment of LAB Members—We can suggest to our commissioners that they do some LAB recruitment. The LAB asked the branch managers to consider people who might be good LAB members and ask them to apply.

8.1.4 Distribution of LAB member email list to LAB members—If they chose, members shared their email addresses with each other.

8.3. Outreach and Advocacy

8.3.1 Increasing the library's reach one family at a time – Serge

talked about the Library with a family in Mitote Park and took them for a tour that grew to a number of people going to the Library. Surprisingly, even a friend of his who was a teacher didn't really know that much was going on at the Library. Serge gave an overview and asked a staff person to guide the family on the tour.

Jennifer Duran did the same with Molly's grandmother's women's group.

Erika gave a tour at Headquarters to show the AAUW the book sorting machine.

Tabling—Lisa will be in charge of launching this initiative after the election.

Serge offered to bring a dog as a focal point for any event.

Pam wants to be sure that we have a way to get feedback from any outreach.

8.3.2 Focus Groups - Makerspace Programs: Pam--continued to next meeting

8.3.3 Gathering and synthesizing community feedback: continued to next meeting

8.4. Hearn Hub Construction Cost Funding Gap - Pam

The Commission meeting about the budget was long, but we should all look at the meeting video. Pam will send out an email with a link to the video right away.

If there isn't money to fill the funding gap, we will have only a 10k sq ft library.

There is extra money because some previous projects have come in under budget. Commissioners are not sure about setting a precedent by funding the construction of a building.

We will study the issue and then draft a proposed recommendation to present at the December Commission meeting. We will discuss and take action at the LAB meeting on November 20.

In making an argument for use of the money, consider Ana Diaz's statements regarding the lack of school libraries in the Roseland and Moorland areas.

Erika has told the Commission that it should spend the money that the public has given for the Library.

9. ADVISORY BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS

9.1. Suggestions for next agenda: See above

9.2. Request items from the Library Commission, Branch Managers or Library Director

10. FOLLOW-UP & NEXT STEPS: See above

11. ADJOURNMENT: 7:55 PM