

SANTA ROSA LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
Sonoma County Library
Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 6:00 p.m.
Central Santa Rosa Library

Draft Minutes

PRESENT: LAB Chair Pamela van Halsema; LAB members Ana Diaz, Cynthia Denenholz, Robyn McManus, Katrina Smith, and Serge Zimberoff; Youth Member Molly McNeill; Library Division Manager, Public Services, Sarah Vantrease; Ray Holley, Library Communications Manager; Central Branch Manager Jessica Hoover; Northwest Branch Manager Ana Dawe; Roseland Branch Manager Rosalie Abbott; Commissioner Sarah Laggos; and Commissioner David Cahill via telephone

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 6:04 PM
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Approved unanimously with the addition of the LAB Google calendar and the distribution of the email address list of LAB members
3. **Approval of Minutes of September 27, 2024:** The draft minutes were approved unanimously
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
5. **INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Megan Chapdelaine, a Roseland resident who is interested in the LAB and perhaps becoming a member, was present and was introduced

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.

Presentation by **Liz DePrimo**, Project Coordinator of the Child Care Planning Council at the Sonoma County Office of Education Teaching and Learning Center. She was recommended by Ryan Kurada following his presentation last month.

The Child Care Planning Council is funded by the Department of Social Services through grants from the Department of Education. All counties have local planning councils that serve as forums to address subsidized and non-subsidized child care needs, including Head Start programs, after-school care, and care provided by families, friends, and neighbors.

The Council consists of about 20 members representing the early learning and child care field. Every five years they are required to conduct a needs assessment, develop a child care plan, and complete zip code funding priorities to assist in fund distribution. Efforts are made to keep funds within Sonoma County.

The Council also administers several grant programs, including:

- **Sonoma Quality Counts Pathways/Workforce Pathways**: Provides financial incentives, etc., to educators taking Early Childhood Education (ECE) coursework. With this partnership, the Council can provide stipends at different levels, including for neighbors providing care.
- **Quality Rating Program**: Rates preschool programs and administers block grants to support quality improvements.
- **Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program**: Expands opportunities for children with disabilities. Starting in 2025, this three-year grant will include eight preschools, seven school districts, and the Junior College.
- **Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Mixed Delivery Planning Grant**: Aims to expand preschool access for three- and four-year-olds, support the workforce and teacher pipeline, provide outreach and enrollment support for families, and increase inclusion of children with exceptional needs.

The introduction of transitional kindergarten (TK) will result in more four-year-olds attending public schools and fewer in traditional childcare settings. Funding changes will also support two-year-olds in childcare programs.

Pam asked how the Library might integrate with these programs. Liz expressed interest in learning more about the Library's early childhood initiatives and suggested having a Library representative on the Child Care Planning Council or attending their meetings. Rosalie mentioned initiatives at the Roseland branch, including a branch representative attending Pasitos meetings.

Ana Dawe spoke about the Northwest branch collaborating with the Children's Museum in the Lunch at the Library program.

Liz stated that the Children's Museum doesn't have a representative on the Council, but has discussed doing an event there, especially given that the Council has two years of outreach funding. The Council will soon have another member who will be charged with outreach.

Liz emphasized the importance of mixed childcare delivery systems to ensure families have choices, with cost being a significant factor.

Measure I involves partnerships with First 5 in a number of ways. An Early Care and Education Workforce Guide, available in English and Spanish, includes ECE education options at the Junior College.

5.2 Announcements

Pam announced that Measure W had passed and thanked everyone for their support. Several attendees shared their experiences with the community during the campaign.

6. Reports

6.1 Branch Managers' Reports

****Central (Jessica Hoover)**:** Data loggers were recently installed at the History and Genealogy Archives. There was also a Low Rider event at Central. December will feature numerous musical events, including performances by symphony members. LAB input is welcome.

****Northwest (Ana Dawe)**:** The teen librarian offers volunteer hours, attracting teens from various areas. A group of six staff members will tour Caritas tomorrow, and Pam expressed interest in a potential presentation by Caritas. Ana highlighted kids visiting the Library during rainy weather, using their jackets to keep books dry. The 3D printer is actively in use whenever the branch is open.

-Roseland (Rosalie Abbott)**:** Roseland introduced a mini laptop kiosk with six laptops. Staff participation in Library groups was highlighted. Collaboration with Catholic Charities includes upcoming "Know Your Rights" classes. Sarah Vantrease led mental health first aid training. A notable moment was helping a patron use a computer for the first time, which the patron deeply appreciated.

6.2 Library Director's Report (Sarah Vantrease)

The new library catalog will include staff book lists and detailed item availability at specific locations. The Library is working on exploring how to make more user and staff content available. Renovations at Healdsburg and Petaluma are progressing well, with Windsor renovations beginning soon. Major renovations at Rincon Valley are expected in Fall, 2025. The Commission Finance Committee will review and adjust property and sales tax projections.

6.3 Library Commissioners' Report

Sarah Laggos:

Measure W passed and the JPA review will take place soon.

Pam provided an excellent presentation at the last Commission meeting.

David Cahill:

He expressed surprise that Measure W vote percentage remained consistent throughout the count and noted the lack of opposition from anti-tax groups. Discussion about funding for a new Roseland library will take place later in the meeting.

6.4 Youth Members' Report:

Molly had no significant updates to report.

6.5 Friends of the Santa Rosa Libraries Report

None.

6.6 City Council Liaison Report

None.

7. Discussion Items

7.1 Meeting Locations: Discussion about continuing meetings at Northwest and Roseland, which have smaller spaces. Pam resolved agenda issues with different branch managers by handling agenda preparation herself. Serge suggested meeting at the smaller locations once per year and at the larger locations twice per year, and other LAB members liked this approach. The group decided to meet at Roseland as scheduled and revisit the issue after gaining more experience.

7.2 Focus Groups--Makerspace Programs: Pam and Ana Dawe discussed doing makerspace programs, but the Library is now gathering community input through posters at Northwest. Teen input on maker spaces was also suggested and Katrina has teens who would like to participate. Pam has expertise in this area and Ana will let her know if LAB help is requested.

7.3 Gathering and Synthesizing Community Feedback—Continued to next meeting when Lisa, who is leading this initiative, will be present

7.4 Hearn Hub/Roseland Library Update (Ray Holley): The design process is underway, and the funding is now for a 10,315 square foot building. The Library has until the middle of next year to get funding. They will imbed the Library in the County budget process and will go back to the State for more money, etc.

The Library could use the help of anyone who has contacts with County supervisors or CA Senate or Assembly members.

The Hearn Hub Vision Unveiling will take place on December 12th. The actual groundbreaking will take place in Fall, 2025, and the building is to be completed by early 2027.

7.5 LAB recommendation to the Library Commission regarding Roseland Library funding

The statement drafted by Pam, Ana, and Serge was discussed, edited, and approved. The approved statement reads as follows:

The LAB recommends that the Commission allocate up to, and not to exceed, \$5,400,000 in fund balance for the design-build of the new Roseland Regional library to ensure that the new library will be at least 15,000 square feet. This larger space is needed to provide the community with access to a myriad to reading materials in print and electronic forms, tools to gain fluency in technology and the development of other workforce skills, a place to meet and learn, and to provide a wide array of programs for children and teens, especially important in this area where secondary schools lack on-campus libraries and librarians. This once-in-a-generation investment to provide transformative services to the County will stand the test of time and be remembered as a tangible action demonstrating the Sonoma County Library's values of equity, inclusion, and diversity, and its commitment to be anti-racist.

The LAB urges the Commission and the Administration to seek a substantial contribution from the County and other sources in the current fiscal year to offset and potentially reduce the final sum needed to ensure that the new library will serve residents both in and outside the city limits.

8. Action/Discussion Items

8.1. LAB Administration

8.1.1 LAB Master Calendar : Pam created a Google calendar with an email address and password, which Cynthia sent out. Pam can put events and meetings on that calendar. We can also use the same email address for Google Drive, which will house our documents; recent documents are there now

8.1.2 LAB Appointment Process – To Next Meeting. In the meantime, Pam will circulate the draft to other LABs for their input

8.1.3 Distribution of LAB member email list to LAB members— Robyn will give her email address to Cynthia to add to the list

8.2: LAB recommendation to the Library Commission regarding Roseland Library funding: See Item 7.5 above. The statement was approved unanimously and Pam will present it at the December Commission meeting. She hopes that other LAB members can be present at that time.

9. Advisory Board Information Items

9.1 Suggestions for the next agenda included resources for undocumented individuals. Katrina will explore options, and Ana suggested consulting Zeke Guzman.

9.2. Request items from the Library Commission, Branch Managers or Library Director:
None other than above

10. Follow-Up and Next Steps

See above

11. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.