Santa Rosa Library Advisory Board

Sonoma County Library

Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Roseland Regional Library

MINUTES

\*\*PRESENT:\*\* Library Advisory Board (LAB) Chair Pamela van Halsema (arrived 7:08 PM); LAB members Ana Diaz, Cynthia Denenholz, Robyn McManus, Lisa Pollack, Katrina Smith, and Serge Zimberoff; Youth Members Molly McNeill and Lauren Chavez; Library Division Manager, Public Services, Sarah Vantrease; Central Branch Manager, Jessica Hoover; Northwest Branch Manager, Ana Dawe; Roseland Branch Manager, Rosalie Abbott; Commissioner Sarah Laggos; and Commissioner David Cahill.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 20, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dwayne DeWitt, a resident of Roseland, expressed appreciation for the current Roseland branch's operations and for its positive impact on the community. He emphasized the importance of keeping the Roseland branch open, even when a new branch is built in Bellevue. He highlighted that the Santa Rosa General Plan recognizes Roseland as a disadvantaged area and stated that he will continue to advocate for this neighborhood and its library.

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.\*

\*\*Julio C. Gutierrez-Morales, an immigration attorney with Tu Brujula Legal\*\* in Rohnert Park, spoke about the urgent needs of the undocumented community. He reported an increase in immigration enforcement activities in the area and stressed the importance of educating individuals about their rights, such as remaining silent (5th Amendment) and requesting legal counsel (6th Amendment). He advised that community members, including branch managers, should film encounters with law enforcement and verify arrest warrants. He also mentioned that his firm will host free legal seminars on the first Saturday of each month for the next few months from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., offering 15–20 free consultations.

Mr. Gutierrez-Morales noted that immigration attorneys in Sonoma County are scarce, but those who can afford private counsel should seek assistance. Private attorneys can at least help with asylum applications even if they cannot represent the individuals in full proceedings. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of Power of Attorney documents, particularly for undocumented parents, to ensure their children’s welfare in case of detention. He also stressed memorizing a lawyer’s phone number and requesting a bond in case of being detained.

Those detained can be located through the ICE detention locator with a first and last name.

REAL ID's will be required for commercial travel beginning May 6, 2025.

\*\*Suzanne Harris, Community Impact Director, United Way of the Wine Country\*\* was invited by Ana Diaz. She discussed free tax preparation services available in English and Spanish for individuals earning less than \$79,000 annually. People can call 211 for assistance. She emphasized the importance of filing taxes for later citizenship applications and obtaining an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) for undocumented individuals. United Way can help obtain these numbers. Ms. Harris also highlighted that United Way has funded 10,000 "Know Your Rights" cards and that she is available to speak with community members.

Ms. Harris stated that fear has kept many undocumented individuals from seeking necessary services. Some are afraid to file tax returns due to concerns that providing an address could lead to legal consequences. She clarified that individuals can use a P.O. Box or a trusted third party’s address, but they should never lie about their residency, as false information can have lasting negative legal consequences.

Additionally, Ms. Harris stated that undocumented individuals should apply for citizenship if they are eligible, as stricter policies may soon take effect. She stressed that even small steps, such as obtaining an ITIN and filing taxes, can pave the way for future citizenship opportunities.

United Way also works closely with schools and volunteer networks, offering students an opportunity to earn community service hours by participating in tax preparation and outreach programs. Ms. Harris encouraged those interested to reach out and volunteer. They also run empowerment clinics.

Rosalie Abbott announced that the library offers free printing (up to \$5) and scanning services.

5.2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Serge Zimberoff proposed rotating future meeting locations among Roseland, Rincon Valley, Central, and Northwest branches, with Central and Rincon Valley hosting two meetings each year and Roseland and Northwest one each. This will be both a discussion item and action item for the March meeting.

Ana Diaz asked about the role of wine librarians, \*\*\*requesting information in a future report.\*\*\*

6. REPORTS

6.1. Branch Managers' Reports

- \*\*Northwest Branch:\*\* Ana is excited about hiring a new circulation manager.

- \*\*Central Branch:\*\* Jessica provided details about an event with a wine librarian and announced Lectura Fest on Sunday, June 8th, with free parking.

- \*\*Roseland Branch:\*\* Rosalie shared information about ongoing artwork projects with disabled adults, PJ Storytime, frequent collaborations with Catholic Charities, and Lawyers in the Library. Additionally, she will lead a community hike for the Santa Rosa Rotary which will take place on February 22, with Ana Diaz joining; other LAB members are welcome. She also created a zine featuring Roseland’s artwork and murals. Circulation is increasing, though not as significantly as in-person visits.

6.2. Library Director’s Report

Sarah Vantrease announced that LumaCon, a major countywide event, will take place this weekend. She also reminded members that the Library Commission budget meeting is scheduled for April 16 in the afternoon and will be available for online viewing.

6.3. Library Commissioners' Report

David Cahill reported that the last few months have been relatively quiet.&#x20;

Sarah Laggos emphasized the importance of attending the upcoming budget meeting on April 16th, and advised that materials will be available online.

The Commission will review the JPA after February; send Deborah Doyle a note if you're interested in participating in the review.

#### 6.4. Youth Members' Report

- Molly McNeill visited the Forestville Branch and learned about the "Lucky Day" books for high-demand titles.

- Lauren Chavez takes a journalism class and wrote an article about Library resources for her school newspaper. She also researched voter resources available at the Library.

\*\*6.5 Friends of the Libraries Report: None\*\*

\*\*6.6 City Council Report: None\*\*

\*\*6.7 LAB member feedback to reports\*\*

Sarah V stated that the decision to create an advocacy group comes from the Strategic Plan and Library values. Special resources are considered when Library use is not proportional to a group that has a large presence in the community.

Lisa responded that perhaps having an AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) group would answer a question posed by Jessica.

7. \*\*There was no 7 on the agenda\*\*

8. \*\*DISCUSSION ITEMS\*\*

8.1. LAB Administration

\*\*8.1.1 LAB Meeting Quorum Guidance (attachment to agenda)\*\*

\*\*8.1.2 LAB Appointment Process - Updated by Library Administration\*\*

\*\*(attachment to agenda)\*\*

\*\*8.1.3 Recruitment of LAB Members (and possible term renewals)\*\*

1\. Both of our youth members will be applying for reappointment.

2\. Pam is the only member whose term ends this year and she will decide whether to reapply before July.

3\. We will all try to recruit new members who have the ability to do more outreach.

##### 8.1.4. Planning for the 2025 All-LAB meeting

Pam noted that there have been two LAB Chair meetings since the last All-LAB meeting, and Petaluma is organizing the next one. However, attendance is difficult to coordinate and there is no clear leadership. She suggested that the library administration assist in organizing the LAB Chair meetings. She thinks that one positive change to the JPA would be having only one LAB for the entire county.

Molly recommended that the All-LAB meeting be held on Zoom or in a hybrid format to improve accessibility.&#x20;

Sarah V. suggested that a subcommittee of LAB Chairs take responsibility for organizing the All-LAB meeting, including setting the agenda and selecting the date.

\*\*8.3. Outreach and Advocacy\*\*

\*\*8.3.1 Advocating for Roseland Library construction funding - Ana Diaz\*\*

Ana is recruiting local Roseland people to write letters and/or attend Commission and other meetings requesting support.

&#x20;Roseland funding may be on the March 5th Commission agenda and will be a subject of April budget meeting.

Ideas for advocacy: gather and send letters from the community, use the Library website to communicate with the Commissioners, and do outreach to local legislators.

\*\*8.3.2 Outreach needs for our four branch libraries (ongoing and short term\*\*

\*\*needs)\*\*

Central: Jessica is thinking about using publicity and communication, rather than partnerships, as ways local businesses can be more tapped into the Library. They have similar customer bases and the Library is part of the Downtown Association. Jessica is also working on outreach to the Certified Farmers Market on Sundays in Courthouse Square.

Northwest: Ana is working with the Coddingtown Mall, especially with the Lunch at the Library program. The spring event there on April 5th will be very large and if the LAB wants to have part of a table there, that would be fine. Ana will give this more thought.&#x20;

D. Roseland---Rosalie said that the Library will participate in the Rose Parade. She would like to see trash cleanup in the Roseland area and Ana Diaz said that someone in community is organizing this, which another member said could perhaps be coordinated with Earth Day.&#x20;

Katrina is interested in partnering with SRJC students. Ana Dawe will help.

Ana Diaz will be on the Outreach Committee with Lisa. Cynthia will help on tasks, but not be a formal member of the committee.&#x20;

\*\*8.3.3 Ongoing Outreach Strategies - Lisa Pollack (To next meeting)\*\*

\*\*1. Gathering and Synthesizing Community Feedback\*\*

&#x9;\*\*2. To meet needs of our branches and the community members they\*\*

\*\*serve\*\*

\*\*9. ADVISORY BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS (5 min)\*\*

\*\*9.1. Suggestions for next agenda\*\*

\*\*1. Joint Powers Agreement Review\*\*

\*\*9.2. Request items from the Library Commission, Branch Managers or Library Director--None\*\*

\*\*10. FOLLOW-UP & NEXT STEPS\*\*

1\*\*1. ADJOURNMENT 8:02 PM\*\*

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