

**MINUTES**  
**Rohnert Park – Cotati Regional Library LAB**  
**April 15, 2025 @ 5:00pm**  
**Held at the Rohnert Park – Cotati Regional Library**

**VOTING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Loreen Atallah –Chair (2025)

Lisa Neuson (2026)

Paulina Brassington (2026)

Vacant

Gabriela Dewald – Youth Member (2025)

Vacant

**EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT**

Barbara Mackenzie (RP Library Commissioner)

Jennifer Ryder (RP-C Branch Manager)

Jake Mackenzie (FOL President)

Barbara Maes (SCL District Manager)

**1. CONVENING & INTRODUCTIONS**

Call meeting at 5:03pm and introductions

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRIOR MEETING**

**2.1 APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES**

Lisa made motion to approve, Loreen seconded. Minutes approved as written.

**3. REPORTS & UPDATES**

**3.1 LIBRARY COMMISSIONER’S REPORT**

- Barbara asked for members’ thoughts about the LAB.
- Library Commission is very busy, tomorrow they have a budget workshop.
- Going over the proposed budget and asking their questions. It will be at Headquarters at 1pm.
- The Library has a librarian at the Juvenile Justice Center.
  - He made a presentation to the Commissioners at an earlier Commission meeting.
  - Book club set up, trying to make the library a good place to be.
  - Several Commissioners and Branch Leaders will be going.
- Visited the Windsor Library post re-modernization.
- Finance Committee working on plan for unassigned fund balances.
- Ad Hoc Committees
  - Review JPA – Asking the LAB members what their thoughts are about the LABs in Sonoma County.
    - Lisa – it’s interesting to hear what’s going on in the community. And finding out what’s the new thing at the library. Never used to be outreach before. She disperses the information to others. Then, the LAB started the outreach, and that gave them a good step forward. Still

wants to know what are they doing? What else can they do? What role does the LAB have politically and socially? Been on the LAB for 10 years.

- Loreen – loved the LAB for lots of the reasons that Lisa mentioned. Brings it back to her areas of the community. It can be difficult to know when and how to mobilize the LAB. She sees the Advisory Committees are meant to be community check against what the organization is doing. She hasn't felt the need to push the LAB in that direction because the library is doing great. If there was a deficiency, the LAB would step in to help. She doesn't know the best way to use their time effectively.
  - Gabriela – didn't know much about the library before joining the LAB. Big building of books, didn't know about the committees, programs, and groups trying to make the library better. It's been very informative. Hears the info firsthand.
  - Paulina – She agrees with Lisa. She has sent her experiences with the Library, and it doesn't make it to the agenda. Shares her experiences with the Librarians. Hasn't been here as often since her son became a teenager. She really likes the outreach experiences and do that more often. She is helping with the retention program at the junior college, connecting with students who are immigrants. Brings lots of brochures and information to these students. She does this as an instructional aide with an ESL class. This is her third year translating for Tech Interactive for San Jose, and she uses some examples of Spanish in the library.
- Review Capital projects

### **3.2 LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Last week was National Library Week. Last Tuesday was National Library Worker Day.
- In April, the Library recognizes Dia, and SWANA Heritage Month and Arab American Heritage month, Earth Day, Poetry month.
- Library is closed for Easter, April 20.
- Discussed the Executive Order to gut the IMLS. How will these cuts affect our library system? Currently they do get some money for eBooks from the CA State Library through grants. If they don't get them there will be an effect on the eBook budget. Some other effects could be through CALL training and the NYT subscription service. SCL will see very little compared to how this will affect other libraries. Encouraging all folks interested to contact their representatives.

### **3.3 BRANCH MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **3.3.1 Jason Duran – Report about Digital Literacy Grant**

- Leads the Digital Literacy Task Force
- Bring the resources to the public and find out how to help them use these resources and their personal resources.

- Opportunity to apply for a PLA grant in October 2024, for \$10,000. They provide a full curriculum for multiple topics.
- Awarded the grant in late November.
- An opportunity to train adult services librarian staff to teach these curriculum, did so in February.
- Jason ran a couple of pilot programs here at ROHN and at the JC.
- Started rolling out programs county-wide in late March.
- One of the requirements was to hit 75 people, which they met in March.
- Between now and June they should complete about 40 classes.
- Had pretty good engagement, and they will continue these workshops to carry on in the future.
- One of the other bonuses is that there are shorter versions for each topic that people can be self-directed to use or use with one-on-ones with patrons.
- Hoping we will be able to have regular one-on-one training.
- Able to use some of the money to provide interpreters because we don't have enough librarians to do Spanish programs.
- Teach them at the library for now, the goal is to present at community centers.
- Digitallearn.org

### **3.4 YOUTH MEMBER'S REPORT - Gabriela**

- Still hears people talk about the library.
- Tech High doesn't have space for a full library, but they do have some book collections for classes.
- Thinking about recruiting through Tech High or other high school.

### **3.5 FRIENDS OF THE ROHNERT PARK COTATI REGIONAL LIBRARY REPORT**

- Full board, just finished the spring sale, earned \$4100.
- Still haven't had a discussion to whether they will go back to 3 sales or not. No October date yet.
- Funded the Moonlighter's Swing Band to perform in the courtyard each summer, so that will be on the agenda next Monday.
- No date yet for the Peanuts statues to be installed; statues are with the Library.

### **3.6 CITY COUNCIL LIAISONS' REPORTS – Neither are here today**

### **3.7 LAB CHAIR REPORT**

- Nothing to report

## **4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

## **5. OLD BUSINESS**

### **5.1 Recruiting for LAB Vacancies**

- Reach out to high schools, reach out to SSU students
- Library will be creating flyers and Jen is currently posting in the Community Voice
- Paulina works with someone who's daughter may be interested.

### **5.2 Using LAB funds to purchase giveaways or for a reception/gathering**

- Library tote bags, etc, purchasing other library swag

### **5.3 LAB elections**

- Defer until October

### **5.4 Officially approve Bylaws change, not captured in last minutes**

- Loreen moves to approve the changes to the bylaws. Lisa seconds. All in favor. Approved.

### **5.5 LAB Calendar review**

- Upcoming items

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1 Attending the Farmer's Market on 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month**

- **Dates: June 13, July 11, August 8** – Lisa/Barbara Mac can be there June, Paulina/Glenn in July, Loreen/Glenn in August
- **Determine if LAB will participate this year.** – Yes

### **6.2 Purchase giveaways for Farmer's Market tabling?**

- Loreen will get treats; Jen will look into giveaways. Try to have books.

### **6.3 Renewing existing LAB memberships**

- Loreen's membership will be expiring.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Loreen adjourned the meeting at 6:11pm.

**Upcoming 2025 LAB Meetings: June 17, August 19, October 21, December 16**