**Sonoma County Library**

**LAB Members & Year Term Ends**

**Chair – Beverly Seyfert (2026)**

**Vice Chair – Joanne Brown (2027)**

**Secretary – Vacant Seat**

**Tobhiyah Holmes (2029)**

**Aparna Sinha (2026)**

**Brian Hopewell (2028)**

**Vacant Seat (2028)**

**Briana Gutierrez, Youth Member – (2026)**

**City of Sonoma Liaison –John Gurney**

**Friends of the Library Liaison – Cathy Coleman**

**Sonoma Valley Library Commission Liaison: Kimberly Taylor**

**SONOMA VALLEY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday June 12, 2025, 4:00-5:00 PM**

The LAB meets on the second Thursday of every month

**MINUTES**

**Sonoma Valley LAB Meeting**

**Thursday June 12, 2025 @ 4:00 PM**

**Sonoma Valley Regional Library**

**755 West Napa Street**

**Sonoma, California**

Present: Beverly Seyfert, Barbara Maes, Aparna Sinha; Briana Gutierrez; Sabine Salek, Cathy Coleman; Brian Hopewell, Joanne Brown, Patricia Farrar-Rivas, Kim Taylor, Deborah Doyle

MINUTES FOR June 12, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER: 4:00
2. REPORTS

Reports and updates on library governance, management, programs, services, and support group activities as well as relevant City Council activities. All items are for discussion only.

2.1.   Friends Report – The next book sale is scheduled for 2 days – September 6-7 in the library’s forum room; Cathy Coleman is taking over art receptions when Aparna leaves; She thanks Aparna for all she has done to make them a success for 2 years. The receptions were offered as a combined effort between the Friends and the LAB, and the town loves these events. The Friends are creating a budget committee that will develop an annual budget and bring it to the board. The Friends Annual meeting is October 9.

2.2.   Commissioner Report –

Kim Taylor: The Library Commission passed the SCL budget. LAB By-laws will be considered as well as the role that LABs play.

Commissioner Doyle went to Public Library Fundraising Conference – Carnegie grant recipients were announced at the conference. Impact of DC budget – The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was a small federal department, but they funded branches around the country, including California. The California State Library may have to fire a large percentage of staff because of the loss of IMLS funds. This will have an impact on libraries who depend on grants from the state library. Congress needs to hear personal stories about how the library has changed lives. The government will also cut funds to NPR and PBS. Deborah has stickers from the conference.

2.3.   Library Director or Designee Report – Barbara Maes. The Summer Reading and Summer Lunch programs have begun. June is Pride Month. The library will be closed on June 19 to celebrate the Juneteenth holiday and on the 4th of July. SCL will also celebrate Disability Pride Month in July. The Healdsburg library is reopening June 25th. Petaluma will reopen at the end of July. Forestville Youth Parade – The library marched for the first time this year at the Forestville Youth Parade. SCL has hired a new Librarian III supervisor for the Forestville and Occidental libraries.

2.4.   Branch Manager Report (report copied at end of minutes)

2.5.   City Council Liaison Report – Patricia Farrar-Rivas – The City of Sonoma invites comments on General Plan; as mayor she was granted a holiday and chose Pride. City officials attended the Sonoma Library’s Pride flag raising. There was also a Pride event at City Hall. On June 18 the City Council is set to approve the budget. Cuts to Medicaid and Medicare will affect the city budget and its citizens. Farrar-Rivas met with Mike Thompson and other local elected officials, sheriffs and chiefs of police (Yolo, Napa) to prepare for No Kings protests. She finds that the sheriff departments are working well together and that they respect the law. The First Battle of the bands was held on the plaza – all participants were 18 and under and a band from Modesto won.

New LAB applicants – Kim Taylor has interviewed two people and will get information out for approval at the next Library Commission meeting. She wanted to attend a LAB meeting before making decisions about new members.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF April 10, 2025, MEETING.
   1. Approved Aparna moved to approve the minutes, Brian seconded and the minutes were approved.

4.     PUBLIC APPEARANCES OR LETTERS

An opportunity for members of the public to address the Library Advisory Board; times are limited at the Chair’s discretion.

No members of the public were present.

1. DISCUSSION ITEMS
   1. Questions from Commissioner Doyle: “As you know, the Commission is reviewing the JPA that created the SCL system. We are asking LAB members for feedback. Do they find serving on the LAB valuable? How do they feel they are contributing to the library?”

Aparna – LABs are integral, and she promotes programs with moms and kids; She feels that she helps to convey that this is the best place to be.

Joanne – She feels that the LAB is a venue to evidence support for librarians and the critical role that they play, and she wanted to be a positive voice.

Brian – Reminded us of the discussion at last meeting about bringing the LAB to the public (because they do not attend LAB meetings). He wonders which civic and government groups they should connect with and thinks that a structure would be good for that to happen. LAB can use these forums to also talk about the library. He wears a button that says, “ask about the library.” There are groups out there that don’t know about the LAB or the library, and this outreach could serve to recruit new members and to proselytize a bit.

Briana – For her it is about representation – she speaks for teens and as Latina.

Beverly – is the longest serving member here and she has seen good and bad; At first it felt they just came in and listened and had no purpose other than to meet. This was a common feeling among other LAB chairs. She feels there is a good relationship with the library team here and knows it is not common around the county. Beverly wants the LAB to be ambassadors for the library. She likes to tell people about online services they can use without coming into the library. The LAB can then bring back feedback about what people like and the challenges they face in using the library. She benefitted from meeting with other LAB chairs about what they are doing and their calendaring efforts.

Commissioner Doyle – LABS were created before internet, and they were necessary when created to make sure that all towns and county had input into what the Library Commission was doing. The Commission never investigated or analyzed the role of LABS and with the new JPA there is an opportunity to find out what to change. Most LABs feel that they don’t know what their role is.

Beverly wonders how to get feedback to report to the Commission. She feels that people who join the LAB now are looking to be more active. The LAB is not here to tell the library what to do but to help library’s visibility and let Commissioner know what they are hearing.

* 1. In-library survey results, and what comes next?

Beverly brought the box that was left in the library to conduct a survey. The Survey was not in the children’s area. Not sure it is accurate; not statistically valid in part because families may not come. Multiple boxes would help catch people who are picking up books and families. The next survey should be conducted in different areas of the library.

The LAB shared ideas about how to expand on the current survey:

Brian suggests doing the same thing again for a longer time to see if they get a different result (2 datasets). The children’s piece is the future of the library, and it would be good to dig into that more (How long do they stay? Do they have a library card?). The LAB had discussed collecting results every week; It is important to share the results in the library with participants – perhaps via a sign. The next survey should be a 2-week cycle.

The Mayor asked what they are going to do with this information; LAB members say they just don’t know why people come into the library. Are there seasonal differences? Mayor Farrar-Rivas wonders if the end goal should be to get more people into the library. Beverly says they wanted to get people accustomed to knowing that there is a LAB and that people can talk to them. Brian suggests that this activity builds community.

Where can the second survey box go and where can the children’s box go?

Joanne suggests sending an email to discuss ideas.

* 1. August 2025 Meeting - *there was* *no time for this discussion*.
  2. LAB recruitment ideas - *there was* *no time for this discussion*.
  3. Updates from LAB members on current projects - *there was* *no time for this discussion*.
  4. Acknowledge departing members of the LAB. Briana Gutierrez will be attending college at UC Berkeley in the fall, leaving an opening for a new youth LAB member. Other departing LAB members are Roy Tennant and Aparna Sinha.

1. ACTION ITEMS

6.2 LAB Secretary - *there was* *no time for this discussion*.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY July 10, 2025

TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 4:00 PM

**Manager’s Report – Sonoma Valley Regional Library**

**Friends of the Library and Library Advisory Board Meetings**

**Thursday June 12, 2025**

**Library Hours:**

* Monday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 10am-6pm
* Sundays from 1pm to 5pm
* Tuesday & Wednesday 10am-8pm
* Curbside service is still available upon request.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Check-outs** | **In-library patron visits** | **Bibliobox holds** |
| January 2025 | 15,403 | 9,890 | 505 |
| February 2025 | 14,513 | 9,630 | 419 |
| March 2025 | 16,297 | 10,108 | 408 |
| April 2025 | 15,935 | 9,879 | 368 |
| May 2025 | 14,265 | 9,191 | 390 |

**Notes about displays, celebrations, and program highlights:**

Our other displays for the month of May include books in the children’s, teens, and adult sections to mark Pride month. Otto is dressed as a graduate this month in honor of anyone who has celebrated graduation, with a note attached to highlight our graduation ceremony for children who have finished the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program. Kim and Anna organized a special graduation ceremony on June 8th to celebrate the children who finished.

Our Summer Reading Challenge has begun! Children, teens, and adults may participate. They will earn one free book for every 5 hours that they read (up to 15 hours and three free books). There are special events planned for all age levels. Find out more about the program on our website at <https://sonomalibrary.org/browse/audience/kids-families/summerreading>

**Upcoming Events** (View events and register at <https://events.sonomalibrary.org/events/month> )

**Recurring Programs**

**Teens**

* Weekly Teen programs continue Wednesdays from 3:00 to 4:00 PM.
* The ten-led TCG (Trading Card Game/Pokémon) Club meets on the third Sunday of every month from 2:30 to 4:00 PM for ages 10 to 17.
* The Teen K-Pop club meets on the fourth Friday of every month at 4:30 PM.
* Dungeons and Dragons for teens and tweens is on third Thursdays at 4:00 PM.
* Destiny and our two teen summer interns lead the Lunch at the Library program every day from June 9 to August 8.

**Children**

* The Sonoma Valley Build Club (Legos!) meets on the first Tuesday of every month from 3:30-4:30 PM.
* Family story-times Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 AM, led by Kim Dargeou.
* Pajama Storytime is on the second Tuesday of the month from 5:00 to 5:45 PM – In June, July and August the Pajama Storytime will be held at the Tuesday Night Market on the Plaza as an outreach event.
* French story time occurs on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 4:00 to 5:00 PM.
* Baby Storytime is normally on the third Wednesday of every month, but it will not be conducted in the summer because we have our Summer Reading Program events on Wednesday mornings at 11:00.

**Adults**

* Cookbook Club is on the second Saturday of every month at 12:00 Noon. The theme for June is the Caribbean and the program date is Saturday June 14 at 12 Noon.
* One-on-One Tech Help is available by appointment. We will offer this service to anyone who requests help instead of restricting it to one hour per week.

**Book Clubs**

* The next Mystery book club meeting is on Thursday July 3 at 4:00 PM. We will discuss *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger.
* The Sonoma Reads! Book Discussion Group will meet on Thursday June 26 at 2:00 PM to discuss *The Reading List* by Sara Nisha Adams.

**Art Series**

There will be no art shows in June, July, or August as the staff focuses on the Summer Reading Challenge, which begins June 1, and the Lunch at the Library Program. Many thanks to Cathy Coleman for taking the reins of this program when it returns in September.

**Additional Branch Programs**

Program information is available on the SCL calendar of events at <https://events.sonomalibrary.org/events/upcoming?branches%5B103%5D=103>

**Virtual and System-wide Events**

* June 25 at 6PM – The Read BIPOC Book Club will discuss *Love After the End*, a collection edited by Joshua Whitehead.
* July 9 at 6PM – The Virtual Queer Book Club discusses *The Thirty Names of Night* by Zeyn Joukhadar.

**Outreach Events this Summer**

Hear us on KSVY – Sabine does the KSVY morning show on the first Wednesday of every month at 9:00 AM. Kim is a regular on Tim Curley’s “Curly and Curlier” show.

Kim and Destiny will table at the Sonoma Community Health Centers Back to School Health Fair on Saturday August 9th.

Kim will present storytime at the Tuesday Night Market on the second Tuesdays of June, July and August.

**Study Pod**

Patrons have been using the pod for tutoring appointments, virtual meetings, and as a quiet study space. Patrons may reserve it for one hour and may stay for a second hour if no one else has requested it. Library literacy tutors may reserve the space up to a month in advance for two hours at a time.