



LIBRARY

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Library Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2023, 5:30-7:00 p.m.
Modesto Library Auditorium

Present: Board Members – District 1 Rep Renée Ousley-Swank, District 2 Rep Lise Talbott, District 3 Rep/Chair Stella Beratlis, District 4 Rep Joshua Vander Veen, District 5 Rep Sue Henderson; At-Large Newly Appointed Rep Michael Lingg. Library Staff Members – Sarah Dentan, Curtis Lee, Susan Lilly, Andrea Rush-McNeel, Marco Sepulveda, Bryan Sontag; Friends of the Library Representative(s) – Friends of the Modesto Library President Denise Nordell, VP Beverly Schlegel; Friends of Patterson Library Gay Girard; CEO Representative Patricia Lord

Absent - At-Large Representative Shanyn Avila (excused), Patti Boardrow (excused)

- I. Meeting was called to order by Stella Beratlis at 5:32 p.m.
- II. Welcomed Renée Ousley-Swank, our newly appointed District 1 Representative. Renée is a second-generation teacher and librarian. She worked as a Media and Library Consultant
- III. Consent Calendar
 1. Approval of Minutes from meeting held October 27, 2022
Motion was made by Josh Vander Veen to accept the minutes as written, and seconded by Sue Henderson. The motion passed with unanimous approval.
- IV. Public Comment
A comment was made about the Palace Project. Discussion about providing service to the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC). The book club at JJC has not yet reconvened, as there have still been COVID outbreaks.
- V. Report from County Librarian – Sarah Dentan
New and Notable – The Palace Project is a materials sharing app for eBooks and audiobooks. Materials currently include our cloudLibrary items, statewide collections, and eventually will include collections of other participating California libraries. Stanislaus County Library invests \$15K and receives a grant for \$75K toward materials purchased through the Palace Marketplace.

A new countywide Youth Poet Laureate position is being established and implemented by MoSt (Modesto-Stanislaus Poetry Center). Applications are due Feb. 17.

The library's annual report was distributed.



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The Turlock Library began accepting passport applications in mid-November, making it the third library location for passport services. The Modesto Library and Salida Library also provide this service.

Recent Programming

As part of the library's partnership with Opera Modesto, in support of their Story into Song Initiative, the library hosted Edgar Allen Poe related events: Escape from Poe's Study, Pizza & Poe Trivia Night, and Who Killed Edgar Allen Poe – A True Crime Event

Hogwarts Winter Break was a special after-hours ticketed event held Dec. 16 at the Modesto Library. Real-life UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners acted as guest professors teaching a class in herbology. Participants learned how to propagate baby spider plants that they were able to take home. This program was sponsored by Friends of the Modesto Library and UCCE Master Gardeners of Stanislaus County. Guests dressed as their favorite character or came incognito as muggles (non-magic people).

Other gardening programs included Gardening on a dime, and Ceres Gardening for Kids.

The Halloween Story Time and Parade resumed in October. Read to a Dog, a program for young readers to practice reading aloud and build confidence in a non-threatening situation, is taking place in Modesto.

Virtual Author Talks began last July. These are one on one conversations with best-selling and award-winning authors. There is local interest in the Virtual Author Talks, however, most participants are watching the recorded interviews instead of the live event.

A grant received during COVID for Stay & Play programs has been approved for continuation.

A new partnership with the Gallo Center for the Arts will include special Story Times in the MoRo (Modesto Rotary) Music Garden.

Outreach

A new outreach plan has been developed, which includes data collection to evaluate the effectiveness of participating in specific annual events. Recent outreach activities include children's book giveaways in Empire, Ceres and Hughson, parent presentations at schools and community agencies such as the Parent Resource Center, and a booth at the Wellness Connect event, for 4,000 county employees.

Strategic Planning

We're in the process of contracting with a consultant to help with strategic planning. When the contract is finalized and the project begins, we'll be reaching out to the Library Advisory Board and other key stakeholders to participate in the process.

Statistics

Circulation of materials dropped dramatically during COVID. During Fiscal Year 2021-22, circulation has increased, but is still below pre-COVID levels.

Demand for digital materials through Hoopla and cloudLibrary increased significantly during COVID. Interest remains high.

Door counts remain low, even as circulation increases.

VI. Staff Reports

1. IT Update – Andrea Rush-McNeel

Request for Proposals (RFP) - In process for Salida, Modesto, Hughson, Riverbank, Denair, for network upgrades. Outdoor WiFi – Modesto, Turlock, Salida and Empire - this project has been completed.

Palace – 183 users, 46.4K titles, 183 total licenses, 156.6K available licenses

Some new public PCs tomorrow

Modesto and Salida testing

New auditor/controller invoicing

2. Facilities Report – Marco Sepulveda

The library has 13 locations, plus a pop-up library at the Grayson community center, housed in mostly aging buildings.

Notable projects completed

Glulam beams installed at Salida Library (Glued Laminated Timber – stronger and longer lasting)

Oakdale Pergola and Patio wall

Modesto Stairwells – paint and lighting

Modesto Cooling Tower – replaced – more efficiently cool the building. Fewer moving parts in future. Once the rest of the system is done, we expect to realize greater efficiency, resulting in cost savings.

New A/C in Riverbank will result in energy savings.

Current Issues

Minor leaks in Turlock, Newman, and Keyes

Water intrusion from patios in Riverbank and Newman

Significant roof leak in Oakdale – extensive damage to staff area

Plans for the Future

Library Master Plan - \$10 million over next 3 years from Board of Supervisors for enhancing libraries. Focus will be on Modesto, Newman, Oakdale, Patterson, Riverbank, and Salida.

Modesto – Asbestos, mitigation/abatement, ceiling replacement, and Tbar retrofit, LED upgrades, HVAC controls, security upgrades, network infrastructure improvements, Children's Story Hour Room redesign, carpet replacement, interior improvements, exterior improvements. Modesto painting project postponed.

**Denise Nordell, Friends of the Modesto Library president noted that the FOML would like to support and provide input on exterior painting, gardening, and irrigation upgrades.*

Riverbank and Newman

Redesign / reconstruction of service counters (elec. upgrades), staff desks, public desks.

Patio cover, water diversion, (downspouts), carpet replacement, interior upgrades.

Remaining branch proposals are being developed.

3. Budget Report – Curtis Lee

Curtis Lee reviewed revenue, expenditures through December 2022/end of 2nd quarter of FY 2022-2023.

Revenue totals \$7,541,744 or 39.6% of budget. Sales tax revenue represents 4 months, due to the 2-month lag in receiving tax funds. We are on track for \$15 million and we're asking for a \$600K mid-year budget increase (as a conservative projection). Expenditures total \$7,249,191 or 37%. (Less than 50% at mid-year, due to payment schedule of certain expenditures. The current fund balance is nearly \$14 million.

**Patricia Lord, Stanislaus County CEO's office noted that implementation of the new accounting system was a major challenge and gave kudos to Curtis for managing the process for the library.*

4. Library Outputs – Branch Comparisons – Sarah Dentan
Sarah reviewed circulation, door counts, reference questions and programs/attendance by branch. Next steps include review and streamlining of data collection process and reducing errors, as well as developing more efficient storage and reporting tools.

VII. Reports from Library Support Groups

1. Friends of the Library:
 - a. Patterson – April meeting – receiving a lot of books and they plan to have a book sale the third week of April. (April 18-20)
 - b. Modesto – FOML will take place March 1. Used book sale planned for May 6. There is a newly formed “Dewey Crew” comprised of Friends of the Modesto Library, helping in Children’s doing shelf-reading, etc. Yarning with Friends “Under the Sea” display is up near the entrance to the Modesto Library.
2. Library Foundation – The Annual Author’s Garden Gala was a success, raising \$30K. The fall mail campaign brought in \$28K. \$54K was donated to the Library.

VIII. Action

The Board appointed a new At-Large Member, Michael Lingg, to the Stanislaus County Free Library Advisory Board. He will serve a three-year term ending January 31, 2026. Michael has played music with the local group Home Grown, celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. He managed Stacey’s Book Store for 8 years, and is a retired elementary school counselor.

Motion by Joshua Vander Veen; Second by Sue Henderson. Unanimous approval.

- IX. Discussion - None
- X. Announcements – None
- XI. Agenda Building – Next meeting: April 27, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
- XII. Correspondence – None
- XIII. Adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Library Advisory Board after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection at the Modesto Library Reference Desk during normal business hours. Such documents are also available on the Library website at www.stanislauslibrary.org/about_advisory_board.shtml subject to staff’s ability to post the documents before the meeting.