

Library Advisory Board
MINUTES
Jan. 10, 2019, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Modesto Library Auditorium
1500 I Street, Modesto, CA 95354

Present: Board Members – Dorothy Finnegan, Sue Henderson, Lise Talbott, and Joshua Vander Veen; Library Staff Members - Patti Boardrow, John Fleming, JoAnn Henley, Diane McDonnell; Friends Representative - Friends of the Modesto Library President Denise Nordell

Absent: Sheridan Beuving

- I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions – Joshua Vander Veen called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of Meeting of Oct. 11, 2018 – Minutes unanimously approved.

- II. Public Comment – None

- III. Correspondence – None

- IV. Report from County Librarian – Diane McDonnell

- *Turlock Library Expansion Project* – The project is moving ahead.

The Board of Supervisors has approved the design and funding plan for the new Turlock Library, which includes an add-alternate design to gain additional square footage if construction costs are lower than estimated.

\$13 M is the projected cost of the building project. Funding sources include Library Fund Balance, internal borrowing from the Tobacco Tax Endowment Fund, Public Facility Fees, and County General Fund dollars.

The next step will be to select a design/build team, and then the project will enter the construction phase, projected to begin in late 2019.

- *Empire Library Relocation Project* – There was a community meeting last night (Jan. 9) to update residents on the project, and to share the conceptual project design. Residents shared ideas for their new library, including the addition of a convenient new bus stop at the front of the Library. The projected cost for the Empire Library building is \$3.6 M, and groundbreaking is planned for late 2019.
- *Modesto Library MakerSpace Project* – WRNS, the architectural firm currently working on the Turlock Library project, will be overseeing the Modesto Library MakerSpace project as well.
- *Videoconferencing Equipment* – Equipment, made available through a grant from the California State Library, has been received and is now in use! This grant, called Collaborative Connections, provided funding for video conferencing equipment for all the member libraries in the 49-99 Library Consortium that qualified, including Stanislaus, Stockton, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne. The equipment, housed in the Modesto Library Auditorium, is currently being used to present ESL programs in conjunction with each of the other libraries in the 49-99 Library Consortium.

- *Central Desk Project (Modesto Library)* – The project to install a central service desk, designed to provide both circulation and reference services, is currently underway. This supports a new service model in which there is one focused point of service for customers, and an opportunity for staff to become cross trained on some new job duties.

The desk currently located in the entryway will be removed to open up this area and provide a more welcoming space with expanded entrance and egress for foot traffic. A colorful new carpet will be installed and the self-service kiosks will be relocated to the area where the current circulation desk is located. Security guards will utilize a small station near the front of the library, and passport services will continue to be handled at the back desk area.

- *Opportunity to Expand Oakdale Library* – The Library has been presented with a wonderful opportunity to expand the public service space at the Oakdale Library. Meyer Park is located adjacent to the Library, and plans are in the works to establish an agreement with the City of Oakdale for the Library to lease the property on a long-term basis. Plans include fencing to secure the outdoor space and the addition of seating and additional landscaping. This will be an ideal outdoor location for children’s programming and reader seating.
- *Annual Report for the Stanislaus Library System* – The 2017-2018 Annual Report is now available.
- *New York Times Digital* – The library will soon be introducing a new service, thanks to a grant opportunity. Library cardholders will now have digital access to the New York Times from 1851 to present. Access will include all regular newspaper content plus multimedia, including videos and photos. All content will be available in English, Spanish and Mandarin.

We will have this grant-funded service for at least 18 months at no charge, after which we will evaluate continuation based on usage and cost.

V. Reports from Library Support Groups

Sue Henderson from Friends of the Patterson Library reported that they have a Friends meeting next week. Sue loves the new sign that was installed outside the library and the staff is doing a great job keeping it up-to-date. They are planning book sales for April and October.

A question came up about the Empire Library building project. The library was considering a modular building at one time. It was decided later to put up a stick-built structure rather than a modular.

Dorothy Finnegan reported that Friends of the Turlock Library held a fashion show at the Monte Vista Chapel. They were able to use the facility at no charge. They made a couple thousand dollars on that fundraiser. They have a book sale scheduled for Jan. 25 & 26 at the Methodist Church. They usually make \$5,000. The Friends now have \$84,000 in the building fund. A building project meeting about the Turlock Library was scheduled at Covenant Village. There were a lot of things the Friends wanted that weren’t included in the building plans. More storage space is needed. There is not enough square footage.

Denise Nordell, Friends of the Modesto Library President – The first book sale is being held tomorrow, and May 4 is the used book sale. After each Friends supported event, staff is sharing photos and feedback.

VI. Old Business

Diane McDonnell reported that we still have a vacancy on the Board in District 3, representing Salida. Denise Nordell asked if anyone had ever considered a letter to the editor regarding Board members needed on the Library Advisory Board. Facebook could be an option as well.

VII. New Business

Annie Snell, Youth Services Outreach Librarian, was introduced. She shared information about Library Outreach Services provided to youth, caregivers and families in Stanislaus County. They are preparing to expand services to Westley and Hickman. New partnerships the Youth Services Outreach team would like to add include First Five and Beard Brook Park. They would like to add an additional day at the JJC (Juvenile Justice Center), as well. The things Annie enjoys most are serving youth and doing outreach.

John Fleming, Virtual Services Manager of the Stanislaus County Library – IT is installing staff cash registers, important for accounting and security. They plan to go live by the end of the month.

IT is getting a lot of requests for headphones. They are going to order some and allow each branch to sell them to customers who ask, but will not be promoting them.

The Library received videoconferencing equipment for Modesto Library, from the Collaborative Connections grant. A company came in to assemble it and now it's ours! IT viewed the monitors. There are three microphones and the system works very easily. It will go live on January 23. The conferencing system is a large piece of equipment so it can't move off the stage. It will stay in the Modesto Library Auditorium and be rolled to an enclosed storage area beside the stage for safe keeping.

There is a Literacy grant through CPU (public utilities) that we could possibly be awarded at \$100,000 per branch. They provide computer literacy training and pay for instructors. It also provides money for creating an environment, so it pays for desks, tables and chairs. They allow a certain amount to purchase furniture. Next deadline is July.

Oculus Rift – David Bell made a call to the vendor and they sent out two more headsets that are called Oculus Go (\$200 value). They are rechargeable and easy to use but they don't have Google Earth like the Oculus Rift does. Using the device can cause headaches. It's only for age 13 and over to use.

3D Printer – The 3D printer is still on tour around the library system.

JoAnn Henley, Library Human Services – Workforce Action: SEIU had a strike. 56 of our full time employees are represented by that union. The continuous recruitment for Library Assistants brought in 340 applications within the first couple of weeks. We will screen on the desirable qualification and interview only those with 6 months experience working in a public library. The end of January we will do interviews on the first round of applications. We have a total of 76 full time positions and approximately 90 part time positions in the library system.

Additional Discussion – It was mentioned that some libraries do not charge fines for items returned after the due date. For Stanislaus County Library to eliminate fines for overdue

materials would require further discussion, and ultimately would require Board of Supervisors' approval.

VIII. Announcements – None

IX. Next meeting date: April 11, 2019, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

X. Adjournment – Chair

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.