

Library Advisory Board  
MINUTES  
Oct. 21, 2021, 4:30-6:00 p.m.  
Via Zoom (COVID-19)  
Stanislaus County Library, 1500 I Street, Modesto, CA 95354

Present: Board Members – At-Large Rep (Education) Shany Avila; District 3 Rep Stella Beratlis, District 2 Rep Dorothy Finnegan; District 1 Rep Lise Talbott, District 4 Rep/Chairman Joshua Vander Veen; Library Staff Members – Patti Boardrow, Sarah Dentan, John Fleming, Curtis Lee, Susan Lilly, Friends of the Library Representative(s) – Friends of the Modesto Library President Denise Nordell; CEO Representative Patricia Lord; and Supervisor Grewal’s Representative Nick Dokoozlian

Absent - District 5 Rep Sue Henderson

- I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introduction of Board Members – Josh Vander Veen, Chair
- II. Resolution SCL 21-001 Authorizing Remote Teleconferencing - This was the first meeting we were required to vote on a resolution authorizing remote teleconference meetings, pursuant to assembly bill 361. The resolution motion states we continue meeting (at this current time today) remotely. Stella Beratlis made the motion and Lise Talbott seconded. All present voting members voted in favor of continuing with this meeting today. (Dorothy, Shany, Lise, Joshua, Stella).

To keep meeting remotely in the future, we would need to meet once in person to vote to continue the Zoom meetings. Meeting rooms are open at the library, but currently we require that masks be worn during the entire meeting. Dorothy and Sue prefer meeting in person, and all others feel fine meeting remotely. It will be difficult for Stella to attend in person due to travel time that creates a conflict. We are looking at changing the meeting time. It was decided that we will meet in person next time, in January. (Next meeting currently scheduled for Jan. 20, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.). There will be an email going to board members asking for feedback about the best day/time to meet, for our regular meeting times.

- III. Proclamation
  1. Nick Dokoozlian attended the meeting, and spoke as Supervisor Grewal’s Representative. He was happy to announce that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors passed the Proclamation recognizing National Friends of the Library Week. The proclamation will be delivered and framed to put up in the library. Supervisor Grewal sees a bright future for the Library.
- IV. Approval of Minutes - Motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously, to approve minutes of the meeting held 7/15/21.
- V. Public Comment - none
- VI. Report from County Librarian – Sarah Dentan
  1. Strategic Plan  
July through September good progress was made working through the Strategic Plan. History of Library Finances has been reviewed, back to Prop. 13. Starrett Kreissman was able to get the library tax measure to pass. The intention was for the tax to cover a base level of services, however, 2011-2013 state funding was discontinued. Sarah Dentan is working with Library Business Manager Curtis Lee, Library Accountant Jason DeSilva, and Management Consultant from Chief Executive Office Patricia Lord, on funding sources.
  2. Pathways to Reading grant for \$15,000 was awarded to Stanislaus Library System to support Partnership Development. This is funded through the State Library. Review, Refresh and Relaunch Early Childhood (reading readiness).

3. A customer satisfaction survey will be done annually.
4. We are currently in the middle of a network outage, due to a planned county-wide library rewiring project.
5. We had a visit from the State Librarian, Greg Lucas, who toured the fully renovated Turlock Library.
6. Stanislaus County Library system is part of the 49-99 State Library System, which is a cohort of libraries that run along Highways 99 and 49.
7. Physical circulation of library materials continues to add up, even during the closures, due to the creative ways we are able to get books and materials into the hands of our customers. Many customers are going to online resources offered by the library, such as Hoopla and Cloud Library, and we expect to see those numbers continue to climb. Door count numbers are starting to go up and circulation is going up faster than the door counts!
8. If there is anything you would like Sarah to cover, please let her know.

## VII. Staff Reports

1. Pathways to Reading – Michele Machado and Jessica Geiss are presenting more information on this program Sarah mentioned in her report.

This program is administered through the state library. It was developed to prepare children from birth to third grade, to become more proficient in their reading so they have a greater chance for success in school and beyond.

*Welcome to Reading* kits are available in English and bilingual. Tips for success (bilingual). Activities based on reading skill Level 1 (beginner – pre-K to first grade), and Level 2 for children beginning chapter books (up to third grade). They are labeled with subject headings Early Books for starters, and Transitional Books for children beginning chapter books.

R.P. Branding – How all our programs fit together (Story Times, 1000 Books before Kindergarten, Read-to-me kits)

Importance of this project: 32% of Stanislaus County children are reading at grade level by third grade. They'll fall behind in all areas if they are not prepared to read to learn.

There is a tri-fold informational hand-out for Jan. 2022 reveal, about programs available at all thirteen Stanislaus County Libraries. It includes information about how to get a library card, 1000 Books before Kindergarten, STEAM, and Welcome to Reading.

Someone asked if we had thought about Farsi & Arabic for refugees who may want Read-to-me kits. How can we get these into the hands of all who would use them?

We have a Spanish translator, and that is the reason we are able to include Spanish with the kits, but we don't want to stop at only Spanish language.

We were asked to create a toolkit for a copycat grant so others will be able to use these same tools without having to recreate everything themselves.

2. Satisfaction Survey – Sarah Dentan shared some preliminary data from the survey that is running September to October this year. It was promoted in the library newsletter twice, via e-mail blast, and on Facebook. 450 online surveys have been submitted. The largest reasons people come in is to pick up holds and browse. 31% of people who responded are satisfied, and 58% are very satisfied.
3. Budget Report – Curtis Lee went over the budget for 2020/21. Sales tax ended up at \$13.9 million, well over what we expected. Government funding for the Learning Quest grant and Coronavirus Relief Fund came in at \$887,664. Public Facilities Fees (PFF) in the amount of \$200,000 were received to help offset the payment for the Turlock Library loan, which amounts to approximately half of the annual payment due on the loan. The County General Fund contributes \$491,810 annually. Total budgeted income was \$12.2 million, and actual was \$15.7 million. Expenditures – \$2.5 million was budgeted for Services and Supplies and

\$1.6 million was spent. \$13.7 million was the total amount budgeted and actual was \$11.8 million. Fund balance ended at \$9.9 million. The Library budgeted 13.4 million in revenues and \$13.7 million in expenditures for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

4. IT Report – John Fleming reported that phones, alarms, and wifi are down due to the infrastructure upgrade that is in progress. Modesto Library alone is a 1.5 month project. Demand was nearing our capacity. This upgrade will allow us to increase our customer bandwidth. We're in the final phase of the project and should be done by the end of the day tomorrow (Oct. 22, 2021). Now we are looking at computer replacement. Staff computers will be replaced with new ones that will last about 5 years. When Microsoft Teams was upgraded, our computers could not handle it very well.

#### VIII. Reports from Library Support Groups

1. Friends of the Library – Denise Nordell, Friends of Modesto Library President shared that things are happening at the library in celebration of National Friends of the Library Week. Yarning with Friends will be held in the Makerspace area. Leaf garlands that were created will be hung up in the library by Friends. There will be a Scholastic book fair Nov. 1-6 in the auditorium of Modesto Library, and a Barnes & Noble fundraiser Dec. 4 & 5 where people just have to make a purchase and let the cashier know they are there to support the Friends of the Modesto Library, and the Friends will receive a percentage of each sale. The Friends of the Modesto Library now has 170 members, which is a new high!
2. Library Foundation – Jane Manley reported that they held the Party at the Library as their thank you to supporters on Aug. 20. That was their first in-person event since COVID shut-downs began. The September 25 Author's Garden Gala, generally an elaborate sit-down event was, instead, a drive-through meal pick-up, designed to be a safe and fun event. This was set up with several stations in the library parking lot. Stations included: a book giveaway, bottle of wine, a STEM show and tell by Sarah Dentan, the boxed dinner pick-up, and a Fund-a-Need table where donations could be given for the purpose of having more STEM kits available to customers! They sold 120 tickets to the event, which was just shy of what they would have done in person. This fundraiser brought in \$32,000 in net receipts.

#### IX. Discussion

1. Library Advisory Board Recruitments – Three at-large seats are open: Business, Agriculture and Youth Advisory seats.
2. Updating Bylaws – Josh Vander Veen will send out the current Bylaws and people are invited to send comments back to him. Do they need to be sent to Board of Supervisors for approval or just for sharing? We can ask Legal Counsel to take a look at it.

X. Announcements – Lise is so appreciative of all the library staff.

XI. Agenda Building – Next meeting: January of 2022 (Date to be decided)

XII. Correspondence – None

XIII. 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](http://www.stanislauslibrary.org/about_advisory_board.shtml) subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.