

Library Advisory Board  
MINUTES  
April 28, 2022, 5:30-7:00 p.m.  
Modesto Library Auditorium  
Stanislaus County Library, 1500 I Street, Modesto, CA 95354

Present: Board Members – District 1 Rep Lise Talbott, District 3 Rep/Chair Stella Beratlis, District 4 Rep Joshua Vander Veen, District 5 Rep Sue Henderson, At-Large Rep (Education) Shanyn Avila; Library Staff Members – Patti Boardrow, Sarah Dentan, Curtis Lee, Susan Lilly, Andrea Rush-McNeel, Bryan Sontag; Friends of the Library Representative(s) – Friends of the Modesto Library VP Beverly Schlegel; Library Foundation President Susan Thomas; Guest Luis Uribe

Absent - District 2 Rep Dorothy Finnegan,

- I. Call to Order, Welcome – Stella Beratlis, Chair
- II. Appreciation of Immediate Past Chair of the Board Josh Vander Veen – Sarah thanked Josh for his many years serving on the Library Advisory Board. He began his service with the Board in January of 2009, while he was still in college. He stepped in as Chair when Sheridan Beuving stepped down from that position. Josh was gifted an engraved paperweight in appreciation of his commitment to his work on the Board.
- III. Introduction of new IT Manager Andrea Rush-McNeel – Sarah Dentan introduced Andrea to the Board. Andrea has been with Stanislaus County for 22 years and we are happy to have her with us.
- IV. Consent Calendar
  1. Re-Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the Jan. 27, 2022 meeting were approved. They needed re-approval due to an error on the last meeting’s vote.
  2. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the Feb. 24, 2022 special meeting were approved.
- V. Public Comment - none
- VI. Report from County Librarian – Sarah Dentan

Book clubs are back!

The Library has formed a partnership with Workforce Development, and we are offering training for those seeking help in preparing for job searches.

California State Parks Passes are now available for checkout from all Stanislaus County Libraries. They are for selected State Parks and do not work to get into National Parks.

*Welcome to Reading* kits were created by staff. Children’s staff worked on this with Learning Quest.

Grayson services have resumed, at a reduced capacity.

Juvenile Justice Center (JJC) services have resumed.

There’s been a return to in-person programming. Story Times began in March at Modesto, Turlock and Salida. In April, Oakdale, Patterson and Riverbank started back with their in-person Story Times. A trivia program was held in person at Turlock and others were offered virtually. Fiber Arts and Master Gardeners programs are in the works, as well.

Sarah gave a presentation to the Board of Supervisors seeking a declaration of National Library Week, April 3-9, 2022, and they graciously presented a proclamation to the library.

Circulation numbers for physical materials are increasing. The Cloud Library and Hoopla are well used and the collection continues to expand.

Door count numbers are still showing a very large gap from pre-COVID to now. People may be getting more books per trip after honing their skills during the pandemic. Our hours are not up to the level they were before COVID hit either.

Summer Reading is coming soon. Ceres and Empire libraries will begin Story Times in May. There will be a Home Connectivity Kit debut that will include a laptop and a hotspot.

Effective June 23, there will no longer be a fee charged to replace your library card.

## 1. History of the Library Advisory Board

Pre-History (1987) – The Library Advisory Commission was established by the Board of Supervisors, and tasked with how to keep libraries running. In 1993, the Library Advisory Board was established to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors and the County Librarian. See the attached History of Library Advisory Board report VI-1 for details.

What's next? That is Sarah's question to the Board. Sarah is happy to talk to individuals with questions and/or provide more information as requested.

The question was asked, "What percentage of the budget comes from sales tax?," and the answer is 85-90%.

Our story has always been, "We're fine; we have plenty of money, but when people see the Turlock Library, they want more. Much of the population doesn't know all the things we provide as a library system.

The role of the Library Advisory Board is to advise the Board of Supervisors of the needs of the library. We will explore the best mechanism(s) for communicating with the BOS.

The Library Advisory Board working with the Library Foundation may be an opportunity. Public comment is very valuable at the BOS meetings. Lise suggested a condensed version of Sarah's presentation would be a great presentation to the Board of Supervisors. Proclamation for Library Card sign-up month will be in August.

Library Advisory Board and support groups could make a presence at Board of Supervisors meetings. Maybe we could provide information on Public Comments 101.

## 2. History of the 1/8 cent sales tax

Tax revenue timeline – *(see attached report)*

Revenues: Our largest revenue source is the 1/8 cent sales tax. Next are state and federal monies. \$887K is awarded to Learning Quest from state grants. The Library was reimbursed for our staff working at COVID sites throughout the county. We also are able to tap into developer fees. Books sales bring in money, as well. See attached report for more details.

Expenditures: The largest expenses the library incurs are for Salaries/Benefits, followed by books, materials and databases.

Current Fund Balance – The balance is back up to \$9.9 million

What's next? – Infrastructure investment, one-time and continuing.

- Information Technology
- Facility Improvements
- Efficiencies
- Automated check-in

- Collection Maintenance – Adding more money into this fund in the next 2 years to fill in gaps in our collection.

#### Long-range Planning

- Conservative approach
- What will it cost to run a modern library?
- How do we get there?

Developing a plan with Capital Projects – We’re looking at one-time spending.

We’ve been running on an artificially low budget; not spending where needed.

How do we get into good shape and keep us there so we don’t end up in the same place in another 10 years. We’re looking at a change of approach.

Sarah has faith in the staff at this library.

Question from Board Member: “Our lack of keeping up may end up costing us?”

We now have Marco and Andrea as new managers with a fresh look and a different approach. How can we get things to work the way we need them to work?

### VII. Staff Reports

#### 1. IT Report – Andrea Rush-McNeel

Andrea is working on four areas. Moved from Skype to Teams. Updating VDI environment for public computers for better performance. Moving from VDI to PC for public. Ordered new PCs, monitors and laptops. She is expecting full deployment of the new equipment to be completed by Sept. 30. Andrea worked with Accounting to add money in the yearly budget for cyclical equipment refresh. In today’s technology world, more funding is needed. We used to have our own Library IT Plan but now we are under ITC.

#### 2. Budget Report – Curtis Lee went over the Fiscal Year budget for 2021/22 as of March 31, 2022 (see attached).

### VIII. Reports from Library Support Groups

#### 1. Sue Henderson reported the Friends of the Patterson Library are in the middle of their book sale. Wednesday was phenomenal and they’ll be there Friday even though the library is closed. Volunteer fire people help them move boxes.

Beverly Schlegel, Friends of Modesto Library Vice President, shared that their used book sale will be May 7 from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the Modesto Library portico. The Scholastic book sale will be May 11-16 in the library, and May 10-23 online.

#### 2. Library Foundation –. Susan Thomas reported that they are very busy advocating for the library. They’ve addressed the Board of Supervisors a couple times and they had a booth at the Modesto Farmers’ Market for the first time. Save the date cards about the Annual Party at the Library Aug.19 have been sent. The Garden Gala will be held Sept. 17. They are going to have a float in the Fourth of July parade!

### IX. Discussion

1. Waterford was in District 1 but is now District 2. Lise can continue term but has filled out an application for District 2. Luis Uribe expressed interest and came to observe the meeting.
2. Home Delivery Service is active and we are about ready to start back with normal home delivery service.
3. Collaboration with Modesto Library – MoSt Poetry Center collaborated the last few years.

### X. Action - None

- XI. Announcements – None
- XII. Agenda Building for next meeting, scheduled for July 28, 2022 at 5:30 p.m
  - 1. What is the mechanism of communicating with Board of Supervisors?
- XIII. Correspondence – None
- XIV. 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.