

Library Advisory Board Minutes
January 8, 2009, 4:30 p.m.
Modesto Library Basement Auditorium
1500 I Street, Modesto, CA

- I. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairman Sheridan Beuving.
Present: Sheridan Beuving, Vanessa Czopek, Pamela Floyd, Sue Henderson, Laura Jensen, Susan Lilly, Sandy McDowell, Josh Vander Veen.
Guests: Susan Hildreth - California State Librarian, Eric Hirst – 49-99 System Advisory Board Representative, Charles Teval, Jo Roullard and Linda Walden.
- II. Approval of Minutes of October 9, 2008 meeting – Motion: Sue Henderson/Second: Pamela Floyd. Unanimous Approval.
- III. Public Comment – None.
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Ryan’s Reading Tree – a dedication ceremony and reception was held December 30. The steel art tree, a lifelike oak, is located in the Children’s Room of the Modesto Library, in memory of Ryan Dickerson, an avid reader and library supporter.
 - b. Stanislaus County Library Foundation Update- The Foundation Board is conducting a planning process, including a review of the bylaws. Subcommittees have been established including fundraising and communications/outreach.
 - c. Quarterly Statistics – Circulation is down at some branches, but this is not really a measure of how busy the library is. Closing each library one day a week is a factor in reduced circulation. Another factor is the usage of electronic resources. For example, customers may be accessing magazines through Ebscohost rather than using the hard copy. Sandy McDowell requested statistics on the Foundation Center.
- V. New Business
 - a. County Librarian’s Report
 - i. CALTAC (California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners) will offer a workshop at the San Francisco Public Library on February 28. Vanessa distributed information to the board.
 - ii. A Friends of the Library Conference will be held Saturday, March 14, 2009, 9-11 a.m. The purpose is for Friends of the Library groups, the Library Advisory Board and the Library Foundation to exchange information, clarifying the role of each group for the members.
 - iii. Library Advisory Board members are invited to the Library staff meeting on February 5 at 8:15 a.m.
 - iv. Chairman Sheridan Beuving and County Librarian Vanessa Czopek will present the Library’s Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors in April.
 - v. There are some reductions to the Library’s mid-year budget due to reduced revenues. Further reductions are expected for next year’s budget.

- b. Library Funding Models – The Library Advisory Board will be studying funding models and then making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Should the earmarked sales tax be determined as the best model for Stanislaus County, it will go back to voters for approval in June 2012.
 - c. State Librarian Susan Hildreth spoke and answered questions.
 - i. The State Library functions to serve the legislature, administration and state employees. It is open to the public, but the public cannot borrow from the State Library, except through Interlibrary Loan. They are currently undergoing renovation.
 - ii. The State Library administers LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) funds and offers Infopeople training for library staff throughout the state.
 - iii. The role of public libraries has changed. Some people can get a level of information through the Internet that meets their needs. The library can add value by helping to make people more savvy in their Internet use. Libraries are also becoming more of a community meeting place. And, people are using libraries to access other public services.
 - 1. Described the types of public libraries and their funding sources.
 - 2. General Fund – Board of Supervisors dedicates a portion of the budget. (typically rural and funding is vulnerable)
 - 3. Special District – Funded through a special assessment. (often inadequate funding)
 - 4. City Libraries - Usually smaller populations.
 - 5. Sales Tax – Voter-approved sales tax earmarked for public libraries. Also noted that Stanislaus County was the first in the state to initiate legislation, then pass a local earmarked sales tax, “the most defensible model.”
 - iv. Other important issues (in addition to funding): making sure the library is connecting with users where they are, making sure that community leaders understand the importance of libraries, making a difference in people’s lives through library services and literacy programs.
 - v. Regarding funding models, she suggested the Library Advisory Board read “California Public Library Organization” and invite Anne Marie Gold, former director of Sacramento Public Library, to speak at the April meeting.
- VI. Correspondence – none
- VII. Announcements – none
- VIII. Next Meeting – April 9, 2009
- IX. Meeting Adjourned at 5:40 p.m.