

Library Advisory Board
MINUTES
October 8, 2015, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Modesto Library Conference Room
1500 I Street, Modesto, CA 95354

Present: Board Members Joan Ahlstrand, Sue Henderson, and Josh VanderVeen; Youth Advisory Council Member-At-Large Hannah Neeley; Library Staff Members Patti Boardrow, Susan Lilly, Diane McDonnell and Bryan Sontag; Library LearningQuest Staff Members Laura Martinez and Natalie Melton; County CEO Staff Member Patrick Cavanah

- I. Call to Order, Welcome & Introductions – Vice Chairman Josh VanderVeen called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. on behalf of Chairman Sheridan Beuving, who was unable to attend.
- II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting of July 9, 2015 – No vote was taken due to the lack of quorum.
- III. Public Comment – None
This portion of the meeting is reserved for members of the public to address the Board on matters that are within the subject jurisdiction of the Board, agendized or not. Presentations are generally limited to two minutes.
- IV. Correspondence - None
- V. Report from County Librarian – Diane McDonnell

There is now a “Veterans Connect” center near the Reference Desk in Modesto Library, thanks to a grant from the State Library. Veterans will be encouraged to get the benefits they’re entitled to receive. Volunteers are being recruited to help run this program. A special “Grand Opening” event is being planned and will include U.S. Congressman Jeff Denham.

Staff participated in the Staff Innovation Fund, a grant writing training program, through the California State Library. As part of this program, the library applied for and received the following grants, which are now beginning implementation:

- Video tutorials will be created to help customers learn to use the library’s eResources
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) programs will be added and reusable kits will be created for ongoing use.
- A series of six monthly citizenship workshops will be offered at the Modesto Library.
- The Stanislaus Memory Project will consist of digitizing local historical materials and making them accessible to the public via a website. The initial phase of this project will focus on Modesto’s car culture.

The library has received an LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grant provided by the California State Library for 16 tablets, including 4 Nooks (Android), 8 Kindles (4 HDX and 4 Paperwhites), and 4 iPad minis. These will be used for hands-on staff training for practice with downloading and using library e-resources such as Mango, Hoopla, Zinio and Cloud Library eBooks. After initial staff training, the devices will be available for customer training and for public “petting zoos” for our customers to gain experience with these devices and with our e-resources.

The Modesto Library will receive a traveling exhibit called War Comes Home: The Legacy. It will be on display from February 28, 2016 to April 24, 2016. The exhibit offers insight into the thoughts and emotions of veterans and their families upon their homecoming, from the Civil War through the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

War Comes Home: The Legacy is a partnership between Cal Humanities, the California State Library and Exhibit Envoy. It is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the BayTree Fund, The Whitman Fund, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

A MakerSpace is being created in Modesto Library. It will be used for hands-on learning programs and also as a drop-in project center. Technology will be the focus. The vision is to have 3D printers, sewing machines, a serger, various tools, and equipment for robotics development. We will also survey customers to see what they'd like to have available in the MakerSpace area.

Passports are becoming more popular through the library and many other organizations have quit offering the service. Modesto Library processed 711 passports in the month of September, which is double what they did a year ago in September. Last year this service created \$152,000 in revenue for the library but it does require more people on the Reference Desk to accommodate the customers who use this service. Passport service will be expanding to Salida Library next.

Strategic Planning – A five-year plan is needed. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be going out to the public for a consultant to facilitate this process. Staff from each library branch will identify leaders in their community, and workshops will be held.

Library Sales Tax – The Board of Supervisors will be asked to place a renewal of the 1/8-cent sales tax on the June 2017 ballot.

Library Advisory Board Vacancies – Districts 1 (Empire, Oakdale, Riverbank & Waterford) and 3 (Salida) vacancies need to be filled, as well as At-Large representatives for Agriculture and Education.

VI. Reports from Library Support Groups

- Friends of the Library
The Friends of the Patterson Library Book Sale will be Tuesday, Oct. 13, for members only; Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 14-15 for the public.

The Friends of the Turlock Library see the need for a new library, big enough to serve the growing community. \$25,000 was committed to that project at their most recent meeting. They are very excited about the prospect of a new library. There aren't any plans in progress at this time for a new building.

VII. Old Business was covered in the County Librarian's report.

VIII. New Business

- Introduction of Branch Operations Manager Bryan Sontag
Bryan was promoted from the Ceres Library Supervisor position and he will now be responsible for twelve libraries in our system. He has been with the library for nine years. Bryan's experience and skill in the area of technology has contributed to the success of the new technology-focused service model at the Ceres Library.
- LearningQuest – Natalie Melton of LearningQuest Adult Literacy Program shared information about their program in the Modesto Library. When a new client comes in and wants help with reading, the first step is to give them a reading comprehension test. Those who score at a 7th grade reading level or below will receive tutoring here at the library. LearningQuest staff members match students with tutors. They have 115 matched pairs working together at the present time. 90 tutors serve the 115 current students, so some of the tutors have more than one student. Many are learning English as their second language. Modesto Junior College refers students to us. There are 20-25 students on the wait list for a tutor. Last year, 170 students were tutored.

The program is funded by the California State Library, donors and community members. Agency-wide they serve 1,500 students. The Learning Center is on 11th Street in Modesto. Students age 18 and up can work on their GED at that site. Once students get to the 7th grade reading level, they can go to the Learning Center to continue their work.

Training for tutors is done quarterly. It is a one-day (8-hour) training and tutors must be at least 18 years old. An orientation is done the Thursday prior to the training to give some information before tutors invest the eight hours. They ask that tutors commit to 6 months, working twice per week for 1-1/2 hours with their student.

- New Website – Susan Lilly gave us a preview of the new County website, which includes a translation feature, and a demonstration of how to navigate through the new Library website and catalog. Once you're on the library site, you will see the County tabs toward the top of the screen. The Library tabs are a little lower. There is a new online calendar which may be viewed by location or type of event. There is also a new library catalog with additional features, including an integration to the website that allows users to search, log in and renew materials directly from the home page. The new catalog is more user-friendly and some of the new features were highlighted. Browsing is easier with a selection of best-selling books rotating on the main search page. This can be customized by selecting a preferred best-seller list (NY Times, USA Today/fiction, non-fiction, children's, young adult). EBooks are integrated into the new catalog, enabling users to search and check out eBooks directly from the catalog, rather than needing to go to a separate app to find and check out the item.

IX. Announcements – None

X. Next meeting date: January 14, 2016, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

XI. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 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.