

Minutes of the
SOLANO COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Monday, January 26, 2015

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Teena Miller, at 6:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM:**

Members Present: Diane Barney, Henry Beecher, Ron Heinrich, Teena Miller, Kurt Overholt, Margie Russell, Dotty Schenk, Lynne Vaughan

Members Absent: Bruce DuClair

Others Present: Bonnie Katz, Director of Library Services, Tamie Tvrdik, Clerical Supervisor

3. **INTRODUCTIONS:** None.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AS MAILED FOR MEETING OF November 17, 2014:** The minutes of the November 17, 2014 meeting were revised to correctly record the members present and the members absent for that meeting. Upon revision, the minutes were unanimously approved on motion of Mr. Heinrich, seconded by Mr. Overholt. So ordered by 8-0 vote.

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** Ms. Schenk moved to approve the January 26, 2015 agenda; Ms. Barney seconded. Motion carried. So ordered by 8-0 vote.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** In addition to Ms. Katz' report she announced that Lynne Williams, Deputy Director of Public Services, will be retiring this April. In addition, Joanne Wright, Literacy Program Manager, is retiring May 1st. Lani Clarke has been hired as one of the two branch managers. While in the process of rebuilding the administration/management team, Ms. Katz has brought back the former Senior Staff Analyst, Debbie Hardin, and the former Assistant Director, Cara Swartz to work on a part time basis temporarily. Ms. Katz will be meeting with Human Resources to determine the best structure/organization for the Library.

Ms. Katz distributed the new Check It Outs. The newsletter celebrates the new sales tax measure, Measure L, which began on October 1st right after the previous sales tax measure, Measure B sunsetted on September 30th. The Library has continued to keep their promises by increasing materials, hours and programs.

Ms. Katz also distributed the 2014 Solano County Annual Report to each council member and shared that the Library was featured several times in it.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Budget update – the Council will hear a budget update.

Revenues are up and the mid-year projections are complete and the Library is in good financial shape right now. Ms. Katz is working on a 5-year budget projection and while PERS and health cost increases are known, it is unknown what the unions will negotiate for in terms of personnel costs. Ms. Katz hopes to reinstate a few positions that have been deleted over the past few years.

Ms. Katz informed the Council that although the Vallejo Library Advisory Board has been involved in the City of Vallejo's participatory budget meetings, she explained that the City of Vallejo needs to put a contribution back to the Library as part of their regular ongoing budget. She suggested the Council may want to get involved especially the members that live in Vallejo. Chair Miller expressed that she would like to attend the City of Vallejo's meeting and asked for a drafted statement to read. She will include the Vallejo Library Advisory Board.

Ms. Katz shared the news that the Governor is proposing to slash \$4 million from public library programs including \$1 million out of literacy. The Library community, including State Librarian Greg Lucas, will lobby very strongly to try to restore some of that funding.

Ms. Miller asked for the quote "Libraries are the last bastion of democracy." to be included in the minutes. The quote came from Lynne Williams, Deputy Director of Support Services during the orientation of new and present members of the Solano County Library Advisory Council.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Security at branches – the Council will discuss security at the library branches.

Ms. Katz gave an overview of the security at our branches. She gave a brief background of security issues and stated that the "hire-a-cop" security officers did not work out. The Library now contracts with the Sheriff's security office. The officers carry guns and have radios so they can call for backup straight from the Sheriff's department. Many of these officers are retired from law enforcement so they have many years of training. These officers are stationed at the Vallejo libraries, Suisun, Fairfield Civic Center and the Vacaville Town Square library. Although the cost for FY2014-2015 is \$330,000, Ms. Katz feels it's important to keep staff and customers safe.

During the discussion, Mr. Overholt had a question about having the Wi-Fi turned off at the Rio Vista Library when it closes. Ms. Katz will check with the Deputy Director of Support Services and get back to the Council on this.

- b. Budgets from other jurisdictions – the Council will receive an overview of budgets from other library jurisdictions.

Ms. Katz explained that Benicia is a city library and is funded by the city. Benicia and Dixon libraries are part of the SNAP consortium. Dixon is a school district/ library district like the Vacaville libraries are. Dixon and Vacaville are special revenue funds and receive their revenues from their property and sales tax. Ms. Katz reminded the Council that the Vacaville libraries are not actually part of the County Library but that the Vacaville Library Board

contracts with the County Library to provide service for the two libraries. The Dixon library runs on the same structure.


12. ANNOUNCEMENTS/MEMBER REPORTS:

- a. Ms. Schenk announced that she has a book signing on March 21st at Napa.
- b. Ms. Barney announced that Northbay is partnering with the Foundation in sponsoring the popular “Just Like a Woman” concerts again this year.
- c. Ms. Schenk announced she is involved with Bookfest Solano hosted by the Foundation and coming to the Hampton Inn, Vacaville, on April 11 and 12.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: March 16, 2015

Topics for next agenda: Oversight Committee for Measure L

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



BONNIE A. KATZ
Director of Library Services