

LIBRARY COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting
October 18, 2022

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Commission Chair Moore.

2) Roll Call

Present: Commissioners: Hutto, Jonnalagadda, Laney, Moore.

Absent: Commissioners: Batt, Shannon, Zhang.

3) Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Hutto moved to approve the August 16, 2022 Minutes as written.
Commissioner Laney seconded. Motion carried.

AYES:Commissioners: Hutto, Jonnalagadda, Laney, Moore.

NOES: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: Batt, Shannon, Zhang.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

4) Business from the Floor

None.

5) Reports & Presentations

- a. Library Director Thomas Gruneisen presented the monthly statistics for August and September. He explained that visitation, program attendance, and new account creation all point towards the library recovering from the pandemic, but has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Circulation numbers remain even with those from last year. It will take time to identify why these numbers are recovering more slowly and to close that gap.

Library Director Gruneisen reported that the monthly statistics report will no longer include a section on database use, as that item reports largely on subscriptions that have either been discontinued or are instead being funded by California State Library. Instead, he will report on database use by Folsom Public Library accounts when those figures are received from the State Library.

Library Director Thomas Gruneisen responded to comments and questions from the Library Commission.

6) Action Item

- a. Discuss and Take Next Steps regarding City Council Recommendations on August 23, 2022 for Folsom Public Library Rental Space.**

Library Director Gruneisen reported on the referral by the City Council to have the Library Commission recommend a way to activate the vacant space formerly occupied by the Einstein Café. He gave an overview of the space's current configuration and a history of its past operation.

Commissioner Laney suggested making it a place to study or relax along with food or drink. Commissioners identified that it may be difficult for a business to be profitable while staffing the space and suggested that high-end vending machines could reduce cost. Commissioner Hutto agreed with that suggestion and underscored the importance of making the space family-friendly and inviting. The quality of the products being served is important to its success.

Commissioner Jonnalagadda suggested that we offer the space to the Friends of Folsom Public Library. He reported that the Friends are paying a monthly fee for offsite storage, which is costly and makes the transport of donated materials more difficult. A larger space would allow them to raise more funds for the City through increased sales and reduced storage expenses, and revenue could be raised by the City through the inclusion of vending machines. A member of the public mentioned that he was a member of the Friends of the Library, but not a Board Member, and that he had heard that the Friends would like to occupy the space. Further discussion with the Friends Board will be necessary to assess their interest and ability to operate the space.

Commissioner Moore suggested activating the empty space as a fee-based rental facility, as rentable meeting space is scarce in Folsom. Commissioner Jonnalagadda suggested equipping the space with the Library's 3D printer or other technology to improve its versatility as a rental space.

After discussion, the Commission identified three prioritized recommendations to report to the City Council:

- i) The Friends of Folsom Public Library operate the space as a bookstore that includes seating and City-managed high-end vending machines.

- ii) An RFP be posted for a vendor to operate the space as a café.
- iii) The space be made available for fee-based rentals.

7) Library Director's Report

Library Director Thomas Gruneisen reported on the following:

- Library Director Gruneisen joined Folsom Public Library on September 26. He talked about his career in libraries and personal life.
- The recruitment for the vacant Circulation Coordinator position is in progress and will be completed by the Commission's next meeting.
- Folsom Public Library was awarded \$13,428 by the State of California for the continuation of its successful Zip Book program.
- The library was used as a Cooling Center during the heatwave that brought temperatures as high as 116 degrees to Folsom. He commended library staff and the Community Emergency Response Team for adjusting their schedules to keep the center open 7 days from September 3rd through 9th.
- The Friends of the Library raised almost \$10,000 from their September and Renaissance Faire book sales. If you would like to support the Friends, they are holding a Holiday Book Sale on October 22nd from 10:00-2:00.
- For the first time, Folsom Public Library is serving as a Ballot Box Drop Off Site for the November Election. The drop box is open now for those wishing to vote.
- Library Director Gruneisen reviewed the October calendar and highlighted its Compost Bin, Horror Book Trivia, and Medicare programs.

8) Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hutto welcomed the new director and is happy he is here. She is looking forward to working with him and is excited to be part of finding something great to occupy the rental space to serve the community. After many years of service, she will be ending her time on the Library Commission at the end of this year.

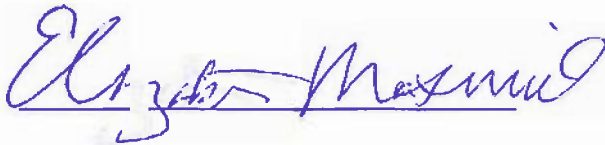
Commissioner Jonnalagadda said that he is glad that Library Director Gruneisen is here and is confident that the new director will be able to fill the previous director's shoes.

Commissioner Laney asked what the timeline is for the end of current Commission appointments. Secretary Elizabeth Maximo answered that there will be five vacancies for the Library Commission. Commissioner Hutto answered that commissions end on December 31st and that the swearing in of new Commissioners will be in January. As Commission appointments coincide with the term of the Councilperson who appointed them, current Commissioners whose Councilperson is up for reelection should reapply for their appointments by November 14, 2022.

Commissioner Moore stated that her term as an appointed Commissioner is ending and that she is considering applying for a two-year at-large position. She is very excited that Library Director Gruneisen will be willing to revisit the elimination of overdue fees as it is an important issue that impacts our community.

9) **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Maximo", written over a horizontal line.

Elizabeth Maximo
Secretary to the Library Commission