

**LIBRARY COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 18, 2023**

**1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Laney.

**2) Roll Call**

**Present:** Commissioners: Allaman, Jonnalagadda, Laney, Moore, Pacheco, Shannon and Xu.

**Absent:** None.

**3) Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Shannon moved to approve the March 21, 2023 Minutes as written.  
Motion carried.

AYES: Commissioners: Allaman, Jonnalagadda, Laney, Moore, Pacheco, Shannon and Xu.

NOES: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

**4) Business from the Floor**

None.

**5) Reports and Presentations**

- a. Library Director Thomas Gruneisen reports that the library is recovering nicely but has not yet reached its pre-pandemic levels.

Monthly statistics show March library attendance is up from February and is ten percent higher than last year. Our shelving volunteer hours are lower than last year, but we have just recruited three more adult volunteers to help. We will bring in more volunteers in small phases. It is the new Volunteer Coordinator's first onboarding. This will give her a chance to onboard one group, reflect on that practice and onboard the next with any changes. She can then recruit more volunteers as needed.

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

## 6) New Business

- a. There are revised 2023 Library Commission Meeting Dates due to the Library Closure. The library closure that was expected in April is happening in May. Library Director Thomas Gruneisen recommended cancelling the May Commission Meeting and the topics that are being discussed at those meetings have now shifted to fit the new dates.
- b. Commission Xu asked to discuss the possibility of revising the Library Commission's Regular Meeting Schedule. Proposal to change the meeting time from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the Month was moved by Commissioner Moore and was seconded by Commissioner Jonnalagadda. Motion carried.

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

## 7) Library Director's Report

Library Director Thomas Gruneisen reported on the following:

- AARP Tax Help has concluded their tax season. They had over 234 people file and the average refund was \$1,127, bringing over \$263,000 back into our community. The age of the filers ranged from 100 years old to under 60. We look forward to seeing them again next year.
- The library attended two large outreach events last month. The first one was Landscape Fest. It was a new event held south of 50 in the Folsom Plan Area. It gave the opportunity for residents in the new housing development there to connect with the Library, Public Works, and other City Departments. Green Acres was also there to answer resident

- questions regarding landscaping for their new yards. We signed up 40 new people for library cards. Overall, it was a great event and the City is pleased to see the new community's interest in the City's Services. The second event was the Festival of Eggs. More than 600 children and 300 adults came by the Library Booth to do crafts and learn about the library at this event.
- Our Summer Teen Volunteer application has closed. It opened on April 1st and within two weeks was completely full with 52 applicants.
- Library Director Thomas Gruneisen reviewed the Draft Budget that will be presented to the City Council in May as well as the funding status for items requested as Proposed Level of Service (PLS) adjustments. AWE children's learning stations were approved; safety cameras and parking lot lighting were not approved as PLS items but will be funded through a different mechanism. New teen PCs, a more modest infusion into community languages, new print hardware, and refinished baseboards will be funded by the library directly. Extended hours, replacement wallpaper, and restrooms fixtures were not funded.
- The installation of new carpet is going forward. The library has had 3.5 million visits since it opened its doors over 16 years ago. We will close after business on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> and will reopen on Friday, May 26<sup>th</sup>. We will be sending Folsom items to our partner libraries if Patrons would like to pick-up their items at those locations. The original bid for the carpet was \$116,000 and it was budgeted for \$150,000, allowing us to additionally recarpet the library's staff area and meeting room.
- The Library Commission's proposed Fines and Fee Schedule will be included in the draft budget that will be presented to the City Council in May. When the City Manager presents the section on the library's budget, she will draw attention to the library's revenue section, noting that the revenue for fines has been reduced to \$0 to reflect the prevailing best practice and to better serve our community. If the City Council members appear supportive of this change, then library staff will report back with a resolution to approve the revised fee schedule.
- Library Director Gruneisen went over the handout "Talking Points Regarding Fine Free Libraries" and the two maps that showed libraries across the United States that are Fine Free. Commissioners are encouraged to have a discussion with the City Council members that have appointed them regarding the importance of becoming a fine-free library.

8) **Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Vice Chair Shannon had no comments.

Commissioner Jonnalagadda said that he is available to help with the library move for the carpet installation if needed. He also mentioned that the Friends of the Library may also be available to help. He suggested that we send out the 2023 Library Commission Meeting Schedule in the City's Newsletter. The schedule shows the different topics that would be covered, and it may strike an interest to someone in the public and they may want to attend.

Commissioner Xu commented that the materials are well prepared and that she is always impressed how thorough the Library Director Thomas Gruneisen is on his presentation. She is disappointed that the additional hours for the library were not approved. She stressed that the residents of Folsom appreciated that the library was open on Sundays.

Commissioner Pacheco had nothing to add.

Commissioner Moore wanted to thank Library Director Thomas Gruneisen for continuing his effort to eliminate the Fines and Fees. She had read that there was a weekly program where the younger readers read to the teens and felt that was an amazing idea.

Commissioner Allaman wanted to thank Library Director Gruneisen for a thorough report on the Fines and Fees. Being new to the Commissions and not having the background as many of the other commissioners have had in the past, she had also questioned how the library would survive without the fines and fees. She now feels that with a thorough report she now has the knowledge to speak on the subject more intelligently.

Commissioner Chair Laney agreed with everyone else that the Report was very well prepared. She encourages all the Commissioners to talk to their city council member that appointed them or reach out to a council member if you were nominated by at-large to try to get the Fines and Fees passed.

9) **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



Elizabeth Maximo  
Secretary to the Library Commission