

LIBRARY COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting
March 19, 2024

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Laney.

2) Roll Call

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

Absent: Commissioners: Jonnalagadda

3) Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the February 20, 2024 Minutes as written. Commissioner Allaman seconded. Motion carried.

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

NOES: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: Jonnalagadda

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

4) Business from the Floor

The following speakers addressed the Library Commission:

- Santosh runs Folsom Chess Academy, which teaches chess as an after-school program at some of Folsom Public Schools. They would like to offer to teach a two-year chess program at the Folsom Public Library.
- Toni is the owner of a new Childcare/Preschool that recently opened in Folsom called ABC Kids Oasis for children 6 months to 13 years old.

5) Reports and Presentations

- a. Library Director Thomas Gruneisen wanted to highlight 3 items that were reported on the Monthly Statistics. **1.** Circulation and in-branch services remain steady when compared to the previous year. **2.** The use of eBooks/audiobooks is showing strong growth. **3.** The Library is continuing the trend of offering fewer programs while experiencing increased attendance as we retire some programs that are no longer relevant to our community while opening new programs that are of greater interest to our residents.
- b. Library Director Thomas Gruneisen presented a Review of Library Funding.

As a general principle, governments pursue higher cost recovery for services that provide individual benefit, while using tax funds to deliver services that benefit the entire community. Each year the City Council identifies its priorities for the City Manager through a pie chart that allocates funding by category – the Library is part of Culture & Recreation.

This revenue comprises the major source of funding for the Library, and provides for things like personnel salaries, the great majority of the print collection, the building's utilities and repairs, and so on. Smaller, specific services are supplemented through outside governmental resources; for example, California State Library funds the Zip Books program and, through our consortia, subsidizes the cost of eBooks and interlibrary loans; similarly, a federal grant through the IMLS is partially funding the launch of our Telugu collection.

Donations from our community provide the Library with greater flexibility and capacity to deliver services. We are very grateful to the Friends of the Folsom Library, which contributes the majority of this funding, which makes possible much of our program delivery and collection enhancements. Individuals can also contribute to the Library, either through the Friends, or directly to the Library itself. When receiving donations, staff do need to ensure that they follow the Library's donation policies, so they are not being used to direct Library work unproductively or create the false appearance of undue influence. As the Library is not able to engage in fundraising activities, we instead turn to the Friends of the Library, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, which can fundraise on behalf of the library.

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

6) Library Director's Report

Library Director Thomas Gruneisen reported on the following:

- The first adult Telugu language programs sponsored by the Library will be happening on April 6th and June 1st.
- We held a local authors' panel featuring three authors, each of whom wrote a book about Nature. We had 29 adults in attendance.
- We started a new youth program this month – Super Series. Each week is a focus on a different popular book series, like Dungeon and Dragons or Diary of a Wimpy kid.
- At the Lego Competition we had 250 kids plus 125 adults come to view the competition. There were over a hundred different entries.
- The Friends' Spring Booksale was a huge success. They brought in \$9,106.00 in three days. By Saturday they had topped last year's total.
- The furniture update has been completed. The new furniture should last us another decade.
- The first part of the Telugu Collection has arrived. We will see the collection continue to grow in the months ahead.
- Facility Concern: HVAC. Temperatures in the staff wing were close to 89 degrees earlier this month, necessitating repairs. We expect the HVAC system to continue to progressively fail.
- Facility Concern: Exterior Stucco. The exterior stucco has a gray scar across the building that is letting water into the building. We are collecting preliminary repair bids now.
- Facility Concern: Restroom Fixtures. The sensors need to be replaced; this month we again called a plumber after one of the toilets was running continuously.
- My First Library Cards Visits. After visiting every FCUSD kindergarten class in Folsom for the first time in years, My First Library Card visits are up more than 200 students from the previous year. 19% of the cards distributed have been activated, which is a very high percent.
- Teen Library Volunteer Applications will open up April 1st for the summer.
- Happy Dog Man Day! The new Dog Man Book #12 came out today. We have 20 copies, and they were all checked out today.

7) Commission Request for Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Moore asked for an update on State Park Passes when there is new information from the State or if the City Council can provide funding for them.

8) Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Xu commented that facility repair items are quite concerning and should be addressed before they become more severe.

Commissioner Pacheco had no comment.

Commissioner Allaman commented that she is appreciative of the budget overview. It was very helpful for her to see how everything was funded and where the budget was coming from. She can see that the City of Folsom is very busy trying to get the new collection promoted. She also extended a thank you to the staff for the Monthly Calendar and to Lindsay for her granddaughter's First Library Card. She is continuing to work with Folsom Cordova on fingerprinting. She will also contact the district librarian to be able to share the resources here shared to the Principal Meetings.

Commissioner Moore had no comment.

Vice Chair Shannon had no comment.

Chair Laney had no comment.

9) **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



Elizabeth Maximo
Secretary to the Library Commission