

LIBRARY COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting
May 21, 2024

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Laney.

2) Roll Call

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

Absent: Commissioners: Shannon.

3) Reports & Presentations (part 1)

Librarians Lindsay Melhus and Amanda Perez spoke on the Library's Summer Reading Challenge and Events.

4) Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Moore moved to approve the May 21, 2024 Minutes as written.
Commissioner Xu seconded. Motion carried.

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

NOES: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: Shannon

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

5) Business from the Floor

6) Reports and Presentations (part 2)

- a. Library Director Thomas Gruneisen reported on the monthly statistics that: **1.** Overall print circulation is consistent with the previous year. **2.** There is a well-seen growth in the use of eBooks/audiobooks. **3.** There has been steady growth in library visits and

new library cards. 4. We are continuing the trend of having higher attendance while offering fewer programs. This is due to our sunsetting programs that were successful in the past but have consistently had waning attendance, to instead develop new programs that are more relevant to our community, such as those presented as part of our Summer Reading program.

Although we see growth in our e-book's usage, due to decreases in the Governor's budget, we will be adding fewer eBooks in the year ahead.

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:

- Rangoli Art from the Teen Program is displayed in the hallway. This also promotes our upcoming Rangoli Event on June 6th.
- New Projector thanks to a donation from Friends of the Library. It comes with a microphone and hearing aids, making us ADA accessible.
- We had the state parks history program last month. It was widely attended with a standing room-only attendance of 88 people.
- We had an offsite Telugu Program given by our partners, featuring plays by youth and adults, poetry, spelling and speech competitions, and more.
- We had our very first Plant and Seed Exchange. There were about 50 adults that attended. A big thank you to Green Acres for their donation of seeds.
- For outreach we participated in this year's Earth Day Event, the Love Your Mom 5K hosted at the Palladio, as well as City Works Day.
- Update on My First Library Card: 24% of the library cards that were distributed have now been activated. That is a huge accomplishment.
- We had another 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten recipient. This is our ongoing program to promote a lifelong love of books and reading. For every 100 hundred books read they get a small prize. With 1,000 books read they received a backpack, a book and a certificate of completion.
- It was National Volunteer Appreciation Week. It was great to highlight these individuals for what they do as it would be impossible to run the library without them.
- Teen Summer Volunteer Training occurred. Teen volunteers will be posted in the Youth Wing to answer questions and pass out prizes for Summer Reading.
- The Library reorganized its reporting structure. Instead of all career staff reporting directly to the Library Director, circulation staff now report to a newly classified Library Supervisor, while library technicians report to the librarian that they assist. This change gives better support to our circulation and reference teams, improves our cross training and succession planning, and

improves our capacity to develop our on-call staff and adult volunteers. It also improves our ability to respond to patron concerns, and overall increases the capacity of the Library.

- New HVAC controllers were installed. These are not the HVAC units on the roof, but the control system that needed to be replaced so that we can control the temperature inside the building.
- Although the State of California is not the primary funder for Folsom Public Library (that would be the City of Folsom), the Governor's May Budget Revision will eliminate several programs that are popular with our residents: California State Park Passes (which checked out 1,400 times this year); as well as our Live Online Homework Help program; and Online Career Development Program, which helped people learn new job skills, create resumes, and search for jobs. Additionally, the California Library Services Act has been cut by 50%, which will increase some costs for our library. We hope to be able to continue some of these programs in some capacity but will be unable to continue all of them.
- At the May 28th City Council meeting, Library staff will request that the City Council approve contingency funds to repair the damaged stucco outside the Library's youth wing.
- May 10th was the first time that the library was fully staffed since November 7th. Having a full staff allows the library to serve our community better through more programs, more outreach, better service, and a quicker turnaround time on our materials.

8) Commission Request for Future Agenda Items

Future library projects on the Director's Library Report and the Outreach Report.

9) Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Jonnalagadda commented that he would like to thank the library for its support for the Telugu Project. It has been big deal to the Telugu community. He commented that he enjoyed hearing about the Summer Programs offered by the library.

Commissioner Xu had a question if the library plans to open 6 days a week. Library Director Thomas Gruneisen responded that he is prepared for it and has plans and schedules ready. The Library has requested Proposed Level of Service adjustments to the City Council for the past two years to reopen at 6 days of service per week, but that budget request has been declined due to limited funds and greater needs elsewhere in the City.

Commissioner Pacheco commented that it is unfortunate that we must give up on the park passes, free lunches and those programs that help find jobs and help with school work. This is especially hard for those who really utilize these services.

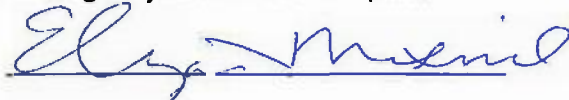
Commissioner Moore commented that she enjoyed the Plant and Seed Exchange. She wanted to commend Ruby's Books for their collaboration with school libraries. They are doing a round up on your purchase to help with the school libraries. They have collected \$700 a month more than they had anticipated. At the end of the year they will split those proceeds between Rancho Cordova and Folsom school libraries. The school libraries will be able to purchase books to stock up their libraries and at a discount. Ruby's Books also applied for a grant through the Dav Pilkey Fund. He is the Author of the Dog Man series. He chose two Book stores in the whole country and Ruby's Books was one of them. They received \$10,000 to be used towards Community Outreach Programs and the other \$10,000 to purchase 1,600 copies of the new Dog Man book. She chose 4 schools and 3 are in our school district for every kid to receive a free copy of the new book. It is great to have a great community partner.

Commissioner Allaman congratulated Commissioner Jonnalagadda on the successful Telugu event and with the collaboration with the library. She commented how great it is to educate the community on Telugu and having the resources at the library with Telugu books and programs. She is so blown away as always by the staff and number of programs offered at the library. The summer programs are very impressive.

Chair Laney commented that she likes the new reorganization chart and is excited to see what can be done with the reorganization. Chair Laney also commented that it is unfortunate that with cuts sacrifices must be made with not being able to open the library an additional day and losing some programs. The library's output is always very impressive for the number of staff the library has. Chair Laney thanked the Library Director and his staff for all their hard work.

10) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.



Elizabeth Maximo
Secretary to the Library Commission