

LIBRARY COMMISSION MINUTES
Regular Meeting
August 20, 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, Shannon, and Xu

Absent: Commissioners: Pacheco

3) Reports & Presentations(i)

Librarians Lindsay Melhus and Amanda Perez reported on this year's Summer Reading Challenge and Events.

4) Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Shannon moved to approve the June 18, 2024 Minutes as written.
Commissioner Allaman seconded. Motion carried.

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

NOES: Commissioners: None

ABSENT: Commissioners: Pacheco

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None

5) Business from the Floor

6) Reports and Presentations(ii)

- Library Director Thomas Gruneisen reported on the Monthly Statistics. Starting in July, staff will resume combining physical item check-outs and renewals as one line on these reports to match industry practices. Check-out and renewals had been separated during Fiscal Year 24 to better track the impacts of the Library going fine free.
- Director Gruneisen focused on the June Monthly Statistics to review the Library's performance during the previous fiscal year. One impact we can see from going fine free is that we have much fewer renewals, but also more unique check-outs. So while people are checking more items out from the Library, the combined total of check-outs plus renewals is lower.
- We are excited to see that there is an increase in items being checked out from the Library. Our circulation has gone up 14% in that category, which is very encouraging considering the Library's existing success. We checked out 49,565 (50,000) more items last year than the year before. No matter how you calculate it, reducing the Library's funding by less than 1% to increase circulation by 14% delivered tremendous value and made for good economics. Director Gruneisen greatly appreciates the Commission's work in this area and the decision by the City Council to remove fines.
- The Library also had a 49% increase in our volunteer shelver hours. This is part of an ongoing effort coming out of this year's reorganization to reduce costs.
- As we have discussed during the year, the Library also ended some programs that were no longer as relevant to our community so that we could introduce new, potentially more impactful programming. This approach has been successful, with last year seeing 38% higher program attendance among adults, 31% higher teen attendance, and 12% higher youth attendance. That 12% increase is particularly dramatic given the Library's already successful youth program numbers, and amounts to more than 2,800 additional youth program attendees.
- A reduction in the number of outreach attendees is due largely to a change in how we could count outreach participation. We had previously counted an event's total attendees for our outreach; now we are only counting those who specifically interact with staff at outreach events.
- Director Gruneisen then shared a presentation on how Folsom Public Library compares with other Sacramento County library locations and was grateful to our residents and staff for the honor of leading the County in circulation, site visits, the number of programs offered, and program attendance.

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:

- The Friends of the Library is having their huge semi-annual Book Sale from September 6 – 8.
- The Summer Reading Challenge was a great success. Congratulations to our amazing staff. Library Director Thomas Gruneisen wanted to emphasize the extraordinary work being done by our librarians. There are so many elements that go into these programs to make them successful.
- The Library was activated as a Cooling Center during the summer for some of our hottest days.
- We are heading back into our Fall Programs calendar with a focus on core schoolyear services. Our Teen Library Council for the school year has filled up. Due to its success during the summer, we are keeping the Family Movie Matinee as a monthly program. We are bringing back Baby Storytimes and starting school visits.
- Stucco repairs begin in September in the Youth Wing. We are working with Belfor Restoration and are hoping there will be little to no impact to our Storytime Programs. We did speak with Belfor Restoration on safety and security especially for the children. Belfor has conducted similar work at preschools, schools, offices, and hospitals, and are able to secure the construction site during Library open hours.
- Library Thomas Gruneisen expressed his appreciation to Congressman Kevin Kiley who nominated Folsom Public Library for the national IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) Medal. It is a very competitive medal, and an honor to be selected as the favorite library of California's Third Congressional District.

8) Commission Request for Future Agenda Items

- Follow-up on the Governors Final Budget for the year.
- Revisit on the Partnership with the Friends of the Library and the Library Commission.
- Learning more about the IMLS nomination criteria and the process.

9) Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Xu commented that Teen Events were very impressive.

Commissioner Jonnalagadda would like to revisit the partnership with the Friends of the library and explain what their membership entails. He commented that he would like to see the library open 6 days a week.

Commissioner Moore commented that the library staff had done a great job on the Summer Reading Program. It would be amazing if we could see that at the Rancho Cordova Library. She mentioned that she works in Rancho Cordova but cannot serve as a commissioner there since she lives in Folsom. During summer the youth

walk to the Rancho Cordova Library for the Lunch Program and there is not as many Summer Programs there for youth. She suggested that maybe the Folsom Public Library can start a Sister Program with the Rancho Cordova Library to help increase their Programs.

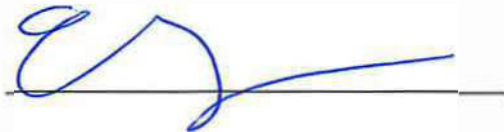
Commissioner Allaman commented that her granddaughter participated in the Summer Reading Program and it was fun to see the program firsthand through her eyes. She also had the opportunity to obtain a Park Pass in Carmel at the Harrison Library. She mentioned also receiving a Library Card there and that you did not need to be a resident of Carmel to receive one. She added it to her Libby Account and now has access to more audible books than before. She also mentioned that it was a great report on the growth of the library and is so proud of being a part of this library commission. Commissioner Allaman also stated that the success of this library stems from leadership and respect and so she congratulates Library Director Thomas Gruneisen.

Vice Chair Shannon mentioned that she would like to know more of the IMLS criteria and the process. She suggests a presentation on the subject. She would like to know how the library commissioners can support the library to achieve the IMLS Medal. She also commented that she is amazed on the hard work the library staff has done and that they should feel very proud of the library's success.

Chair Laney commented that she wanted to make sure that there were volunteers coming into the library for the upcoming Community Service Day. She also commented that Library Director Thomas Gruneisen had forgotten to include himself when he thanked the Library Commissioners for a job well done on eliminating Fines and Fees at the Library. She stated that he was an integral part in preparing the commissioners with the information they needed to advocate to the City Council and move it forward. She said that the library is amazing and that stems from the staff inside of it. She is always impressed on how much the Library does for the community and admires that the staff does it with so much grace.

10) Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.



Elizabeth Maximo
Secretary to the Library Commission