

PUBLIC ADVISORY REGARDING COVID-19 AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Consistent with Executive Order No. N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, and the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency Shelter In Place Public Health Order dated March 31, 2020, the regular meetings of the:

LIBRARIES FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY (LFFA) AND THE LIBRARY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY (LJPA) BOARD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 AT 9:00 AM

This meeting will be held via Zoom teleconference ONLY

Board Members and Library Staff Members will be participating remotely via videoconference.

Public Participation:

The meeting will be broadcast through the Santa Cruz Libraries YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/SantaCruzPL> which you can access through the Santa Cruz Libraries website by scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking on the YouTube icon.

For those wishing to participate via Zoom you can join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device by entering or clicking on the following URL: <https://zoom.us/j/92086520613>

For those joining using a telephone only, please call:

888 788 0099 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0276 (Toll Free)

833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5247 (Toll Free)

Slowly enter the Webinar ID: 920 8652 0613

The meetings will be recorded and posted for viewing after the meetings on the Santa Cruz Public Libraries website www.santacruzpl.org

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How to comment on agenda items via email before the meeting:

Members of the public may provide public comment by sending comments via email to the Library Board Clerk at scplboardclerk@santacruzpl.org

- Identify the agenda item number in the subject line of the email.
- Emailed comments should be a maximum of 500 words, which corresponds to approximately 3 minutes of speaking time.
- Each emailed comment will be read aloud for up to three minutes.
- Emails received by scplboardclerk@santacruzpl.org outside of the comment period outlined above will not be included in the record.

How to comment on agenda items via Zoom, during the meeting and prior to the close of public comment on an item:

- Identify the agenda item
- Type your comment using the Q&A feature of the Zoom teleconference participant panel

How to comment on agenda items via telephone, during the meeting and prior to the close of public comment on an item:

- Call 831-427-7713
- Identify the agenda item
- The representative will type your comment
- Your comment will be read aloud

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



**SANTA CRUZ CITY/COUNTY LIBRARIES
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**[IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SANTA CRUZ LIBRARIES
FACILITIES FINANCING AUTHORITY (LFFA)]**

THURSDAY AUGUST 6, 2020

9:00 A.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Board Members Jamie Goldstein, Carlos Palacios, Martin Bernal and Tina Friend

2. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Additional information submitted after distribution of the agenda packet.

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA

4. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Any member of the audience may address the Board on any matter either on or off the agenda that is within the Board's jurisdiction. Note, however, that the Board is not able to undertake extended discussion or act on non-agendized items. Such items can be referred to staff for appropriate action which may include placement on a future agenda. If you intend to address a subject that is on the Agenda, please hold your comments regarding that item until it is before the Board so that we may properly address all comments on that subject at the same time. In general, 3 minutes will be permitted per speaker during Oral Communication; A MAXIMUM of 30 MINUTES is set aside for Oral Communications at this time.

5. REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

A. Library Director's Report – August 2020 (PG.6-7)

6. REPORT BY FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES

A. Friends of SCPL – Report (oral)

7. REPORT BY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)

A. Commissioners' Report (oral)

8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

All items listed in the "Consent Calendar" will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to the time the Board votes on the action unless members of the public or the Board request specific items to be discussed for separate review. Items pulled for separate discussion will be considered following General Business.

- A. Consider the June 4, 2020 LJPA Board Meeting Minutes
Staff Recommendation: Approve the LJPA June 4 2020 Board Meeting Minutes (PG.8-11)
- B. Recent Articles about Santa Cruz Public Libraries.
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File Recent Articles about SCPL (PG.12-82)
- C. Community Impact Measures for 4th Qtr. 2019-2020
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File Community Impact Measures for 4th Qtr. 2019-2020 (PG.83-92)
- D. Financial Report Year End for FY 2019-2020
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File Year-End Financial Report for FY 2019-2020 (PG.93-97)
- E. Incident Report for 4th Qtr. 2019-2020
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File Incident Report for 4th Qtr. 2019-2020. (PG.98-100)
- F. Work Plan for 4th Qtr. 2019-2020
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File Work Plan for 4th Qtr. 2019-2020 (PG.101-108)
- G. Library Sales Tax Revenue Update for 4th Qtr. 2019-20
Staff Recommendation: Accept and File Library Sales Tax Revenue Update for 4th Qtr. FY 2019-20 (PG.109-111)
- H. Budget Adjustment for FY 2019-2020
Staff Recommendation: Approve and amend the FY 2019-2020 operating budget to transfer monies from operating budget to capital outlay fund totaling \$70,000. (PG.112-113)
- I. Approve Additional Monies for Added Scope of Work for LSB Building Project
Staff Recommendation: Approve a \$100,000 Friends of the Libraries grant made payable to Santa Cruz County for the La Selva Beach Branch Library building project. (PG.114)

- J. Approve Additional Monies for Boulder Creek Library Branch Building Project
Staff Recommendation: 1) Approve grant funds from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation in the amount of \$300,000. 2) Approve \$100,000 of the above grant funds for the Boulder Creek Library Branch building project. 3) Approve additional funds from the Friends of the Santa Cruz Libraries in the amount of \$75,000 to be used for the Boulder Creek Branch Library building project. (PG.115-116)
- K. Library Audit – FY 2019 Annual Financial Report
Staff Recommendation: Review and Accept Library Audit – Annual Financial Report (PG.117-121)

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

Other Business items are intended to provide an opportunity for public discussion of each item listed. The following procedure is followed for each Business item: 1) Staff explanation; 2) Board questions; 3) Public comment; 4) Board deliberation; 5) Decision.

- A. Presentation: Heather Norquist – How SCPL is Supporting Children, Families and Schools During COVID-19
- B. FY 20/21 Budget Update
Staff Recommendation: Review and discuss Budget Update (PG.122-123)
- C. Library Operational Recommendations under COVID-19
Staff Recommendation: Review Library Operational Recommendations under COVID-19 (PG.124-126)

11. SCHEDULED UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 1, 2020	Virtual Meeting	Anticipated Upcoming Agenda Items:
6:00 pm		

12. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned to the next regular meeting of the LJPA to be held on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 6:00 pm [immediately following the LFFA meeting] via Zoom teleconference.

The Santa Cruz City-County Library System does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Out of consideration for people with chemical sensitivities, we ask that you attend fragrance free. Upon request, the agenda can be provided in a format to accommodate special needs. Additionally, if you wish to attend this public meeting and will require assistance such as an interpreter for American Sign Language, Spanish, or other special equipment please call the Library Administration Office at (831)427-7706 at least five days in advance so that we can arrange for such special assistance, or email library_admin@santacruzpl.org

August 2020

Library Director's Report to the JPA

The Library now operates five curbside locations (Aptos, Downtown, Live Oak, Felton and Scotts Valley) and those services will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Santa Cruz Public Libraries was one of the first systems in the region to introduce curbside service and has received plaudits for its virtual programming from neighboring library systems.

The trend line for library usage at Santa Cruz Public Libraries is once again climbing, but the impact from the health crisis on the Library has been significant. Sixty-two part-time staff have not been reassigned to their work and their support is dearly missed. Patrons experience longer delays when they request an item from one library location to the next. The Library continues to follow best practices regarding the safe handling of materials, which at this time requires quarantining material returned to the Library for 72 hours. And staff have learned and developed new routines while managing to work at least six feet away, wearing masks and while lifting, and moving hundreds of books a day.

A quick review of the circulation numbers from the Library's typically three busiest branches (Downtown, Aptos and Scotts Valley) help illustrate some of the dramatic impacts from the new "pandemic" service model. Comparing last June's figures to this June's figures for patron traffic at the circulation desk (or for today's comparison, at the curbside) show circulation at the desk is down 24% at Aptos, 28% at Downtown and 8% at Scotts Valley. But the overall circulation for the month of June, as compared to last year, reflects a more dramatic decline of 85% for Aptos, 82% for Downtown and 83% for Scotts Valley. That is because the majority of patrons in the past used self-checkout machines after browsing the indoor collection, rather than checking out their item from a staff member.

While curbside service has made many patrons excited and satisfied for having a "return" to Library services, it is a reduced service model (even though it is significantly more labor intensive, because staff now do all of the work that the patron once did in locating the item and delivering it to the patron). The Library has explored automated outdoor kiosk machines that hold and display books for checkout, but they remain cost prohibitive and would still only marginally fill the whole that a browsing Library provides. While we recognize that this is not a permanent state of affairs, the Library is still exploring possible outdoor options that could provide some of the browsing experience and potentially meet current (but ever evolving) guidelines.

It's important to note that in addition to these different service models, the Library embarked on a new program this summer to connect to over 600 children across the County who receive a school, summer lunch. Library staff met them at nine different sites, multiple times to deliver books and STEAM kits. The Library is now examining a number of measures for how it can continue to support families caught on the wrong side of the digital divide as families desperately seek solutions to support their school age children who must learn virtually.

The Library currently supports the public as it transitions to a more digital world through the Library's telephone information services. In June 2020, the Library's telephone information service

handled 70% more calls than the prior year. It managed 919 calls in June 2019 and 3,018 in 2020. Those calls ranged from assistance in accessing the new curbside service to learning how to access the Library's digital library. In fact, in June 2020, the Library circulated 47% more e-books than it did in June 2019. The Library has a lot of expertise and experience in assisting the public transition into an online world. We believe that this need in our community will continue to grow.

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



**SANTA CRUZ CITY/COUNTY LIBRARIES
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD
(LJPA)**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting

**THURSDAY JUNE 4, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

1. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Tina Friend, Jamie Goldstein, Martin Bernal, Carlos Palacios
STAFF: Library Director Susan Nemitz, Assistant Director Eric Howard

2. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

None

3. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA

The Agenda of June 4, 2020 was approved by consensus.

**REPORT OUT FROM TONIGHT'S CLOSED SESSION AND
REPORT OUT FROM CLOSED SESSION ON MAY 7, 2020**

Chair Goldstein reported that the Board on both occasions met regarding Labor Negotiations, reviewed the topic and gave direction to labor negotiators. There is no reportable action on both meetings.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. REPORT BY LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Eric Howard, Assistant Director, gave an update on further steps towards opening. Susan Nemitz pointed out that the virtual Summer Reading Program is off to a great start.

6. FRIENDS OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES REPORT

Executive Director Marsa Greenspan reported on the recent activities of the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

7. REPORT BY LIBRARY ADVISORY COMMISSION (LAC)

Bob White, Chair, reported on the recent LAC activities.

8. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

None

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

RESULT: APPROVED CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Approved May 7, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

B. Accepted and Filed Recent Articles about SCPL. [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Carlos Palacios

SECONDER: Martin Bernal

AYES: Goldstein, Friend, Bernal, Palacios

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. FY 20/21 SCPL Budget

The Board reviewed and discussed the presented budget.

RESULT:	<p>1. Approved the FY 20/21 budget with \$3.8 million in spending reductions and strategic use of the reserve.</p> <p>2. Directed staff to closely monitor the impacts associated with COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries and budget and to provide financial updates at each Library Joint Powers Authority Board meeting during FY 20/21 with the additional direction to achieve larger savings in the non-personnel expenditures category than the posted target of \$150,000. [UNANIMOUS]</p>
MOVER:	Carlos Palacios
SECONDER:	Tina Friend
AYES:	Goldstein, Friend, Bernal, Palacios

B. Public Service Hours Strategy

Library Director Susan Nemitz presented the report provided to the Board and the Board discussed the report and its implications.

RESULT:	<p>Approved Public Service Hours Strategy - Items #1, 2 and 4. Defer item #3 to a later time.</p> <p>1. Empower the Library Director to determine branch hours through FY 2021.</p> <p>2. Empower the Library Director to schedule the opening and closure of branches for remodeling in order to maximize public service hours while the Library system manages this period of limited staffing.</p> <p>4. Request staff to update the Joint Powers Authority Board in advance at each meeting on projected changes to the current schedule. [UNANIMOUS]</p>
MOVER:	Tina Friend
SECONDER:	Carlos Palacios
AYES:	Goldstein, Friend, Bernal, Palacios

C. City of Santa Cruz Early Retirement Incentive Program

RESULT: Reviewed and approved the City of Santa Cruz Early Retirement Incentive Program for use with Santa Cruz Public Library staff during FY 2021 with the addition that the approval is contingent upon finding a solution that does not involve layoffs and is consistent with the City of Santa Cruz negotiations. [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Martin Bernal

SECONDER: Carlos Palacios

AYES: Goldstein, Friend, Bernal, Palacios

11. Adjournment

Final Adjournment of the Library Joint Powers Authority Board (LJPA) at 6:55 p.m. to the next regular meeting on August 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. [immediately following the LFFA meeting] at the Downtown Branch Library, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz CA 95060 pending the current Health Orders at that time.

ATTEST: _____
Helga Smith, Clerk of the Board

All documents referred to in these minutes are available in the Santa Cruz Public Libraries – Library Headquarters Office, 117 Union Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.



SANTA CRUZ
PUBLIC LIBRARIES

DATE: August 6, 2020

TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board

FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

RE: Media Packet

Accept and File the Media Packet for May 29, 2020 through July 28, 2020.

This Media packet covers the time period May 29 through July 28, 2020.

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director



SANTA CRUZ
PUBLIC LIBRARIES
CONNECT | INSPIRE | INFORM

In the News and Media:

May 28 – July 28



Coverage You Can Count On

Santa Cruz revisits plan to build new mixed use library, activists disagree on location

Santa Cruz city councilmembers are revisiting plans to build a new mixed use library that would include affordable housing and a parking structure

Updated: 6:40 PM PDT Jun 23, 2020



View video at <https://www.ksbw.com/article/santa-cruz-revisits-plan-to-build-new-mixed-use-library-activists-disagree-on-location/32951630>

BUILD A NEW MIXED USE LIBRARY THAT WOULD INCLUDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND A PARKING STRUCTURE-- BUT ACTIVISTS WANT TO RENOVATE THE EXISTING LIBRARY AT ITS CURRENT LOCATION. ACTION NEWS 8 REPORTER PHIL GOMEZ, HAS MORE... "PLANS FOR A NEW DOWNTOWN LIBRARY HAS BEEN IN THE WORKS FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS BUT TONIGHT THE SANTA CRUZ CITY COUNCIL COULD MOVE FORWARD WITH NEW PLANS OR IT COULD BE BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD MOST AGREE THAT A UPGRADED LIBRARY WILL BE A WELCOME IMPROVEMENT OVER THE CURRENT BUILDING THAT WAS BUILT IN THE 1960'S ITS INFRASTRUCTURE IS FAILING BUT MOST TAKE ISSUE WITH A FOUR HUNDRED SPACE PARKING LOT ON LINCOLN STREET "WE'RE LOOKING AT ONE TO 4 LFOORS OF HOUSING ABOVE THE LIBRAY WITH PARKING PART OF IT ABOVE OR ADJACENT TO THE PROJECT" "THERE ARE TEN HERTIGAE TREES ON THE ENTIRITY OF THE LOT AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE CUT DOWN" IT'S NOT JUST TREES THAT WOULD BE DISPLACED BUT ALSO THE WEEKLY FARMERS MARKET, WHICH WOULD MOVE TO A LOCATION ON FRONT STREET DOWNTOWN COMMONS OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF A NEW LIBRARY--ALONG CATHCART AND CEDART STREETS. THEY'D LIKE THE CITY COUNCIL TO RENOVATE THE EXISTING ONE "IT COMPLETELY REDUCES THE PERIMETER OF ONE STORY STRUCTURE AROUND THE GARAGE AND PUT AN ENTIRELY NEW INTERIOR; NEW LIGHTINING NEW CARPETS, NEW FACILITIES COMPLETELY WITHIN THE BUILDING" ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARY THE OLD STRUCTURE WOULD NEED A COMPLETE TEAR DOWN AND IT WOULD BE FINANCIALLY MORE FEASIBLE TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE MIXED USE PROJECT "WHAT THEY FOUND IS THE LIBRARY CAN GET 5,000 MORE SQUARE FEET TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS AND SERIVDCES TO THE COMMIN IN A MULTI USE SETTING" IN JUNE 2016, VOTERS APPROVED A COUNTYWIDE LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT BOND MEASURE, SANTA CRUZ RECEIVED A \$27 MILLION PORTION OF THAT MONEY. A PUBLIC HEARING ABOUT THE LIBRARY PON IS GOING ON TONIGHT AT 6:30 AT CITY HALL. IN SANTA CRUZ, PHIL GOMEZ, KSBW ACTION NEWS 8"

SANTA CRUZ LOCAL

sound local news

SANTA CRUZ >> A decision on whether to remodel Santa Cruz's downtown library or build a new library on Cedar Street with a parking garage and housing is expected to be made June 23 at a Santa Cruz City Council meeting.

Tuesday, a council committee of Mayor Justin Cummings, Vice Mayor Donna Meyers and Councilmember Sandy Brown heard a presentation by Group 4 Architecture on the costs of a new library on Cedar Street between Cathcart and Lincoln streets. The committee heard a similar presentation in December on the possible remodel of the current library on Church Street. The committee is expected to recommend one of the options to the council June 23. Tuesday's meeting was held on Zoom with about 100 viewers. Council members did not give clues on where they stood. They will weigh the options based on the following criteria: The

quality of the library, environmental benefits and concerns, financial costs and risks, and other community benefits such as affordable housing.

The council is expected to choose from three options. The base cost for all these options is \$27 million.

- [A current library remodel](#) with a new, larger first-floor children's area, a new circulation desk, a new first-floor community room, a new but smaller adult reading area on the second floor, three new small meeting rooms and a new but smaller teen area on the second floor.
- [A new one-story library](#) on Cedar Street with housing and a parking garage above it.
- A new one-story library on Cedar Street with housing above and a parking garage adjacent to it.

The new construction would replace a city-owned parking lot where the Wednesday farmers' market operates. The proposal would relocate the farmers' market to a lot on Cathcart and Front streets. The proposal also calls for the city to buy a building where Toadal Fitness operates on Lincoln Street. The details and costs for that acquisition are still unclear. While the initial costs per square foot are similar between the three options, the latter two options allow the city to collect about \$3 million to \$6 million in air rights fees from housing developers. Air rights fees are collected by cities in mixed-use developments to share the cost of infrastructure such as walls, columns, electrical systems and the foundation. Market-rate housing units would allow for higher city-collected fees.

Fees could be used toward the cost of construction and allow a larger library.

The first option, a remodel, calls for a 30,400 square-foot library. It's smaller than the current library because the current library's outbuildings would be demolished. Those buildings' electrical, mechanical and other systems are outdated.

The second option is a new one-story library with housing and a garage above it. That plan would allow the largest library, about 44,000 square feet, assuming enough air rights fees are collected. That's the same size as the current downtown library.

Tuesday, 24 members of advocacy groups and organizations spoke during public comment. Some, such as Rick Longinotti of the Campaign for Sustainable Transportation, John Hall from Downtown Commons Advocates and Jean Brocklebank from Don't Bury the Library, urged the council members to favor the remodel. Reasons included: Consultants' advice to address parking demand in more modern ways than a garage, disapproval of the farmers' market displacement and the adequacy of a remodel across most of the committee's criteria.

A 14-year-old speaker from Santa Cruz Youth for Climate Justice asked the council members to consider climate change as the first priority. The demolition and construction associated with the mixed-use proposal would create waste, and a new garage would encourage people to drive, said Tamara, who did not give her last name during the online meeting.

"It isn't worth destroying our future to have a more modern library. It is more important that we get to enjoy our library for generations to come," said Tamara.

Others, such as former Santa Cruz Mayor Don Lane, who represented the group Smart Solutions to Homelessness; Maggie Ivy, CEO of Visit Santa Cruz County; and Mark Mesiti-Miller of the advocacy group Downtown Forward, urged the council members to take advantage of the opportunity to build affordable housing.

Lane said that along with financial costs and risks, the council should consider what could be lost — “in this instance, the opportunity cost associated with this once-in-a-generation opportunity if we fail to incorporate addressing the affordable housing crisis as we create a new library.”

The council is under time pressure. The city has about five years left to complete construction, according to the timeline set by the bond measure voters approved in 2016. If the council waits much longer to decide, the city will have less time to pay back the bond, and therefore have less money for the project, said City Manager Martin Bernal.

Bernal also said that if voters wait too long to see construction, it will jeopardize future bond measures. The costs of construction and bond issuance may rise as well.

Podcast Ep. 79: Santa Cruz library decision looms

June 19, 2020

Listen here: <https://santacruzlocal.org/2020/06/19/santa-cruz-library-decision-looms/>

A big decision is on tap Tuesday for the Santa Cruz City Council: Should the downtown library be renovated in place, or should a new, larger library with a parking garage and at least 50



affordable housing units be built on nearby city land? Santa Cruz Local talks to library and city leaders, activists and architects about the \$27 million question.

A project to build a new library, parking garage and homes at Cathcart and Cedar streets in Santa Cruz will be considered by the Santa Cruz City Council on Tuesday. (Stephen Baxter — Santa Cruz Local)

TRANSCRIPT

STEPHEN BAXTER: I'm Stephen Baxter

KARA MEYBERG GUZMAN: I'm Kara Meyberg Guzman.

SB: This is Santa Cruz Local. On Tuesday, the Santa Cruz City Council will decide the future of the city's downtown library. They'll decide whether to renovate the library where it is or build a new one a few blocks away.

Ten libraries across Santa Cruz County are getting rebuilt and renovated. The money comes from Measure S. That's a \$67 million bond measure. It was approved by County voters in

2016. The downtown Santa Cruz library is the last library design that needs approval. Both projects work with a base budget of \$27 million. But they're both going to require more money than that and the city will have to find it.

In today's episode, we want to explain both library options. We also have a good idea of which way the city council will vote and we'll get to that in a bit.

KMG: Let's talk about the idea to renovate on the current site. The current downtown library is 42,000 square feet. If it were renovated, it would create a library of about 30,000 square feet. It's smaller because the areas that house mechanical and other systems would be demolished. The downtown library was built in 1968. It would need a lot of work. Asbestos would have to be removed, the guts of the building would be overhauled, all of that adds to the cost.

Jayson Architects was hired by the city last year to estimate the cost of a renovation.

The [architects wrote in their report](#) that even with \$7 million added to the base budget, it would be a "low- to medium-quality facility," Basically, it would not be a point of civic pride. Susan Nemitz is the director of Santa Cruz Public Libraries. Here's what she said about the renovation.

SUSAN NEMITZ: I think the library is insufficient size to achieve our goals. I think it doesn't create basic infrastructure that we need, like perimeter control, public restrooms, and, you know, we need two elevators with a two-story building.

It also reduced our collection size. And I think one of the most alarming pieces for me was that it required that the library closed for two years without any funding for what we do in that period of time.

KMG: Some people like the plan though. Santa Cruz resident John Hall is the leader of Downtown Commons Advocates. It's a group that's pushing for the renovation. You've might have received the group's mailer this month.

JOHN HALL: If you look at the Jayson Architects plan for the library being reconstructed where it is, it's a beautiful and kind of really engaging and thoughtful piece of work that connects the city hall to the library. It has parking right next to it that makes it easily accessible for people that have disabilities. It has great interior planning in terms of siting so that librarians can witness what's going on and all parts of the library. It has great interior lighting, you know, I could go on and on. Yeah, we're strongly in favor of — we think that if you hold the two plans right up against one another, and you dig into the architectural details that the Jayson plan is clearly superior.

SB: If the city council were to approve the renovation, the \$27 million base price doesn't get you some things you might want. That's according to the architect's report. That's things like acoustic ceilings to dampen noise. More toilets than the current library — which serves about 1,000 people a day. And wall finishes and landscaping. To get those extras, the library system would have to raise about \$10 million in donations. Susan Nemitz, the libraries director, says she thinks that'll be difficult.



The Santa Cruz downtown library was built in 1968. (Stephen Baxter — Santa Cruz Local)

[MUSIC]

KMG: Let's shift gears and talk about the housing and garage library plan. Like the other plan, this budget calls for a library of about 30,000 square feet. But [depending on the fees](#) charged to the housing developer, the library could be larger.

Three years ago, a downtown library committee had a bunch of public meetings. One of the things they wanted to figure out was what city residents wanted in a public library. More than [2,000 people responded to their survey](#). People said they wanted Wi-Fi computers, a quiet space, a dedicated children's room. About half said they wanted library parking and small meeting rooms. All these priorities match national trends for library uses. These days, a library is more than just a quiet place to read. Susan Nemitz again, the libraries director.



Santa Cruz Public Libraries Director Susan Nemitz shares her thoughts on a downtown library renovation at a council committee meeting in December 2019. (Kara Meyberg Guzman — Santa Cruz Local file)

SUSAN NEMITZ: So we had a year long community study process. We looked at libraries around the country and around the region did site visits lots of research. We had over 100 people come in and talk to that group. And they determined we needed about 44,000 square feet to achieve our programmatic goals for the library. And I have to say that neither of the two options provide those 44,000 square feet. But either way, for me my math is pretty simple. And it has been ‘How can they get the most library for the \$27 million that Measure S provides?’ And in my personal opinion, I believe you can get more library from the multi-use building.

SB: The plan for a mixed use library comes with a parking garage. That’s the most controversial part.

OK, so what’s the garage doing there? Well, surface parking lots downtown are intended to be developed into housing. So when those lots disappear in the next 10 years, a garage would replace some of those spots and consolidate parking.

City leaders have wanted to build a new parking garage downtown for about 20 years, but they couldn’t pay for it. Now by combining a library, garage and housing, it helps share costs. It costs more to build them separately.

City models predict a [shortage of 1,200 parking spaces in the next 15 years](#) or so. Here’s Claire Gallogly, the city transportation planner.

CLAIRE GALLOGLY: Over and over again what I heard from business owners and from employees was: ‘The cost of housing is so high in Santa Cruz that my employees are coming from further and further and further away. And it is utterly unrealistic to tell them that they cannot drive and park. Because in telling them to take transit, you’re adding two-and-a-half

hours to their day in which they're paying for additional childcare. They're not being with their families, they're not being present.

And so parking as a component of our downtown is critical for our lowest paid workers. And at the same time, those that do have other options, we absolutely are going to continue to support them with bike pedestrian transit and carpooling alternatives. But there is no silver bullet and there is no one size fits all.

KMG: The garage, by the way, could be on top of the library or next to it. Many other cities like Watsonville have mixed-use libraries. Architects build sound barriers so you don't hear the cars. But a lot of people don't like the idea of combining the library with the garage.

Environmental groups like the Sierra Club and the Campaign for Sustainable Transportation say the city should plan for a future where there could be less demand for parking. And they say city leaders should invest more in alternative transportation before the garage. Others say the city should have communicated its plans for a library and garage earlier.

JEAN BROCKLEBANK: Everyone who found out about this made-up project was shocked and said, Wait a minute, we voted for something else.

KMG: That's Jean Brocklebank. She lives in Live Oak. She's one of the leaders of Don't Bury the Library. It's one of a few groups opposing the library garage plan.

JEAN BROCKLEBANK: It was shock, it was outrage. They immediately called it a 'bait and switch' to remove a standalone library, which is part of the vital public civic center and take it away from that place across from city hall and stick it into — at the time — just a parking garage. The shock was that instead of restoring the downtown library that had served the community for many decades and could continue to serve the community for decades into the future, that instead of doing that, which is what people voted for, they came up with this crazy mixed-use project.



The downtown Santa Cruz farmers market runs Wednesdays in a city-owned parking lot on Cedar Street. (Stephen Baxter — Santa Cruz Local)

SB: In 2016, a lot of measure us voters didn't know about the city staffs idea to combine the library and garage. The city council only [floated the idea after the measure passed](#). The council added the housing part later. The mixed-use plan since then has garnered some wide support. Some people want more housing. Some businesses and workers want more parking. And some people say they just want the bigger library that goes with it. There's a coalition called Downtown Forward that formed last year to support the mixed use plan.

[MUSIC]

KMG: We're pretty sure we know how the vote will go down Tuesday. Most of the council members have made their positions known during meetings. Based on that and our interviews with council members, the votes seem to be in line to approve the mixed-use plan. Councilmember Sandy Brown told me that this week too, and she's been a longtime opponent of the housing and garage plan. A council committee of Mayor Cummings Vice Mayor Donna Meyers and Brown have studied the issue over the past several months. Last week, they voted to recommend that the council approve the mixed use plan. The recommendation comes with a few conditions made by Brown:

- A requirement of at least 50 affordable housing units
- A limit of 400 parking spaces
- A height limit equal to the five-story building next door

Brown also got the committee to support a public process to determine how to reuse the library's current site.

SANDY BROWN: We don't have on the city council right now the political will to consider another way. So I wanted to make sure that the priorities that I have were at least heard and really taken seriously. And that's not to say that anybody was opposed to any of this. But that's more to say that I worry that if and when we get to those decision points where it may not seem as viable to get that that deep subsidy for low-income units that other decisions might be made. So I wanted to try to really solidify that commitment.

SB: Let's talk about that housing part. Brown isn't alone in her skepticism about whether affordable housing will be built with this project. We talked to Diana Alfaro. She's a housing manager for the nonprofit developer MidPen Housing. That firm is one of a few affordable housing developers that have told city leaders they're interested in building the library mixed-use project. And full disclosure, Alfaro also serves on Santa Cruz Local's Community Advisory Board. We asked Alfaro about the recommendation for 50 low income units at the project. Could that actually works for the developer?

DIANA ALFARO: That could work. Right now, it's really hard to finance anything and so it would really mean on it would really depend on the city commitment to really make this actually happen. Because right now, you can't really depend on just other outside sources to really make this happen. You just, there's no way. You need to have a some sort of match fund to really give you that subsidy to give you the edge to get those other sources of funds through the state or through tax credits or whatever. And so that would be one thing to keep in mind as we move forward with this process. Fifty units, great, we think we need to define what that means. Is it for seniors, is it for special needs, is it for families? You know, families,

units take up more space, so that height limitation might be an issue. So that's one thing to consider. And then also, you know, the target income as 50% AMI, that's the standard, usually, but if you want to do housing for, you know, chronically homeless individuals, then that needs to go lower. And a subsidy piece there through project-based Section 8 vouchers would be very much needed.

SB: When Alfaro talks about the target income of 50% AMI, she's talking about the area median income. So at today's standards, a person who would get one of these units would have to earn less than \$55,000, roughly. And we asked Alfaro given the current COVID-19 situation, how competitive are state and federal grants for affordable housing projects?

DIANA ALFARO: Extremely competitive. And even though two years ago, we voted for Prop. 1 and 2, which gave \$6 million for housing. There's no way — it's just so competitive. There's so much need out there that there's really no way to build something without a local commitment and other funds. You need to go for anything you can get. You have to. There's just no way. And that's just talking about the state funds that are available. It's not enough. So we need to really line up the product to be the most competitive it can be. And to really do that you kind of have to build 100% affordable. And you have to really go for that deep targeting of affordability. So that's really 30% to 50% of AMI

SB: The developer and the city council will balance competing pressures when they figure out the mix of affordable and maybe market-rate units. The city can actually get more money for the library for market rate units than they would from affordable units. They do that by charging air rights fees to the developer. Those fees cover shared construction costs like for shared walls, elevators and the foundation.

KMG: Last thing, the downtown farmer's market. I asked the market director, Nesh Dhillon, what he thought about moving from Cedar Street.

NESH DHILLON: We've always anticipated this moment coming. Because it's a city-owned lot and it's the most — it probably has the highest development possibilities and capacities. And a lot of the other lots in downtown Santa Cruz just aren't as appealing.

KMG: Dhillon said at the end of the day what he and his board want is a permanent home for the market.

[MUSIC]

SB: The city council meeting on the downtown library will take place Tuesday, June 23. You can watch and participate on Zoom. We'll send you the details on time and how to participate in our Sunday newsletter. If you can't attend, you can email your comments to citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com.

To get our free newsletter, sign up at SantaCruzLocal.org. The link is in our show notes.

KMG: Two bits of housekeeping. We want to know your priorities for the upcoming local elections. We'll press the candidates based on what we hear from you. Please take our voter survey. Our survey is at SantaCruzLocal.org/votersurvey. That link is in our show notes. Also, if you have business or marketing experience, apply for Santa Cruz Local's Business Advisory Circle. We're building a group of advisers to help Santa Cruz Local's strategy, marketing and connections to sponsors. That link to the application is also in our show notes. Santa Cruz council approves downtown library project

by [Kara Meyberg Guzman](#)

SANTA CRUZ >> A controversial plan for a new downtown library with affordable housing above and an adjacent parking garage advanced Tuesday with a 4-2 vote by the Santa Cruz City Council.

The project, which calls for a one-story library, a minimum 50 affordable housing units and a maximum 400 parking spaces, will be built on a Cedar Street parking lot where the Wednesday farmers market meets. The project may include market-rate housing, but that decision has not yet been made.

The project is similar to one approved by the council in 2018. It stalled last year when new council members took office.

As part of the plan approved Tuesday, city leaders will resume discussions to permanently move the farmers market to a parking lot at Front and Cathcart streets. City leaders also will begin a public process to consider options for the existing library on Church Street “including affordable housing, a community commons, child care and other public uses,” according to a motion made by Vice Mayor Donna Meyers.

Mayor Justin Cummings, Meyers and Councilmembers Martine Watkins and Renee Golder voted for the project. Council members Katherine Beiers and Sandy Brown voted against it. Councilmember Cynthia Mathews recused herself because she lives within a few blocks of the new site.

Several dozen residents spoke during the online meeting. The broadcast failed several times during public comment and the council’s deliberation.

Most people who spoke opposed the project and its garage. They were in favor of the council’s other option: a renovation of the current library.

Many said that when they voted for Measure S in 2016, they didn’t know about the garage. Measure S was a \$67 million bond measure to “modernize, upgrade and repair local libraries,” according to the ballot language. The City of Santa Cruz was allocated \$27 million for its library improvements.



The Santa Cruz City Council on Tuesday approved a preliminary plan for a new library, parking garage and homes. The project would be built on a parking lot at Cathcart and Cedar streets, where the downtown farmers market meets. (Stephen Baxter — Santa Cruz Local file)

Resident Stacey Falls said she wouldn't have voted for Measure S had she known about the proposed garage.

"We are still in the climate crisis. It is the existential crisis of our time. It's worse than COVID-19. And you guys are prioritizing a parking garage?" Falls said.

Barbara Lawrence, a school librarian in Santa Cruz, said she felt "swindled" and that a garage was "outdated."

"I didn't vote to build parking," Lawrence said.

City leaders have said the garage is needed because downtown parking lots are slated to be replaced by housing and other buildings in the coming decade.

Measure S money would only go toward the library — not the garage. The parking garage would be paid for by the city's parking fund.

Library leaders said fundraising will be necessary to get features such as higher ceilings in the library. To pay for the affordable housing, city leaders and the affordable housing developer would have to cobble together sources such as tax credits, project vouchers, state and federal grants and city money. A deeper financial feasibility report is due in the next three months.

Elizabeth Conlan was one of several who voiced support.

"Climate change is the most pressing issue we face and having density downtown is ultimately the best for the environment," Conlan said.

Councilmember Brown, a longtime opponent of the mixed-use plan, was part of a council committee with Mayor Cummings and Vice Mayor Meyers that studied the library decision in recent months.

As part of the committee, Brown voted for the mixed-use project June 12. She flipped her vote again Tuesday.

"In my role here tonight, I think that my job here is to represent the public and to represent the public interest," Brown said. "And in my time on the council, I have never seen a more lopsided correspondence. People said three to one, but as I tracked it over time, it seems to me more four to one, opposing the mixed-use project."

Mayor Cummings, explaining his vote for the mixed-use project, said, "We would not get a fully adequate library" with a renovation, as [an architect's report showed in December](#). "One of the things that I first and foremost am thinking about is how can we get the best, most quality library with the funding that we have," Cummings said.

Beiers' vote against the mixed-use project was consistent with her position during her campaign for the March 3 election. She [said in a Santa Cruz Local interview in January](#) that she would only support a renovation of the current library.

Golder, during her campaign this year, [did not take a position on the library](#). Tuesday, she said that she heard from many opponents of the mixed-use plan who were well-organized and had a lot of time.

She said she reached out to her constituents. "They're busy and they're young families and they don't have time for the level of civic engagement but overwhelmingly they were in favor of the mixed-use project," Golder said. "And so ultimately, I think I'm in favor of the project

because ultimately there's never going to be a solution that's gonna make everyone happy. But we do need more housing. We need a modern library. We need more efficient urban parking."

Several requirements were included in the preliminary plan approved Tuesday:

- City leaders will pursue the most housing affordability.
- The building height will not exceed the five-story adjacent University Town Center, or if that's not possible then the height should not exceed the six-story apartments at 1010 Pacific Ave.
- This project's affordable housing and the housing at the planned Pacific Station project at the downtown Metro station will be the priorities of the city's affordable housing trust fund.
- To the extent feasible, downtown employees should be given preference for the affordable housing units.



Architects Presenting Costs for Santa Cruz Library and Garage

Councilmembers will hear cost details for downtown mixed-use project

BY [JACOB PIERCE](#)

POSTED ON JUNE 1, 2020

The next chapter in the ongoing story of Santa Cruz's downtown public library is happening Tuesday, June 2, at 4:30pm.

Architecture firm Group 4 will provide the latest information on two options for a mixed-use library on the current site of the [farmer's market parking](#) lot. Under this scenario, the market would likely move to a different parking lot on Front Street, a block and a half away, where it would be given a permanent pavilion.

In 2018, the city's [Downtown Library Advisory Committee](#) unanimously voted to support building a [brand new mixed-use library project](#) on a city-owned lot. The plan was to have a library on the first floor. Up above would be several hundred [parking](#) spaces as well as space for housing or offices. The City Council agreed with the direction, but the concept of a new parking garage [rankled anti-car environmentalists](#), who want to see the city renovate the library at its current site.

Later that year, two Santa Cruz candidates—Justin Cummings and Drew Glover—ran for City Council. They won their elections in November of 2018, giving a new council majority to the town's anti-garage political faction. In 2019, that new majority directed city staff to halt all

work on the library and garage mixed-use project. Soon after, three city councilmembers—Donna Meyers, Justin Cummings and Sandy Brown—formed a subcommittee to study how best to spend money from a [2018 Santa Cruz County library bond](#) measure.

After a few months of subcommittee meetings, the city hired architecture firm Jayson Architecture, which gave two presentations on how the existing library could be renovated. In his talk, the group’s founder architect [Abraham Jayson recommended](#) knocking down part of the first floor of the building.

After that, [supporters of a brand new library](#), constructed from the ground up, wanted their own renderings and pictures of [how the library might look](#), according to their own vision. For that effort, the city chose Group 4, which gave its initial presentation May 7. Group 4 laid out two options, each one an iteration of the same idea. In one option, the upper stories of the project would have parking surrounding housing on all sides. The other option calls for parking on one side of the building’s upper stories, with housing going on the other side. Both plans would have a first-floor library. The upcoming meeting on Tuesday will include a final cost estimate, funding sources and stakeholder input.

One thing is for sure: The delays have been expensive. Other Santa Cruz County communities have been spending their [bond money](#). The Felton Library opened earlier this year, and other communities, like Capitola, have broken ground on construction.

The delays add up. Jayson said this past October that construction costs had been rising 8-10% per year for a full decade. “That’s like compounding interest,” he explained.

The “good news,” he added, was that the rate of construction cost increases would likely go down to 5-6% per year.

The Zoom meeting on options for the library’s future will be Tuesday, June 2. The Zoom link to join is <https://zoom.us/j/93714814445?pwd=N1JrZU53YkRmZnhabExsTFNvdTdGUT09>, and the password is 848926. For more information, including how to [join by phone](#), [visit the city’s website](#).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

June 10, 2020

Re: “Architects Presenting Costs for Library and Garage” ([goodtimes.sc](#), 6/1): As a member of the Downtown Library Advisory Committee, I discovered the importance of prioritizing usable square footage in evaluating library sites. The more square footage, the more services a library can offer. A larger library means more books, more computers, more programs, and more people the library can serve. It is impossible to meet the needs of the community with a library that is too small.

The DLAC hopes the Santa Cruz City Council gives strong consideration to the stated square footage in each option. A mixed-use facility would have five thousand more square feet. This is a tremendous difference, and will translate to 20,000 more items in the collections, along with satisfying most priorities for Santa Cruz. The services the community deserves from its library cannot be met with thirty thousand square feet.

The DLAC also prioritized fiscal responsibility. The “additions” in the renovation option add up to almost \$7 million, and are necessities, like a service elevator, bathrooms, landscaping, gutters. A library needs an acoustic ceiling! These essentials are not included in any funding model.

I urge the City Council to give special weight to building the largest and the best library in Santa Cruz for the money spent, and support the mixed-use option.

Rena Dubin | Santa Cruz

Things To Do (Virtually) in Santa Cruz: June 10-16

COMMUNITY

TALES TO TAILS GOES VIRTUAL Tales to Tails goes virtual to create a comfortable, neutral, and fun reading experience. Bring some books, a stuffed animal or your own pet, and come read with us! This is a YouTube livestream event so you might be reading to up to six animals at once. Woo hoo! Caregivers, you can post your child's first name and city in the comments section, along with the book they are reading, and we'll read off as many of those names as we can, live, during the break we need to give the dogs. Each week you register we'll send you your dog bone "punch cards." These will be dated dog bones your child can color and email to us. The following week, we'll display them live on the feed. This will also be recorded so if you can't make it live, the dogs will still be there for you. Every Wednesday, 10-11am. Learn more at santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6764929.

PEOPLE AND STORIES: READING DEEPLY IN COMMUNITY People and Stories is dedicated to opening doors to literature for new audiences. Through oral readings and rigorous discussions of enduring short stories, we invite participants to find fresh understandings of themselves, of others, and of the world. Please note that some stories contain themes and language of an adult nature. Santa Cruz Public Libraries offers People and Stories regularly in our county jails. We invite you to our special eight-week session on Zoom! Drop in for one or attend all 8 People and Stories sessions! Wednesdays June 10-July 29, 1:30pm. Learn more at santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6760931.

OUTDOOR

NORCAL BATS NorCalBats is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of bats throughout Northern California. Live bats will be presented along with a slide show geared to dispel myths and prejudices against bats that can lead to the destruction of their roosts and colonies. Learn more at santacruzpl.libcal.com/calendar. Friday, June 12, at 11:30am and 2:30pm.

Opinion: June 17, 2020

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Library Frankenplan

Rena Durbin avoids addressing critical issues with a new library in her letter "[Footage Notes](#)" (GT, 6/10). Nowhere does she mention that in order to build a new, larger library, the project needs to pay for the additional square footage by selling "air rights" to a developer for an unspecified number of both market-rate and "affordable housing" units. Because developers price market rate housing much higher, the air rights will recoup more money. So, fewer affordable units will be built. In essence, the city builds market-rate housing on public land for those who can afford to pay. The city adds a 400-car garage, ostensibly to accommodate for the housing and to replace the parking spaces lost on Lot 4. (Never mind that the recent Downtown Parking Study completed for the city by Nelson/Nygaard reports that we don't need more garages built; it's suppressed, never to see the light of day.)

This Frankenstein monster gets larger and more expensive—and residents are on the hook for the cost of the garage as the pandemic expands a years-long recession and depletes parking revenues. The result of some extra square footage for our library: Parking Lot 4, our largest unbuilt public space downtown, becomes a six-story concrete mega-structure; the Farmer's Market gets kicked to Front Street with the Antique Fair; we get another garage and we allow a developer to build market rate housing on public land; we lose the opportunity to create a dynamic vision for Downtown Santa Cruz, a more walkable city anchored by a remake of Lot 4 as a public plaza, a Commons for all of us. And to think, long ago I voted for Measure S to rebuild our current library where it is.

Valerie-Girsh-Morgan | Santa Cruz

Things To Do (Virtually) in Santa Cruz: June 17-23

ARTS AND MUSIC

SEAN'S MUSIC FACTORY Sean Mendelson, aka "Teacher Sean" is a singer/songwriter, recording artist, and Music Together/Kids Sing Teacher. The band, Sean's Music Factory is made up of Sean Mendelson, Logan and Jillian, Puppet Sean, The Tickle Monster, and the audience! Sean's Music Factory performs unique, high energy shows throughout the Bay Area for children of all ages. Join us via Zoom and register below for one of the two interactive shows. Wednesday, June 17, at 11am and 3pm. Register for 11am: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6741382. Register for 3pm: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6741385.

SPEED SKETCHING Come with paper and pencil and try your hand at speed sketching: all artistic experience is welcome. Prior to beginning the program, please select an object in your home and place it in view of your computer's camera and let's have fun together and see who can draw the silliest, stylish, true to life, or abstract interpretation of it. Every Tuesday afternoon at 2pm, take a break out of your day for some fun! Register for Zoom at: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6780189.

MIKE THE MAGICIAN Magician Mike Della Penna creates wonder and laughter with family magic performances that are equal parts playful and astonishing! He is a favorite at preschools, libraries and family venues and is known for captivating the 3-to-7-year-old crowd with his fun-filled, participatory magic shows. Tuesday, June 23, 3:30pm; Wednesday, June 24, 11am; Tuesday, July 7, 1pm. Visit santacruzpl.org for more information.

CLASSES

DIGITAL PRIVACY: PASSWORD MANAGEMENT Your privacy online matters and is critical to your safety and future as a digital citizen. Digital privacy should be something we all protect and manage. Learn how to protect your passwords by creating stronger passwords and security questions. We will also discuss the pros and cons of password management tools. This workshop has been developed and supported by Consumer Reports, an independent, nonprofit member organization that works side by side with consumers for truth, transparency, and fairness in the marketplace. Facilitator: Helen Josephine, Consumer Reports member and local community workshop organizer. Wednesday, June 17, 10:30am-12pm. Visit santacruzpl.org for more information.

COMMUNITY

KIDS CREATE STEAM PROJECT SERIES Series of STEAM programs through the summer for kids of all ages, presented via Facebook and our YouTube channel. Look for new videos on Tuesdays at 3:30pm and Fridays at 10am through July. Check out our Facebook (facebook.com/santacruzpl/) and Youtube channel (youtube.com/user/SantaCruzPL).

LEGO BUILDING CHALLENGE Join our eight-week summer Lego Building Challenge. You will only need common Lego pieces to complete these challenges. To join the fun, register each week via our online calendar, June 10 through July 29. On Wednesday, you will receive an email with the weekly challenge. If you would like to share your creation, post a photo on our Facebook SCPL Lego Building Challenge webpage. Bonus building challenges will be posted there for intermediate-level Lego fans. Learn more at santacruzpl.org.

TALES TO TAILS GOES VIRTUAL Tales to Tails goes virtual to create a comfortable, neutral, and fun reading experience. Bring some books, a stuffed animal or your own pet, and come read with us! This is a YouTube livestream event so you might be reading to up to six animals at once. Woo hoo! Caregivers, you can post your child's first name and city in the comments section, along with the book they are reading, and we'll read off as many of those names as we can, live, during the break we need to give the dogs. Each week you register we'll send you your dog bone "punch cards." These will be dated dog bones your child can color and email to us. The following week, we'll display them live on the feed. This will also be recorded so if you can't make it live, the dogs will still be there for you. Every Wednesday, 10-11am. Learn more at santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6764929.

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Santa Cruz Moves Toward Mixed-Use Library/Garage Downtown

BY [JACOB PIERCE](#)

POSTED ON JUNE 22, 2020

Santa Cruz Mayor Justin Cummings says that, when he was running for Santa Cruz City Council in 2018, voters often asked if he supported building [five stories of parking above](#) a proposed brand new library.

His answer, he recalls, was always "No."

"And I still hold those feelings," Cummings explains. "I would say, though, that during the time that I was running, there wasn't a lot of information on *can we do a sufficient renovation, versus building [the] mixed-use [version or the library]?*"

Cummings now supports a city proposal for a mixed-use parking and housing complex with a library on the first floor. It's a plan that's moving forward at the city of Santa Cruz—now that the [current incarnation](#) of the project has received the green light of a council subcommittee that Cummings served on, alongside Vice Mayor Donna Meyers and Councilmember Sandy

Brown. The project will get its first vote before the Santa Cruz City Council Tuesday night at 6:30pm.

To be clear, the perspective that Santa Cruz would be unable to get its money's worth from renovating the existing downtown library is not new. The [Downtown Library Advisory Committee](#) (DLAC) came to that same conclusion in 2018. The difference now, Cummings says, is that, through the subcommittee process, the city was able to gather more information than it had previously.

"I was aware of what the goals were of the DLAC, but I was unclear what the renovation could actually look like. Getting into those details, I thought, was important, to really understand, 'How far is this money going to go?'" Cummings says.

Originally, the council was expected to also vote on the city budget at its Tuesday meeting, but the agenda got crowded, and the city pushed that discussion to a special July 2 meeting, Cummings says. "The meeting was pushing beyond 20 hours, so we decided that we were going to have to split the meeting and have two separate meetings," he says.

The City Council normally votes on its budget by the end of June. Under the [city charter](#), the council must adopt its budget by the second Tuesday in July. The council has ruled out an increase in transient occupancy taxes. Cummings says the city is negotiating a 10% employee furlough across the board, and he says the council's budget subcommittee will meet through the summer and into the early fall to fine-tune how to make needed cuts to balance the city deficit.

The current garage plan calls for 400 parking spots, instead of the [600 that were once proposed](#). The plan also calls for 50 units of affordable housing in the structure. Cummings believes the vision for a brand new library would be better for library users and for students than a remodel would be. Additionally, he says the current design will allow the city to repurpose the parking structure into housing if parking demand drops.

The proposed site, a parking lot, is currently home [to the Wednesday farmers' market](#), which would move to Front Street, a block and a half away, where it could be given a permanent pavilion.

Sustainable transportation advocates oppose the construction of a brand new library, combined with a parking structure. So too do fans of the current downtown library, including members of the Don't Bury the Library group. Many activists want to see the City Council renovate the existing library at its current site.

The mixed-use project has garnered opposition from [Santa Cruz Sentinel contributors](#) like local historian Ross Eric Gibson, who penned a piece titled "Santa Cruz's once and future library," and the poet Stephen Kessler, who dubbed the effort the "Taj Garage," repeatedly pinning blame for the parking structure on Councilmember Cynthia Mathews. ([Mathews hasn't voted on the project](#) because she owns property nearby; she has, however, advocated for it privately, evidently irritating Kessler.)

Most of the recent letters to the City Council about the project voiced opposition. "From the beginning the library was used as an excuse to build support for a parking garage," wrote Jean Brocklebank of Don't Bury the Library.

Many opponents wrote their comments using the same form letter, and several included lyrics to the chorus from Joni Mitchell's "Big Yellow Taxi."

Things To Do (Virtually) in Santa Cruz: June 24-30

ARTS AND MUSIC

SPEED SKETCHING Come with paper and pencil and try your hand at speed sketching: all artistic experience is welcome. Prior to beginning the program, please select an object in your home and place it in view of your computer's camera and let's have fun together and see who can draw the silliest, stylish, true to life, or abstract interpretation of it. Every Tuesday afternoon at 2pm, take a break out of your day for some fun! Register for Zoom at: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6780189.

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COMMUNITY

STERLING THE BUBBLES The artist Sterling Johnson has performed versions of his remarkable hand-blown bubbles for over 45 years. He is the only person to ever put a bubble inside a bubble inside a bubble on stage without any tubes or straws, and the first person to walk completely through a bubble film! Come join us for this exciting and popular show. This program is part of our Summer Reading Program, Imagine Your Story. Register online: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6741389. Thursday, June 25, 11am.

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Opinion: June 24, 2020

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Right Call on Library

I am president of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries (FSCPL). I also served as a member of the Santa Cruz Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC).

Next week, the Santa Cruz City Council will consider a recommendation from the Council's Library Subcommittee about the future of the Downtown Branch Library. The Friends urge the City Council to approve the DLAC recommendation to build a new Downtown Library as part of the proposed multi-use facility.

Opponents of DLAC's recommendation have often used inaccurate information as part of their argument. A recent article in the local paper by Ross Eric Gibson inaccurately states that DLAC recommended the elimination of research collections and a "play yard for children to run and scream out back." Totally wrong.

DLAC's recommendation came after months of study and community input that included over 2,000 individual responses to a survey about a vision for a post Measure S Downtown library.

In order to keep up with the changing reading environment, meet the challenges of information literacy for students in the age of social media, and fulfill community expectations for safe places for public gatherings, traditional library design has to change with the times.

DLAC made the right call: relocating the library was not only the most cost-efficient solution, it was also a way for the city to have a library that we can be proud of.

Martín J. Gómez, President | Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries

Things To Do (Virtually) in Santa Cruz: July 1-7

ARTS AND MUSIC

SPEED SKETCHING Come with paper and pencil and try your hand at speed sketching: All artistic experience is welcome. Prior to beginning the program, please select an object in your home and place it in view of your computer's camera, and let's have fun together and see who can draw the silliest, stylish, true to life, or abstract interpretation of it. Every Tuesday afternoon at 2pm, take a break out of your day for some fun! Register for Zoom at: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6780189.

MIKE THE MAGICIAN Magician Mike Della Penna creates wonder and laughter with family magic performances that are equal parts playful and astonishing! He is a favorite at preschools, libraries and family venues and is known for captivating the 3-to-7-year-old crowd with his fun-filled, participatory magic shows. Tuesday, July 7, 1pm.

Visit santacruzpl.org for more information.

COMMUNITY

KIDS CREATE STEAM PROJECT SERIES Series of STEAM programs through the summer for kids of all ages, presented via Facebook and our YouTube channel. Look for new videos on Tuesdays at 3:30pm and Fridays at 10am through July. Check out our Facebook (facebook.com/santacruzpl/) and Youtube channel (youtube.com/user/SantaCruzPL).

LEGO BUILDING CHALLENGE Join our eight-week summer Lego Building Challenge. You will only need common Lego pieces to complete these challenges. To join the fun, register each week via our online calendar, June 10 through July 29. On Wednesday, you will receive an email with the weekly challenge. If you would like to share your creation, post a photo on our Facebook SCPL Lego Building Challenge webpage. Bonus building challenges will be posted there for intermediate-level Lego fans. Learn more at santacruzpl.org.

TALES TO TAILS GOES VIRTUAL Tales to Tails goes virtual to create a comfortable, neutral, and fun reading experience. Bring some books, a stuffed animal or your own pet, and come read with us! This is a YouTube livestream event so you might be reading to up to six animals at once. Woo hoo! Caregivers, you can post your child's first name and city in the comments section, along with the book they are reading, and we'll read off as many of those names as we can, live, during the break we need to give the dogs. Each week you register we'll send you your dog bone "punch cards." These will be dated dog bones your child can color and email to us. The following week, we'll display them live on the feed. This will also be recorded so if you can't make it live, the dogs will still be there for you. Every Wednesday, 10-11am. Learn more at santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6764929.

PEOPLE AND STORIES: READING DEEPLY IN COMMUNITY People and Stories is dedicated to opening doors to literature for new audiences. Through oral readings and rigorous discussions of enduring short stories, we invite participants to find fresh understandings of themselves, of others, and of the world. Please note that some stories contain themes and language of an adult nature. Santa Cruz Public Libraries offers People and Stories regularly in our county jails. We invite you to our special eight-week session on Zoom! Drop in for one or attend all 8 People and Stories sessions! Wednesdays, June 10-July 29, 1:30pm. Learn more at santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6760931.

Capitola Branch Library Upgrade Project Moves Ahead

The branch is one of the busiest libraries in the county

BY [TARMO HANNULA](#) POSTED ON JULY 6, 2020

Work is moving forward on the Capitola Branch Library on the corner of Clares Street at Wharf Road.



PHOTO: TARMO HANNULA

The more than \$13 million project will transform the previous 4,300-square-foot temporary library structure into an 11,700-square-foot hub with a community room, an expanded children’s wing, study and reading rooms, reading “nooks,” an outdoor reading deck, a fireplace and a space for teens.

Measure S, which voters passed in 2016 to fund library construction and upgrade projects in Santa Cruz County, provided \$10 million, while the city’s general fund and redevelopment money added \$2.6 million. The nonprofit group [Friends of the Capitola Branch Library](#) helped fundraise another \$750,000.

An estimated 60,000 people visit the branch each year, making it one of the busiest libraries in the county.

“We are looking forward to opening the library this summer,” says Steve Jesberg, public works director for Capitola. “I think our community has enjoyed watching the project come to life as walls have gone up, and people are excited to see the finished product.”

Megan Blackwell, marketing manager for Otto Construction, said Otto is the general contractor for the job. Initial plans called for the library completion this summer.

Things To Do (Virtually) in Santa Cruz: July 8-14

Join a goal-setting workshop, learn about data privacy, and find more things to do virtually

ARTS AND MUSIC

THE MAGIC OF GERMAR Germar (aka Gerardo Martinez) is a Vallejo, California, based magician who strives to entertain and educate his audience through his magic and illusions. Germar is also an award-winning magician, author and writer. He travels internationally to host his shows and illusions. Even his birds and bunnies that he uses in his shows have current U.S. passports and shots! Germar’s humor will make you laugh while his magic will make you wonder! Learn more at santacruzpl.org. Monday, July 13, 1pm.

SPEED SKETCHING Come with paper and pencil and try your hand at speed sketching: All artistic experience is welcome. Prior to beginning the program, please select an object in your home and place it in view of your computer’s camera, and let’s have fun together and see

who can draw the silliest, stylish, true to life, or abstract interpretation of it. Every Tuesday afternoon at 2pm, take a break out of your day for some fun! Register for Zoom at: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6780189.

CLASSES

TECH TALKS: OWN YOUR DATA Join us as we identify the privacy apps and mobile settings that reduce your digital footprint online. This event will be taking place online using Zoom. Registrants will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link immediately upon registering for the event. Register online: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6808497. Thursday, July 9, 11am.

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Things To Do (Virtually) in Santa Cruz: July 15-21

ARTS AND MUSIC

MAGICAL MOONSHINE THEATRE PRESENTS: PUPPYLOCKS AND THE THREE BEARS What if the Three Bears were really Teddy Bears! And what if Goldilocks was not a little girl at all, but a golden, mischievous little dog? That is exactly the case in this very funny retelling of the traditional fairytale. Watch this impish little dog do everything wrong in the Bear's house

while the bears are off to the Teddy Bear Circus! Puppylocks is presented with traditional Bohemian style marionettes on a tabletop stage. Free all ages library Summer Reading Program: santacruzpl.org/pages/srp. Register online: santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6780147. Saturday, July 18, 3pm.

MAGICAL MOONSHINE THEATRE PRESENTS THE THREE LITTLE PIGS Three pigs set out to seek their fortunes with a bit of house building. Things don't go as planned in this creative retelling of the traditional story: houses collapse, pigs and wolves play together, and audience members help the story along with lots of live music, singing, construction and laughter. Presented with traditional Bohemian style marionettes on a tabletop stage. Saturday, July 18, 11am. For more info visit santacruzpl.org.

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attend all eight People and Stories sessions! Wednesdays through July 29, 1:30pm. Learn more at santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6760931.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR 7/22/2020

Downtown Visions

The great debate over the library and parking is about to be over with two very different visions of our downtown. On one side are groups like Downtown Forward with lots of real estate development money that see a version of pre-Amazon Santana Row with massive parking structures feeding bustling boutiques, bars and, yes, restaurants. The other side led by groups like Downtown Commons see models like Davis or Healdsburg with a central square with shops and restaurants around it and also a place for events like our Farmers Market and events we don't have much of like music and art and public theater.

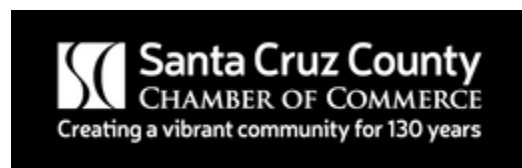
Then there is the question of urban design. Imagine Santa Barbara allowing a building like Cinema 9 to be built with its hideous out-of-scale architecture, or the Cooper House, which Bruce Bratton aptly calls a series of temporary buildings.

Then there is the question of money. We have the departments of Public Works, Transportation, Parking, Economic Development, Building, Planning and who knows what else, all with layers of six-figure managers, all of whom want to build things and see this library bond money (passed by voters who had no vision of a parking structure) as a free pot with no need for tedious budget negotiations—and never mind the pension bomb descending on the city with six-figure payouts and health benefits for life.

Then there is the question of need. In nearly 32 downtown I have had a handful of people complain they had to walk *two blocks*! What we do need is public housing (an affordable housing lipstick has been added to this pig of a project—who can say no to affordable housing? Who knows what that even means?) and we need mental health services now done by our police and fire agencies. And we need mental health and drug treatment facilities. And we need events (I once asked a council member why we no longer have events like art festivals or First Night, like other coastal towns, and he said that our highly paid folks at Economic Development or Parks and Recreation think they are too much trouble).

Do we need a 60,000-foot library in the age of the internet? Did we not spend a lot of money on an attractive plan at the current site?

PAUL COCKING | SANTA CRUZ



Santa Cruz News

Date

6/17/2020

ArticleType

Chamber

A Downtown Mixed-Use Project Built by this Generation for the Next Generation

In June 2016, with voter approval of a countywide Library bond Measure S, this started the wave of positive interest that our future county library system would be modernized. Over the past two years the Santa Cruz County Chamber, other business and community

organizations have worked diligently to support a mixed-use downtown library project that includes, much needed affordable housing, as well as adequate parking for residents, employees and visitors to our downtown. We believe that building a 21st century library in a mixed-use project is the most economic and environmentally sound decision for our city council to make.

A year ago, on May 14, 2019, the Santa Cruz City Council voted to put a hold on the decision regarding how to proceed with a Downtown Library Mixed-Use Project, and instead approved formation of a Council Subcommittee to investigate library project alternatives, in collaboration with Library staff and the interested community. The subcommittee included Mayor Justin Cummings, Vice Mayor Donna Meyers and Councilmember Sandy Brown. You can review the subcommittee activity during the past year: cityofsantacruz.com/government/subcommittees/downtown-library-3994

Last week, the subcommittee unanimously recommended a mixed-use project on the city owned parking Lot 4, instead of remodeling a 1966 old and out of code library building. I applaud the subcommittee members for listening to the majority of the community who took the time to follow the subcommittee's actions by attending meetings, submitting letters demonstrating the variety of reasons why this project is the best solution. As one community member I attended, listened, spoke out to offer constructive input throughout the process. The subcommittee's decision is the right thing for our community. Now, four years after passing Measure S, it is time for the full city council to approve the subcommittee's recommendation.

The opposition argues that a mixed-use project is not environmentally sound. This argument falls flat, as it doesn't even meet the national Sierra Club's own environmental standards for in-fill

development. <https://www.sierraclub.org/redwood/blog/2019/09/sierra-club-updates-urban-infill-policy>

Fundamental to all good urban planning is designing 21st century communities. The Sierra Club's national policy underscores the value of the mixed-use project and refutes the local environmental group's arguments, who stridently oppose change for the better in our downtown.

The national Sierra Club policy says: It is important that neighborhoods be close to safe paths for bicycles and good-quality public transportation." The policy further states: "In order to realize these goals, the land use policy calls for transformative strategies that build communities with:

- Affordable housing that is accessible to all;
- Transit, bike and pedestrian-first approaches to transportation;
- Expanded opportunities for all residents to participate in the local economy and civic decisions;
- Living-wage jobs;

- A balance between employment opportunities and housing;
- Access to education, services, amenities, and recreation that improves overall quality of life;
- Measures and policies that increase climate resilience.

The policy statement acknowledges that traditional zoning practices in the United States have led to social inequities, economic insecurity and increased greenhouse gas emissions. By calling for living wage jobs located close to affordable housing, plus advocating for mixed-use developments which support diverse food markets, cafes, and other businesses, the policy aims to bring more balance to communities while strengthening local economies.

The Downtown mixed-use Library project hits on all of the national Sierra Club's policy priorities, and especially places a stronger worded policy that address inequity in our society.

Vivian Rogers' recent Opinion piece in the Sentinel (June 13th) is spot on: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2020/06/13/guest-commentary-new-library-brings-abundance-of-community-benefits/>. Vivian was the former Executive Director of the Friends of Santa Cruz Public Libraries, so she has a clear understanding of what it requires to have a functional library for our community.

On June 23, the Santa Cruz City Council has an opportunity — and I would say an obligation — to address the fundamental needs for our current and future residents with a new library, affordable housing and adequate parking space. I encourage you to reach out to our city council members to register your support for a modern 21st Century Library built by this generation for future generations. The council needs to hear from you. Here are the councilmembers' email addresses.

jcummings@cityofsantacruz.com

dmeyers@cityofsantacruz.com

mwatkins@cityofsantacruz.com

sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com

rgolder@cityofsantacruz.com

kbeiery@cityofsantacruz.com

cmathews@cityofsantacruz.com

Date

6/24/2020

ArticleType

Chamber

The Right Decision for the Future of Santa Cruz City Council Votes to Approve a Downtown mixed-use project

The long-awaited plan for a new downtown library with affordable housing above and an adjacent parking garage was approved on Tuesday night with a 4-2 vote by the Santa Cruz City Council.

The project, which calls for a one-story library, a minimum 50 affordable housing units and a maximum 400 parking spaces, will be built on a Cedar Street parking lot 4. The

project is set to include market-rate housing as a possible option among other options that will be part of future public vetting on the design of the library, the affordable housing component and the parking structure. As described by City Manager, Martin Bernal to a question from one of the council members, Bernal noted: “Tonight’s action is to approve the conceptual design of the three elements of the project — a library, an affordable housing project and the parking structure.”

The project that was approved Tuesday night is nearly the same project design to the one approved by the City Council in 2018. The 2018 project approval followed a yearlong public vetting process lead by the Downtown Library Advisory Committee (DLAC). But when a new council was installed in late 2018, after the November 2018 election, that new council majority put a pause on the project essentially delaying the will of the voters who overwhelming support Measure S on the June 2016 ballot.

As part of the plan approved Tuesday, city leaders will resume discussions to move the farmers market to a parking lot at Front and Cathcart streets. City leaders also will begin a public process to consider options for the existing library on Church Street with a variety of options “including affordable housing, a community park, child care and other public uses,” according to a motion made by Vice Mayor Donna Meyers.

Mayor Justin Cummings, Vice Mayor Meyers and Councilmembers Martine Watkins and Renee Golder voted for the project. Council members Katherine Beiers and Sandy Brown voted against it. Councilmember Cynthia Mathews recused herself because she lives within a few blocks of the new site.

As expected, but somewhat disappointing, was Council member Brown voting like a pancake flip. She was on the subcommittee that worked for over a year to come up with a unanimous recommendation of a new library, affordable housing and a parking structure that was presented to the full city council on Tuesday night. Over the course of four hours of conversation and deliberation that started at 6:30 pm and went well into the evening with the final vote coming after 10:00 pm, she contorted like a spinning wheel to say she was for affordable housing and then couldn’t muster the courage to vote for the project.

What does this mean for the city and the county-wide library system? Par for the course with our City Council is the add-ons that were not a part of the initial recommendation from the subcommittee but came through the council’s deliberative approach which included several requirements:

- City leaders will pursue the most housing affordability.
- The building height will not exceed the five-story adjacent University Town Center, or if that is not possible then the height should not exceed the six-story apartments at 1010 Pacific Avenue.
- This project’s affordable housing and the housing at the planned Pacific Station project at the downtown Metro station will be the priorities of the city’s affordable housing trust fund.

- To the extent feasible, downtown employees should be given preference for the affordable housing units.

Four years ago, in June 2016, the voters stated loudly that they supported a modernized countywide library system where each community would design and develop a library that meet the specific needs of their community. The central hub of the system was and is the downtown library. The 4-2 vote by this City Council was the right decision for our city's future.



Triangle Speakers LGBTQ+ Panel

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries (SCPL) and The Diversity Center of Santa Cruz County have partnered to bring a panel presentation from LGBTQ+ Triangle Speakers to our Library Community. The panel discussion will be held via Zoom at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, 2020. The event is free, but registration is required. To register, visit bit.ly/SCPL-Triangle.

In this program you will hear speakers tell their life stories, discuss what it means to be part of this community, and answer audience questions. Triangle Speakers work to eliminate fear, prejudice, and hatred towards LGBTQ+ people so that a healthy environment exists where all members of our community can thrive and live full and healthy lives. According to Library Director Susan Nemitz, "The Library is a safe and trusted space to have discussions that navigate culture, identity, and community. We overcome fear and hate with understanding and love...We are so thankful that these folks are brave enough to share their life stories to help us build these bridges."

Hundreds of speakers have shared their incredible human stories of triumph and hope to thousands of people along the Central Coast for over 22 years. This educational speakers' bureau is one of the most important ways the Diversity Center has been breaking down barriers throughout Santa Cruz County for decades.



July 2020 Issue

17 at Sugarloaf Road on Saturday, June 27, from 8 a.m. until 2:30 pm.

Motorists can expect half-hour traffic delays from the San Jose area and should allow extra time for any travel planned to Santa Cruz.

Alternate routes for travelers going to Santa Cruz include Hwy.1, Hwy.152 or Hwy.129.

These emergency repairs will be performed by Granite Construction of Watsonville and Highway Specialty Company of Redding.

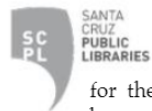
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Santa Cruz Libraries Community Quilt

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries has created a community art project to celebrate this year's Summer Reading Program theme, *Imagine Your Story*. Electronic submissions will be accepted June 15 – July 31.

To participate, make a piece of art in any medium, 2D or 3D, and submit a square image for inclusion in a virtual "quilt" that SCPL staff will assemble from the squares. The collective images will be featured on the SCPL website later in the summer. One

quilt will show artwork from those under 18, with another open to everyone else.



Artwork submitted for the community quilt should be appropriate to a public website for all ages. Submissions may not advocate the election of any candidate for public office. Visit the Art Quilt website at bit.ly/SCPL-ArtQuilt.

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Enjoy the Magic of Germar

Zoom Show July 13

Hosted by Santa Cruz Public Libraries

Germar (aka Gerardo Martinez) is a magician from Vallejo who will present three Zoom shows July 13 for the Santa Cruz Public Libraries Summer Reading Program, *Imagine Your Story*.

Three shows are scheduled: 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. Registration is required.

1pm: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6750764>

3pm: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6750781>

5:30 pm: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6750688>

To learn about the summer reading program and register, visit santacruzpl.org.srp. To learn more about Germar, visit www.germagic.net ■

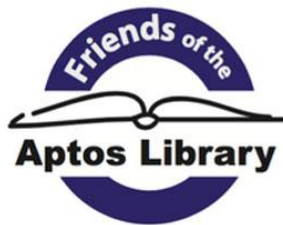


Aptos Library Friends Want Ideas for Our Community Reads

Aptos Times | written by [See Below](#) July 19, 2020



Hello friends of Our Community Reads and the Aptos Library. We hope that you book lovers are finding the time to read during this very strange reality that we are living in today.



The pandemic has not curtailed our enthusiasm for Our Community Reads program, and our dedicated committee of the Friends of the Aptos Library is actively busy and in serious planning mode.

Naturally, we are not sure what to expect for how we will be hosting events next year, but

we do know that we will find a way to engage all of you in some way, shape, or form!
... And we promise not to select a book with themes of a pandemic!



Sometime in the near future you will be notified about our Voting Event planned for September. There is a strong likelihood that it will be a virtual get together via ZOOM. What we do know for sure is that we will present you with 3 or 4 very appealing titles for you to vote on.

As in past seasons, your vote will determine the selected book for the upcoming 2021 Season of Our Community Reads.

We hope you enjoyed the events of our 2020 Season when we celebrated Patriot Number One, by Lauren Hilgers. We were fortunate to be able to provide a full calendar of events including an author talk, with the last event ending just one week before the stay-at-home orders were imposed. What lucky timing for us!

We would love to hear from you! If you have a book that you think would resonate with our

community as a whole, is not more than 325 pages (give or take) and is appropriate for high school students 17 years or older, please reply to this email with the title and author.

Thank you so much for your continued support and enthusiasm. We hope you stay well, wear your masks, wash your hands, and we'll see you, one way or the other, sometime in the near future.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

...

[Aptos Chapter of the Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Library](#): Jim Bourne, Bobbie Edgin, Pat Emard, Kris Franceschi, Melanie Freitas, Gale Farthing, Barbara Gaebe, Ofelia García, Teri Handzel, Coni Hendry, Sandy Laue, Diana Mejia, Eileen Miller, Ginny Morris, Lynn McNussen, Debby Peronto, Jodi Pratt, Susan Schenck, Denise Ward, Eliot Weiss, and Tricia Wynne.

Upgrades Coming to Local Parks, Libraries



By Zach Friend, Supervisor, Second District
Park Upgrades

Local parks are primarily funded through local sales and other taxes and sharp declines in tax receipts last quarter will have an impact on parks (and other County services in general). But there are still a number of exciting improvements coming to local parks, including some that have already been funded.



One longstanding need was an improved pedestrian walkway and safer access point outside of Pinto Lake Park. We partnered with Supervisor Caput's office (our districts share Green Valley Road) to combine district funds to rebuild a pedestrian pathway along Green Valley that is used by many residents to access Pinto Lake Park. The new pathway, constructed by County Public Works,

was completed in June and has already improved the safety and accessibility of the park for local residents.

The Board of Supervisors, at the last meeting in June, approved a contract to install a new permanent restroom at Seacliff Village Park. The park, which is being constructed in phases according to the park master plan, already includes the necessary utilities and infrastructure as part of the initial phase construction.

The restroom is anticipated to be completed by November of this year. The park now includes a play area, picnic area and skate feature. The Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks and local residents have also been fundraising to complete the final phase of the park, which would include other elements in the master plan such as shade structures, a small outdoor amphitheater and more.

At Hidden Beach Park, the County has been working to upgrade the playground and provide new features and greater accessibility for children of all abilities. Working with the Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks and local community leaders including the The DeBernardo Team, an active fundraising effort is underway to finalize the upgrades in memory of the remarkable 5-year-old Jett Ramsey, who lost his battle with cancer in April and loved playing at Hidden Beach Park with his family. The County has design plans and is matching funding to make the park become a reality.

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Library Upgrades

On one of my recent tele-town halls, Library Director Susan Nemitz discussed some of the improvements planned for Capitola, Aptos and La Selva branch libraries. La Selva and



Capitola are well underway (with anticipated openings of later this year). In Capitola, a number of upgrades including a community/meeting room with flexible furnishings, an expanded children's area and dedicated teen area, enhanced book and media selections, laptop and computer plugins around the library and all meeting rooms including laptops available as public access computers and reader and study seating spread around the library, including an adult

reading nook and a fireplace reading area are all underway.

In La Selva, improvements to the children's area, new flexibility in the space for meetings and book clubs, increases in natural lighting and airflow, expansion of the available seating for reading and studying, a new accessible entry on the north side of the building, bathroom upgrades, a new service desk, upgraded data and electrical, and an outdoor patio area are part of the remodel.

The Board of Supervisors will be awarding a contract on the Aptos Library in early August. The Aptos Branch Library was originally constructed in 1975 and is currently 8,000 square feet. Multiple community outreach sessions were held to get a sense of how best to approach a remodeled (and expanded) space. There are some exciting partnerships planned, including working with the Aptos History Museum, to provide a modern and accessible library. After August we will have a better sense of the construction timeline but the goal is to ensure that neighboring branches (La Selva and Capitola) are open before any construction begins to ensure options continue to be provided for local residents.

As always, I appreciate any feedback you may have on this (or any other County issue).

I'm maintaining regular updates on social media at www.facebook.com/supervisorfriend and during the shelter-in-place order I'm hosting tele-town halls with County and community leaders.

...

If you're interested in the town halls or just want to connect on an issue you can always call me at 454-2200.

Betty Leonard: Gift Of a Lifetime

written by [See Below](#) July 20, 2020



A Legacy For Aptos Library

By Jondi Gumz

When I heard about a \$650,000 gift to the Aptos library, allowing the renovation of the branch to add 3,000 square feet, I was curious.

Leaders of the Friends of the Aptos Library, which formed in 2014, believe this is the biggest gift the Aptos library has ever received.

Who is this generous donor?



Betty Leonard

You will probably see her name in the library when the renovation is complete: Betty Leonard.

She died in 2018 just before her 91st birthday.

Betty was born in 1927 in Clovis and earned her registered nurse degree in 1948 in San Francisco.

In a black and white photo of that time, perhaps her graduation portrait, she's wearing lipstick and her white nurse's cap and looking glamorous.

She worked for a general practitioner locally, then in the Dominican Hospital nursery, and encouraged people to give

blood at the Watsonville Blood Bank.

She was married to Robert O. "Bob" Leonard, an ag researcher in Monterey County affiliated with UC Davis, and they had a daughter Lindy and a son Taggart "Tag," both of whom graduated from Watsonville High School.

Here is what I learned about her from her friends in Aptos, artist Beverly Moore and Teri Handzel, her "book buddy" at the library.

When Betty's husband was on sabbatical, they traveled to Ireland, a place she loved, producing a box full of photos.

Betty enjoyed playing bridge in a regular foursome. She loved museums and the arts. She was always well-dressed.

After her husband died in 1980, she traveled with her friend, interior designer Sue Stapleton. Her daughter died of a brain tumor in 1998, leaving two granddaughters.

Betty enjoyed seeing her son Tag, a Stanford University grad and a health care administrator, in Tucson. On one visit, she stayed three years.

Tag, who had a heart condition, came back to California to help his mom and died in 2016.

Friends say Betty was a lifelong learner, always reading books.



Betty Leonard left the Aptos Library \$650,000 in her will.

She was a frequent visitor at the Aptos library, an 8,000-square-foot building built in 1975.

As she got on in years, it became more difficult for her to walk, to make that trip to the library.

She wondered if the library had a service to deliver books.

That program is called "Book Buddies."

Teri Handzel volunteers for that program, and she was matched with Betty.

"It was a pleasure for me," Handzel said. "She told me what books she likes. Then I'd say, if you liked that, how about this?"

She didn't realize Betty was losing her eyesight but when Betty could no longer read, she would request audiobooks from the library.

"She loved listening to the audiobooks," Handzel said.

Beverly Moore, her artist friend, said Betty and her son Taggart wanted to leave something to the Aptos community they loved so much, and that is why the Leonard Trust Fund made this generous donation to the Aptos library.

The bequest arrived as the Santa Cruz Public Libraries, with funds from a voter-approved sales tax, was moving ahead on plans to improve library branches across the county.

The library director, in consultation with the Friends of the Aptos Library, agreed to hold the funds for the remodel of the Aptos branch slated to start in 2021.

"The significance of this gift cannot be overstated," said Tricia Wynne, vice president of the Friends of the Aptos Library.

Susan Nemitz, the library director, said it will be a design-build project in which the builder and architect work together. She's enthusiastic about the talent interested in the project.

The name of the architect will be announced soon, and she expects it will be 2022 when the renovated and expanded library reopens.

There may be some design features that take into account the COVID-19 realities, such as plexiglass, windows that open to provide ventilation and expanding WiFi to the parking lot so parents can park outside for their kids to do their homework online.

"The library is about community connections, one of the few spaces that draw people of all ages," Nemitz said. "I don't want to lose that."

While the library branches have been closed since mid-March due to the coronavirus, all sorts of virtual services are available: e-books on OverDrive, audiobooks on RBDigital, watching films on Kanopy, and new programs such as Santa Cruz Resilience.

So when some say there's no need for libraries today, I'm reminded of what Mark Twain said: "The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated."

...

To visit the library's online services, go to santacruzpl.org

To learn about the Friends of the Aptos Library, go to www.friendsofaptoslibrary.org

Santa Cruz Sentinel *News*

Santa Cruz committee hears final downtown library project cost comparisons



Shoppers practice social distancing and wear masks at the downtown Santa Cruz Farmers' Market on Wednesday. The parking lot where the market is held is the location proposed to build one possible version of a new library, combined with affordable housing and a parking garage. (Shmuel Thaler — Santa Cruz Sentinel)

By [JESSICA A. YORK](#) | jjork@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel

PUBLISHED: June 3, 2020 at 4:45 p.m. | UPDATED: June 3, 2020 at 4:51 p.m.

SANTA CRUZ — Several Santa City Council members and more than 100 members of the public heard Tuesday night an “apples to apples” cost-comparison for competing visions of the city’s downtown library branch.

The latest library report by Group 4, available in full along with a public survey at cityofsantacruz.com/downtownlibrary, is expected to be the basis for a city downtown library ad-hoc committee to make a recommendation to the full council later this month on how the city should move forward. The multi-year effort to chart the downtown library branch’s future — just one in a 10-library system up for facilities improvements thanks to a 2016 voter-approved bond measure — has become a political debate not just on the community’s need for an improved library facility, but also on concerns related to public parking and affordable housing.

During the meeting, attended publicly via video and phone conferencing, dozens of speakers weighed in on the city’s next step.

Public opinion

Santa Cruz Youth for Climate Justice’s Tamarah Minami recommended the city keep the library in its existing location as the more environmentally friendly course and that additional funds, if needed, could come from taxpayers or parking fees.

“In saying this, I am not being idealistic, I am being realistic,” Minami said. “Realistically, we can not fight climate change while making plans that allow a future with more CO2 and more driving.”

Affordable Housing NOW chairman Tim Willoughby highlighted the multi-use versions of the library project as significant to the city's ability to build affordable housing with the help of increased parking.

"While cost is listed in the criteria for library options, it is worth keeping in mind that it is also a consideration for affordable housing," Willoughby said. "Like the library, shared costs in a mixed-use project would make affordable housing cost-efficient and feasible."

The committee also heard concerns from Campaign for Sensible Transportation's Rick Longinotti, that the city should be moving away from building new parking garages, and from the Santa Cruz Antique Faire's Bonnie Belcher with concerns that the monthly fair, located along with the Downtown Farmers Market on the parking lot where the mixed-use project would go, would be permanently displaced. Representatives from the Santa Cruz County Business Council and Smart Solutions to Homelessness were among those making a case for the mixed-use project. Downtown Branch Manager James Lee said he felt it was a shame that the subcommittee's concerns were veering away from the core issue of a library facility and that other issues were overshadowing that priority.

Options

This week's library consultant report contemplates several project versions, including renovating the existing Church Street site into a smaller and more modern facility versus starting from the ground-up several blocks away, in combination with a new city parking garage and affordable housing project. The proposed new site project, which would be located on a city-owned surface parking lot on Lincoln Street, includes two versions: in one, the housing development is above the ground-floor library and the parking structure is adjacent; in the other, both housing and parking are above the library.

All three versions of the library project would have the same \$27 million base library budget, expected to contain some \$18 million in construction costs alone, and occur on city-owned land. The mixed-use versions would benefit in sharing some of its construction costs with the city via affordable housing development grants and downtown parking district fees. No cost comparisons were included if temporary library facilities would be needed during construction — possibly about a \$750,000 cost, per one study several years ago, Library Director Susan Nemitz said.

Working with a then expected \$23 million budget in 2017, a downtown library citizens [advisory panel recommended](#) the city build a whole new library in combination with a planned parking garage, increasing the library's square footage from its existing 42,000 square feet to a 47,00-square-foot project. Faced with significant community concerns ranging from cost and environmental impact to loss of community identity and health worries, the City Council [pivoted in 2018 and added affordable housing](#) units to the mixed-use library project concept before conceptually approving it. Then, the project was set aside for some eight months before council members [opted last year to conduct their own review](#) of possible project options.

In the latest library report, compiled out of work by several city consultants, the proposed square footage of the library projects includes a 30,000-square-foot on-site renovation or approximately 35,000-square-foot projects at the new site.

The report offered a cost assessment of a mixed-use library, parking garage and affordable housing project, offered by city consultant firm Group Four, combined earlier work by firm Jayson Architecture to assess rebuilding or remodeling the existing library location. The Downtown Library Subcommittee is tentatively planning to return to the full council with their recommendation, however the final date will be dependent on the City Council's schedule. Through 10 a.m. Monday, community members are invited to provide feedback to the City of Santa Cruz Downtown Library Council Subcommittee via an online survey at <https://bit.ly/3gSdElh>. Information: cityofsantacruz.com/downtownlibrary.

Santa Cruz considers first move at police reform

Downtown Library subcommittee presents recommendations



During a February community meeting in Beach Flats, resident Reyna Ruiz conveys to Santa Cruz Police Chief Andy Mills her feeling that the department is over-policing her neighborhood. (Dan Coyro — Santa Cruz Sentinel file)
By [JESSICA A.](#)

[YORK](#) | jyork@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel

PUBLISHED: June 20, 2020 at 3:15 p.m. | UPDATED: June 21, 2020 at 11:10 a.m.

SANTA CRUZ — Delaying budget approval to a special meeting in July, the Santa Cruz City Council instead will fill its plate with very different two controversial issues at Tuesday's meeting.

In the latter half of the council's afternoon session, city leaders will consider an ordinance that taps into national unrest over local policing strategies, proposing a narrow restriction on police purchase of facial recognition and/or [predictive policing technology](#). A caveat in the proposed Surveillance Technology Ordinance, however, would allow use of the technology if paired with City Council findings "that the technology meets scientifically validated and peer-reviewed research, protects and safeguards the civil rights and liberties of all people and will not perpetuate bias."

During its evening session, the council also will grapple with the home-grown debate over the future of the city's downtown library and the \$27 million taxpayer-backed library facilities bond revenue waiting to be spent on a construction project. A council subcommittee

wrapped up months of public meetings this month, coming back to peers with a recommendation to rebuild the library from scratch in conjunction with a multi-story city garage and housing project at a site several blocks from the library's current Church Street home.

The community has yet to raise serious reservations related to Tuesday's planned city police surveillance reforms and the proposed ordinance is being heavily backed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California as one step toward improving equity in policing. In a rare speech since leaving office, President Barack Obama said during a June 3 web-televised speech that policing reforms needed to prevent the type of violence and injustices recently seen across the nation "require everybody's participation" and will occur at the local level.

"As activists and everyday citizens raised their voices, we need to be clear about where change is going to happen and how we can bring about that change," Obama said.

Matt Cagle, technology and civil liberties attorney at ACLU Northern California, said legislation like what is being proposed in Santa Cruz is an important preventative measure. Once the surveillance technology has been deployed, he said, the damage already has been done.

"We think this is an important piece of legislation that helps ensure that racist and dangerous surveillance technologies aren't used against Santa Cruz residents," Cagle said. "Right now, we're in a moment of extraordinary activism and calls for changes in reimagining how we police. This legislation is one small step toward reimagining that for Santa Cruz."

Crystal ball

While Santa Cruz may be the first city, according to the ACLU, to consider a ban on predictive policing technology, it also — under a previous police chief — was one of the [tool's earliest adopters](#). In July 2011, Santa Cruz Police Department, through the efforts of former police analyst and now-County Supervisor Zach Friend, joined forces with George Mohler, a Santa Clara University professor of applied mathematics to develop a predicting policing model drawing from eight years of Santa Cruz crime data. In the partnership's first year, city officials touted improvements in the city's reported burglary statistics. During those earliest days, officers during shift roll calls were [handed sheets of paper](#) listing street blocks and times with the highest probability of burglaries and auto thefts — based on historical data and the predictive algorithm. The program was touted as a way for police agencies to reduce the impacts of budget cutbacks.

In 2012, then-Santa Cruz City Council member, now-County Supervisor Ryan Coonerty went on to work at PredPol, a company selling subscription-based predictive policing software to policing agencies and which continues to call Santa Cruz home.

In a [PredPol blog post dated June 11](#), the company seeks to address the question, "Are we at a tipping point in police-community relations?" On Wednesday, the PredPol Twitter account [tweeted a link](#) to one of the company's 2018 posts on its stance on privacy, civil rights and transparency. This month's post states the company was founded on the premise of improving policing by "providing less bias, more transparency, and more accountability." "From the beginning, our approach has been based on data," the blog entry reads. "By analyzing large, anonymized datasets, we found we could predict how certain crime types —

and, conversely, rates of victimization –developed and moved throughout a city. By asking officers to patrol these locations, our partner agencies have been able to deter crimes before they occur. No crime means no victim, no investigation and arrest, and nobody to put through the criminal justice system. Everyone in society benefits.

As for facial recognition technology, Cagle said Santa Cruz’s hard stance on facial recognition software could join the ranks of San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley, among fellow Northern California cities making the move. Cagle said facial recognition tech has been shown to have serious bias and accuracy issues for people of color.

“We think it’s pretty radical that in many places still, surveillance technology that is untested that may have bias problems can actually be deployed in communities without their consent,” Cagle said. “That’s actually the sort of radical thing that this legislation seeks to rein in.”

Already, Police Chief Andy Mills said [during a community forum](#) early this month that the city Police Department had ceased use of predictive policing technologies in 2017 and had not used facial recognition software to date. The department, however, continues to explore surveillance technologies. Mills held a community meeting with the city’s heavily Latino Beach Flats neighborhood residents in February to introduce the idea of [installing license plate-reading cameras](#) in that area and in other neighborhoods experiencing high gun violence as a pilot project. Mills said he intended to borrow multiple license plate-reading cameras for an unspecified period. On Friday, Mills said the pilot program had been ongoing for about a month, but had yet to produce tangible results.

The City Council on Tuesday also will consider creating a temporary council committee to meet with community and policing representatives to draft recommendations for city police reform measures to address racial equity and social justice in policing.

Library progress

At the top of its 6:30 p.m. meeting, the council will review its Downtown Library Subcommittee recommendation to give conceptual backing to a mixed-use structure including a new ground-floor library, no more than 400 parking spaces and at least 50 units of affordable housing on top of a city-owned surface parking lot. After a year of community meetings and consultant project cost comparisons, the final recommendation differs little from what the council heard in November 2018 from a [report by a downtown library citizens’ committee](#). Several community-organized groups continue to adamantly oppose the mixed-use project, pushing for a scaled-back remodeling of the library at its existing Church Street location.

In other meeting agenda items, the council will consider accepting budget cost-reduction agreements with its employee groups, including a furlough worth a 10% pay reduction for the city manager and other top department leaders. Each employee has also agreed to contract concessions that are the equivalent of a 10% reduction in compensation and personnel costs, with the exception of the city’s Police Officers Association, which has yet to vote as a body on the proposal. The employee givebacks are expected to save the city’s general fund about \$5.7 million, plus \$4 million for all other funds, in the next fiscal year. The council also will consider codifying a recommendation from Water Director Rosemary Menard and Public Works Director Mark Dettle to delay by one year planned water and

wastewater rate increases scheduled to kick in July 1. The two departments would use reserves and operational fund balances to pay for any cost overruns incurred in the absence of the rate increase. Separately, the council is scheduled to take a second and final vote to change its cannabis retailer license ordinance to allow the transfer of the license.

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Santa Cruz City Council meeting.
- **When:** 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Tuesday.
- **Where:** Watch: Community television or online at communitytv.org/watch/ctv-government-2572. Comment: Call (toll-free) 888-788-0099; 877-853-5247; 833-548-0282; 833-548-0276 or (not toll-free) 312-626-6799 or 301-715-8592. Enter the meeting ID number: 982 5063 5656, participant ID, press #. Press *9 on your phone to “raise your hand.”
- **At issue:** Police surveillance technology, Downtown Library project.

Editor’s Note: This story has been updated to correct an error in Supervisor Ryan Coonerty’s listed affiliation with PredPol.

Santa Cruz library project moves forward

Council votes 4-2 to advance mixed-use downtown development



Santa Cruz Public Libraries — Downtown Branch. (Dan Coyro — Santa Cruz Sentinel file)

By [JESSICA A. YORK](#) | jyork@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel

PUBLISHED: June 24, 2020 at 5:09 p.m. | UPDATED: June 24, 2020 at 5:10 p.m.

SANTA CRUZ — A heavily contested joint library, parking garage, and housing project proposal gained traction with a majority of the Santa Cruz City Council late Tuesday. With one council member bowing out for the vote due to a conflicting interest, four of the six remaining council members indicated they favored the project conceptually, pending additional future approvals for design, environmental review and contractor hiring. Tuesday’s approval sets the stage for the potential construction of a new single-story library

beneath multiple floors of housing, adjacent to a multi-story parking garage using, in part, \$27 million in 2016's voter-approved Measure S library facilities bond funding.

The project would involve relocation of the Santa Cruz Public Library system's downtown headquarters from its long-time site on Church Street to a city-owned parking lot several blocks away, at Lincoln, Cedar and Cathcart streets.

The vote serves as a de facto concept approval for the housing and parking garage elements of the project, with conditions that at least 50 of the housing units be classified as "low-income," that parking spaces are capped at 400 and the structure's height be limited.

Tuesday's vote allows city staff to begin the process of working with Housing Authority on low-income housing efforts, resuming talks with the Santa Cruz Farmers Market board about the weekly event's relocation to another permanent downtown site and initiating a public process to consider reuse options of the current Church Street library site. Reuse ideas for the site may include affordable housing, a community commons and other public uses.

Before the council next takes action on the proposed project, the city will hire a consultant to begin work on the development's design, with public input, and start to gather detailed financial information related to each component of the mixed-use project.

The project's conceptual approval, with Mayor Justin Cummings, Vice Mayor Donna Meyers and Councilwomen Martine Watkins and Renee Golder voting to approve, came after more than an hour of public comment, more than 500 letters to the council and, to date, four years since voters approved a bond revenue measure to pay for a library project.

Councilwoman Cynthia Mathews owns a rental property within close proximity to the proposed mixed-use site and was unable to cast a vote. Councilwoman Katherine Beiers, who worked professionally as a librarian prior to her retirement, and Councilwoman Sandy Brown, who served on the council's three-member downtown library advisory committee that unanimously recommended the mixed-use project, voted no.

Cummings, who stated during his 2018 council campaign that he did not favor the mixed-use project, was among one of the advisory committee members recommending Tuesday's step. He said the mixed-use project involved "a lot of concessions" and that the project provided the most community benefit.

"We're never going to come to a perfect solution, but this one, at least, meets a lot of the needs of the community," Cummings said.

Library Director Susan Nemitz said she was recommending the mixed-use project, which would share construction, maintenance and other costs with the housing and garage aspects. Nemitz and Public Works Director Mark Dettle first recommended a library-garage partnership to the City Council in December 2016, prior to the formation of the Downtown Library Advisory Committee, which came to a similar conclusion, and last year, the council's Downtown Library Advisory Committee.

"The big reason is that the multi-use option gives us 5,000 square feet more than the remodel and the remodel's contemplating that 30,000 square feet, down from the 42,000 square feet we currently have," Nemitz said. "The multi-use contemplates about 35,000 square feet. And with that space, we are able to achieve a lot of our programmatic goals."

Nemitz added that the extra square footage ensures the library maintains the size of its book collection, continues to offer adult services and have dedicated space for genealogy and local

history, allows for a dedicated teen area, and permits “zoning” of the library that could close off sections for specific uses. Having construction take place on a new site also allows the existing library to continue operating without paying for temporary operational and storage space, she said.

Public speakers, including several community groups, spent more than an hour largely imploring the council not to approve the new library, voicing fears that their concerns to date had fallen on deaf ears.

Environmental advocacy group Campaign for Sensible Transportation has continually argued that the city’s demand for parking spaces is on the decline and will continue to decrease. Others fear the loss of a civic center “community core” around City Hall and the existing library site. Some speakers pointed to the recent economic downturn in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic as further reason to tighten the city’s spending plans for the library and its related components.

More information on the downtown library project is available at cityofsantacruz.com/downtownlibrary.

Photo | Experience Bubble Magic with Santa Cruz County Library’s virtual show



By [SHMUEL THALER](#) | sthaler@santacruzsentinel.com | Santa Cruz Sentinel

July 25, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Bubble virtuoso and soap film lay scientist Tom Noddy perfects one of his trademark volcano bubbles as he prepares for a Zoom bubble show on Thursday as the final installment of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries’ “Imagine Your Story” Summer Reading Program. Known throughout the world as “The Bubble Guy,” Noddy has appeared on numerous prime time television shows as well as night clubs and universities and he has presented his work to 900 mathematicians at the International Congress of Mathematics in Berlin, Germany. Noddy prides himself on satisfying audiences of every age, from preschoolers to seniors with shows that are equal part science and humor. The library’s show will take place at 1 p.m. on Thursday via Zoom. Register at

<https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6741448>. (Shmuel Thaler – Santa Cruz Sentinel)

Santa Cruz Sentinel *Editorials*

Guest Commentary | Downtown library options becoming clearer

May 30, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

By Craig Wilson

This is a good problem to have — \$27 million dollars specifically dedicated to complete a major public infrastructure project — the downtown branch library.

In 2016 about 70% of county voters approved a \$67 million dollar bond, Measure S, for “...critical repairs and upgrades to support a steady increase in library usage and bring all ten branches up to 21st century standards.” No argument against the property tax was filed, underlining the depth of local support for libraries.

And progress is being made! The Felton branch opened in February, work is underway at the Capitola branch, and improvements were made or are planned at others.

But plans on how to proceed at the downtown library has not yet resulted in a clear path forward. Studies completed by consultants point to four options: 1) build a new library; 2) renovate the existing library; 3) build a mixed use structure with housing and a public parking garage; 4) build a mixed-use structure with housing and possibly commercial space. Each of the options offer advantages and disadvantages. The mixed-use proposals seek to leverage other public monies and/or raise additional funds to increase the square footage and obtain better features, furnishings and treatments. But more than one citizen group opposes a mixed-use structure because it sites the library under a garage or housing complex, reduces community space and displaces the Farmers Market, creates waste by demolishing a cherished and serviceable facility. Housing and public parking are important issues, but Measure S supporters voted to pay taxes for libraries, not other public initiatives.

A new stand-alone downtown library may be ideal, but it appears all but impossible without a significant infusion of cash as existing funds are millions short to build a new library of adequate size. Unless philanthropists step forward with hefty donations or other funding is identified, the choices appear to be limited to renovation or mixed-use.

The library is an important civic institution and retaining it as a stand-alone building, a destination, emphasizes its place in our community. Many people, particularly parents, have expressed safety concerns at the downtown library based on the unruly or unpredictable behavior of some users. The library, open to all, uses zoning to address those concerns, separating children and adults. All of the options accomplish this, but the existing library, unlike the mixed-use options, offers the greatest practical separation because the children’s section is located on its own floor and there is staff presence. Closing the library during construction would be inconvenient, but other branches would be open to serve user needs. The financial fallout of the pandemic may prove to be a decisive factor. The city and county are likely to grapple with smaller budgets for at least the next couple of years. We need to be mindful of living within our means.

To stay on schedule, the downtown library committee must make a recommendation later this year on how to move forward. The good news is that there is enough money now to do something very good for the library – a significant and meaningful renovation at the existing location. It may be smaller than hoped for, but a newly renovated library will be widely used and greatly appreciated.

Craig Wilson is a Soquel resident.

Stephen Kessler | The library and the bigger picture

June 13, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

Santa Cruz city officials, led by City Manager Martín Bernal and power-broker Councilwoman Cynthia Mathews, have given citizens a false choice in the question of using Measure S funds to update, improve and renovate the downtown main branch of our public library. We have

been told, with millions of dollars of studies and consultants for documentation, that the Church Street library is hopelessly decrepit and the only way to rescue it is to replace it with a new, “modern” library as part of a six-story mixed-use project that included, at first, mostly parking and now has a lot of “affordable housing.”

Only by pooling resources for parking with dedicated library funding, we’re told, can we have the library of our dreams. Otherwise forget about it, the old library is too far gone and too expensive to fix. So take your pick: a new library as part of a huge garage or no new library at all. This either/or set of alternatives is a self-fulfilling catastrophe that civic leaders like Mathews and Bernal should be ashamed of. They have repeatedly cited the fiscal necessity for this lousy choice, but there are plenty of legal ways to move money around in a budget—if the political will and vision exist to do so.

Why its promoters are so stuck on their garage-library chimera that they can’t see the lopsided popular opposition is as much a psychological as political question, and why they wish to be identified with such an awful insult to the cityscape—destruction of the last leafy open space within increasingly taller and more massive architectural surroundings—is a mystery, but their commitment to their horrible idea has been unshakable.

Maybe it’s true that you can’t fight City Hall. And yet, this is not a dictatorship and the powers that be, such as they are, are not omnipotent. If popular sentiment is strong enough and widespread enough and vocal enough—letters to the editor, emails to city council and management, petitions, op-eds, word of mouth—who knows, they might still come around to respecting the people they supposedly represent.

The library can certainly be rebuilt or renovated in place at Civic Center, especially if the mixed-use thing on Lot 4 is abandoned as an unfortunate misconception and the lot redesigned and redeveloped as a public plaza. A garage, if truly needed (which has been questioned by experts whose opinions the city solicited and then ignored), could be built or rebuilt on the site of another city parking lot or property. Some of the money saved by shelving the six-story garage-library-housing monster could be redirected to library renovation and reconstruction.

We can have our up-to-the-minute library with all the features we want—community room, teen area, children’s section, local history, genealogy, computers and internet galore—without sacrificing its character and civic integrity by tucking it into a concrete megalith.

This is just a sketch of a realistic vision for the library as part of a socially and commercially lively and attractive downtown. If people in position to make decisions, like the city council and senior management, would recognize and openly acknowledge the benefit to the community of resurrecting the library and abandoning their monstrous garage, they could pivot and work with the goodwill and support of the public rather than against it, everyone pulling together in the same direction. But they must want to do this.

If money exists for parking or housing, then a major social and cultural asset like the library—arguably more important than City Hall itself, which is mostly offices—must also be fundable from city coffers. Economically times are tough, and nothing may be affordable for a while. But this is an opportunity to rethink prior assumptions.

If a beautiful, dignified library is not a top priority, independent of and more valuable than redundant and environmentally destructive parking, then the soul of our city is in worse shape than I thought.

Stephen Kessler's column runs on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Guest Commentary | New library brings abundance of community benefits

June 13, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

By Vivian Rodgers

Last week the Santa Cruz City Council Downtown Library Subcommittee met for the final time before issuing a recommendation about the future of the downtown library. Those fortunate to attend saw two wonderful conceptual designs for a modern library presented by Group 4 Architects.

Their designs should be celebrated and welcomed by all!

Group 4 offers two facilities that feature more library space and services for children and adults, between 60-120 affordable housing units, and will help consolidate inefficient surface parking lots throughout downtown.

You can see their plans and public presentations at:

<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-council-subcommittees/downtown-library-3994>

You'll find the benefits include:

- A brand new library with 17% more space than a refurbished library – a larger children's room where families can choose to enter through a separate street entrance – separate teens room with their own resources – additional rooms for quiet reflection, school projects, business meetings, or tutoring – more square footage for adult programming – and room for 19,500 more books.
- Between 60 to 120 affordable housing units that brings our City closer to meeting its neglected goals for low income housing. The designs also create the opportunity for the community to consider the current library site as a place for more affordable housing or another town commons.
- An asset that best breaks class and race barriers. Affordable housing and a larger library with lendable resources and meeting spaces benefit those living in poverty MOST. In Santa Cruz city alone, 31% of its residents live below the poverty level or near to it. Additionally, 20% of Latino and 38% of Asians in our community live below the poverty line.
- A permanent home for the Farmer's Market – a large space downtown across the street from future housing – covered for inclement weather- with a public stage – space that can be used for other events and markets.
- Models that incorporate environmental criteria following National Sierra Club's infill development policy, LEED construction, and the possibility of onsite solar energy generation, all while contributing to a walkable community with a jobs/housing balance that reduces our day-to-day carbon footprint.
- A transportation hub that we can create beyond the ordinary with charging stations for electric cars, secure spaces for commuter bikes, and a direct link to the new mixed use Metro station, which also features City-funded affordable housing.

These two designs for a new library deliver all of these benefits for far LESS MONEY than it takes to demolish or remodel the old library. And it makes the current site available for other uses – like even more affordable housing!

Please take an environmental view of the designs: In a downtown where more than 50% of the service workers are forced to commute from further south than Aptos (adding more cars to the road), this new project will decrease our carbon footprint by offering the highest number of affordable housing for our workers and service providers. More than any other development since 2008! This project is the start in our effort to replace surface parking lots with housing and other vital community needs.

Supporting the mixed use vision for a new library is an investment in social and environmental equity, and the quality of life of our children, and to oppose it is to deny the needs of our community.

We the people of Santa Cruz have an opportunity to choose a better future for our downtown and city. The mixed-use option offers benefits to our environment, to our housing situation, and for every individual needing library resources!

Once the virulence of COVID-19 disappears, what better way to celebrate than creating a ‘palace for the people’! The new library will be a cornerstone for a vibrant and diverse downtown that will also be the legacy of our willingness to say yes!

Vivian Rodgers is the former executive director of Friends of Santa Cruz Public Libraries.

Santa Cruz’s once and future library | Ross Eric Gibson



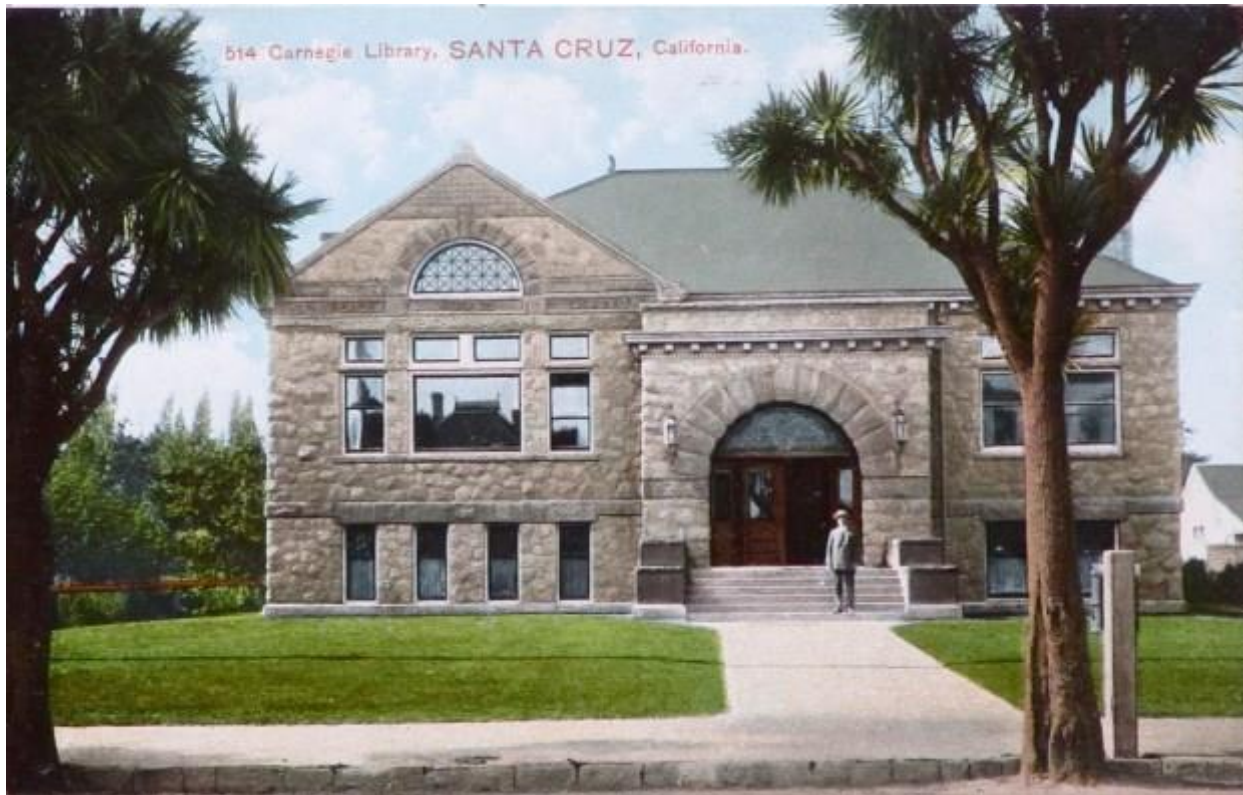
San Francisco architects Spencer, Lee and Busse’s 1964 concept for the Santa Cruz Main Library, drawing features from City Hall and the Andres Pico Adobe. The library opened on April 27, 1968. (Contributed)

By [SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL](#) |

PUBLISHED: June 14, 2020 at 5:13 p.m. | UPDATED: June 14, 2020 at 5:14 p.m.

By Ross Eric Gibson

In 1904, the \$20,000 Carnegie Library was constructed in a monumental design by local architect Wm. Weeks. The Romanesque-style building sat on a wide parklike grounds. To accommodate pedestrian traffic, the building had entrances from Church Street and Locust



Street. Though the building appeared one-story, there was a museum in the basement. After the 1906 earthquake, the undamaged library became temporary headquarters of the Building Trades Council earthquake recovery program. In 1916, the Santa Cruz Public Library made all county libraries but Watsonville into a branch library system, headquartered in Santa Cruz, to share materials.

Planning a modern library

Sixty years later in 1964, the Carnegie Library had outgrown the building. As the collection of books expanded to 123,000, space for readers was reduced to just eight tables, with support offices and 25,000 volumes located off-site. Solutions were to either add a wing on the back of the library, or find another lot and turn the building over to the East Cliff museum. But it was determined that, as the library collection grew, the weight of the books had caused structural issues, and since the Uniform Building Code would not allow an addition, new construction at this site became the plan.

The Santa Cruz Carnegie Library was opened in 1904, and for 60 years was a beloved landmark in the Santa Cruz Civic Center at Center and Church streets. (Contributed) City voters approved a bond for a new 43,000 square foot Main Library for \$1,165,000, plus a new 7,500 square foot Eastside Branch for \$123,000 (as the old one felt like a telephone booth). It was essential that the new Main Library fit into the historic setting of the Center and Church streets Civic Center, which featured the 1937 City Hall in Monterey Colonial-style, the 1940 Spanish Art Deco Civic Auditorium, the 1925 Greek-style Wessendorf Chapel (now Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church).

On Aug. 31, 1964, San Francisco architects Spencer, Lee and Busse showed their proposed design to the City Council, incorporating the requested functional and aesthetic needs in an

L-shaped building with elements of City Hall and the Andres Pico Adobe. While two-stories, a one-story perimeter roofline avoided overwhelming the one-story City Hall and nearby chapel by stepping down in height to a pedestrian scale. The concrete bricks and concrete roof-tiles would match in color with the walls and roof of City Hall. A set of buttresses flanked by tall windows provided light, while allowing wall space for bookcases, in a building to house 300,000 volumes. And notched corner courtyards lined with windows reduced the expanse of facade and provided garden nooks. Interiors had Frank Lloyd Wright touches of blond wood, coved ceilings, and textured wall coverings.

However, when some councilmen objected that the structure eliminated most of the landscaping, the developers said it was to accommodate their latest request for more parking, raising the earlier 14 space lot to 29 spaces. Mayor Norm Lezin wanted more landscaping, but Councilman Sam Leask said the lack of downtown parking would only prevent sufficient use of the facility. The plan was approved, and library operations were moved to Grant School during construction. Likewise, the Eastside Branch was replaced with the Branciforte Branch Library, designed as a gabled craftsman structure to fit its neighborhood setting.



Construction on the Santa Cruz Main Library began in September, 1966, with cage of steel beams, and temporary framework holding up overhanging eaves. (Contributed)

A top research facility

The Reference Desk in the Main Library was the pre-Google search engine, where staff worked diligently to answer questions, find sources, or track down materials in other libraries available through inter-library loan. When Annie McCaskill of the Land Title Co. died in 1981, her will created the library's McCaskill Fund of \$224,000 to found and maintain the Californiana/Local History Room. It included locked-case research collections of rare books. The Fund also established services for the blind and visually impaired, which ended up popular with the general public. One was the talking books collection, the other was newspaper microfilm viewers.

The Sentinel newspaper offices were across the street, so they moved their Clipping Files to the library (which the library has diligently kept updated), as well as bound copies of early Sentinel, News and Surf local newspapers. This way, the Sentinel didn't have to curate public use, but still had them nearby for their own research. Likewise, City Hall donated their historic

Sanborn Maps across the street. The Genealogical Society archives were moved in, along with collections of early Street Directories and some Census Records. The bound newspapers were microfilmed to prevent over-handling of aging paper, and in 1987 Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Library and the Genealogical Society organized an ongoing indexing project, for easier access to the newspaper subjects and names.

Originally the children's room was downstairs, but it became the History Room when the children's collection was moved upstairs, so elderly researchers could avoid the stairs. Thus the Main Library developed a dual personality as a circulating library, and a first class research center. Over the years, numerous visitors from other counties or states doing "Research Tourism," often remarking how unusual this library is for its resources.

Expand or replace

As headquarters of a 10-branch countywide library system, the Main Library is the largest facility, serving as a circulation warehouse. When the Sentinel moved its newspaper operations to Scotts Valley in 2008, it revived the Main Library's desire to combine their parking with the Church Street parking lot as an expansion site. Building a library wing here would not interrupt operations in the main structure. The concepts were first raised after the 1989 earthquake, as either a 1-or-2-story wing, or a one-story expansion under a second-level parking lot, which could be used for open-air special events.

In 2016, voters approved a \$67 million bond and parcel tax "To modernize, upgrade and repair local libraries ... and construct/expand facilities where necessary ...". Advocates for this measure told the MAH researchers group the funds would be used for upgrading the existing facility. Giving the Main Library a \$27 million budget, the exploration of options began with a 2017 citizens advisory panel. They recommended moving the library to a massive 5-or-6-story parking garage to be built on Cedar Street between Lincoln Street and Cathcart Street, long a staging area for the Farmers Market and Antiques Fair. Their only alternative is renovating the downtown library into a smaller facility. The oldest option, adding a wing to the Main Library, is dismissively noted on page 8 of "Santa Cruz Downtown Library Renovation Cost Assessment" (Jayson Architecture 11/22/2019). It shows the outline of a two-story 19,000 square foot plan with seven parking spots.

The Jayson report focuses on downgrading the existing facility, giving the Spanish-style building a Freeway-Vernacular makeover that is out of character with its setting. The floorplan shows the elimination of all research collections. Instead, the proposed vision is more of a clubhouse, eliminating perimeter bookcases in favor of glass walls to let sun and heat in, where people can lounge looking out picture windows, with a play yard for children to run and scream in back, plus a major reduction in the number of books available as part of a virtual bookless future. None of this understands how our library works as a place for reading, quiet, and low lighting to reduce page glare, view microfilm screens, or that the blinds in the Genealogy room are usually closed.

Compared to the problems of historic landmarks, this kind of building would be considered structurally over-built to highest modern standards, and an excellent subject to restore. The idea the steel-reinforced concrete single-story wings are the most vulnerable part of the structure does not make sense, or that demolition is the solution. Nor that asbestos is a problem, since all public buildings and schools built before 1990 have asbestos, and it poses

no threat when contained and undisturbed. Calling the building worn-out seems mostly to focus on outdated equipment, cosmetic issues and standard maintenance, which was the original plan to fix before the bond measure was passed.

Main Library manager James Lee worried the subcommittee's focus was being overshadowed by extraneous issues beyond the core needs of the library (Sentinel, 6/3/20). If the purpose was to expand the library, the highrise site offers 30,300 sq. ft. with parking above, or 29,660 sq. ft. with parking adjacent and no history room, both below what a downsized current library would offer at 30,360 sq. ft. And even if you add air rights fees, the highrise is only a 5,000 sq. ft. gain, at a higher cost per sq. ft. than the existing building. Yet the on-site expansion was shown as a 19,000 sq. ft. gain, which combined with the existing structure would be a 62,000 sq. ft. Main Library.

In fact, just by doing nothing, we gain the 10,000 sq. ft. that was going to be demolished, and keep our research collections.

Stephen Kessler | Cynthia Mathews' art of the backdoor deal

June 17, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

As you know if you've been following the epic saga of the Taj Garage—the proposed mixed-use parking-library (and belatedly added “affordable housing”) complex on Lot 4 in downtown Santa Cruz—Councilwoman Cynthia Mathews, due to her conflict of interest as an owner of property adjacent to the site, is recused from voting on this item that will soon be before the council.

This hasn't kept Mathews from launching, directing and sustaining an all-out lobbying campaign to build her project in the face of significant popular opposition. How she reconciles or rationalizes this ethical, if not legal, contradiction may be her personal business, but as the city's most veteran and powerful elected official, pretty much anything and everything she does has public and political implications.

That's why I've been watching with astonishment and dismay the gross corruption of the city's decision-making process by her behind-the-scenes machinations. Awhile ago she founded a front organization called Downtown Forward which recruited an impressive assortment of “stakeholders” to publicly support the Taj Garage as the only way for the city to gain a “21st-century library,” which is the bait for public approval of an otherwise unsightly and unneeded garage.

As far as I know, Downtown Forward has done nothing but put up a very slick and expensive website since its unveiling at a “press conference” more than a year ago—a press conference at which no questions were taken and where Mathews, the group's primary organizer, never took the microphone. She has been hard at work since then throwing her political weight around attempting to cajole a critical mass of local citizens and businesspeople to get with her program and vocally advocate for her mixed-use garage.

With the deadline approaching for the city council's decision on this issue, the recused and conflicted councilwoman's lobbying campaign has gone into overdrive as public opinion appears to be trending against her desired outcome. She recently sent an email to the executive director of the Downtown Association, a group of businesses distinct from the chamber of commerce, asking for what she calls in her subject line “A big favor.”

In her email, sent from her personal not her city council address, Mathews writes, "...we are facing an imminent decision point for the DT library/housing/parking project and we would really appreciate getting a letter from the DTA affirming its support...Justin [SC Mayor Justin Cummings] is the key." Who exactly the plural "we" refers to is unclear. Is it the royal "we," the council "we"—or should it have been more truthfully the singular Mathews "I"? The blatant if indirect attempt to manipulate the mayor's vote is one of the creepiest things about this troubling message.

Regardless of where it was sent from, can anyone in this town think of Mathews as anything but its most shrewd and influential politician? Can any businessperson openly oppose her without wondering how it might affect future council decisions on other matters? If former council members Drew Glover and Chris Krohn could be recalled for openly offensive behavior, surely Mathews' shameless and shadowy arm-twisting is a far more serious breach of public trust. The "favor" President Trump requested of the president of Ukraine was enough to get him impeached. No doubt Mathews would declare, as the president did, "no quid pro quo," but appearances matter.

In her email to the DTA, Mathews goes on to offer talking points to its members for letters they should write to the council. Why she doesn't just offer to compose the letters herself and have them sign under her words—a tactic she has been known to deploy in the past—you'll have to ask her. But if this is not corruption, I don't know what is. It may not be a smoking gun, but it's a stinking pile of political excrement.

Mathews owes the community an apology for her sleazy backroom behavior and should immediately resign her seat on the city council.

Stephen Kessler's column runs on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Stephen Kessler | The city, the library and the public trust

June 27, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

At its meeting Tuesday night the Santa Cruz City Council gave its "conceptual" approval to the parking-library-housing mixed-use behemoth to be constructed, pending many unknown contingencies, on the site of the magnolia-shaded farmers market at Cedar and Lincoln streets downtown. Motives, methods and emotions of some council members were also mixed. The belatedly added "affordable housing" component sweetened the deal and reduced the parking component enough to put the project over the top.

Mayor Justin Cummings was against it before he was for it. Councilwoman Sandy Brown was against it before she was for it (as a member of the library subcommittee) before she was against it (as a council member representing the negative judgment of her constituents in the final vote). Councilwoman Cynthia Mathews, recused from voting at all for conflict of interest, used her political leverage privately to cajole an impressive array of organizations and individuals to support a project she favored from the outset because of her claim that we need more parking.

It was the magic words "affordable housing"—added when the garage-library didn't fly in the theater of public opinion—that moved Cummings and Brown to recommend approval of the project. No more than 400 parking spaces and at least 50 units of such housing are promised in the conceptual plan, of which as yet there is no design or bid and therefore no reliable way of knowing how much the structure will cost, nor any idea of how many market-rate units or

other concessions to prospective developers may be required to help subsidize the so-called affordable units.

What exactly “affordable” means has never been made clear to the public, who may be asked to help pay for the housing and/or the library. Everyone is for affordable housing and everyone wants a new and improved library, but not everyone wants to pay for them, especially at that location.

If public opinion can be gauged by the 560-plus emails received by the council ahead of the meeting, sentiments were running more than three-to-one against the mixed-use project. In the public comment portion of the meeting several people testified that when they voted for Measure S to renovate and rebuild various branches of the county library system, if they had known that it meant moving the downtown branch out of Civic Center and into a garage, they would have voted no. The mixed-use project was presented later as the only way to improve the existing library—a bait-and-switch maneuver by the city that has greatly undermined public trust.

The groups opposed to the mixed-use project, each for its own reasons—Don’t Bury the Library, Downtown Commons Advocates and the Campaign for Sustainable Transportation—were vastly outgunned and outspent by the Mathews machine in the propaganda wars, which tilted the council in her favor but still was not able to gain the public’s approval. That’s why Brown, in light of lopsided popular opposition, voted against the proposal even as she reluctantly recommended it for its promise of affordable housing.

The strangest of the several strange aspects of this new “21st-century library” we’ve been promised is the claim that it is a “green” development—presumably because the building will be so tall and massive that the roof can be covered with solar panels. How cutting down some dozen mature trees to build a block-long six-story concrete building where open space used to be constitutes environmental stewardship has not been explained by mixed-use proponents. It echoes the logic of the Vietnam era when “we had to destroy the village in order to save it.”

Before our downtown is destroyed by this monstrous misconception, there will be many months of haggling over specific structural and fiscal elements of the project. It’s safe to expect revelations of unforeseen costs and necessary changes of plans. How affordable it proves to be, for whom and at whose expense, remains to be seen. We know from experience how much we can trust the city.

Stephen Kessler’s column runs on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Guest Commentary | Honest governance needed for Santa Cruz’s parking plan

July 7, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

By Rick Longinotti

Close your eyes and imagine you live somewhere where the authorities are planning to use the taxpayers’ money to build a massive public works project. Prior to embarking on the project, the authorities sought expert advice. The experts produced a report that said the project was not needed and would place the government at financial risk. The authorities suppressed the report and proceeded with the project. Now open your eyes. You are not in China, Brazil, or Sicily. You are in the City of Santa Cruz.

In May 2016, the City of Santa Cruz commissioned the nationally respected transportation consultant, Nelson\Nygaard, to produce a Downtown Parking Strategic Plan. In December of that year, City staff proposed building a library on the ground floor of a six-level parking structure. My organization, the Campaign for Sustainable Transportation advocated that the City wait for the results of the Nelson\Nygaard report before planning any new parking structures.

In September 2017, Nelson\Nygaard staffer Patrick Siegman shared with City staff the results of his parking demand model. The model inputs included City staff's expectations for new development and loss of parking spaces at surface lots. It also included the City's plan to double the parking rates downtown in order to pay for a new parking structure. The model predicted that the price increase would dampen demand for parking among workers commuting to their jobs. Siegman's results concluded that the City's sizable surplus of parking would continue, and that no garage was needed.

At that point City staff asked Nelson\Nygaard to borrow their parking model. Staff plugged their own inputs into the model, and came to the conclusion that there would be a significant parking deficit by 2025. Staff presented these results to the City's Downtown Commission in February 2018, telling the Commissioners that they were presenting the results of the Nelson\Nygaard model. They did not tell the Commissioners that Nelson\Nygaard had reached very different results.

When Siegman heard that City staff had presented information as if it came from Nelson\Nygaard, the company considered quitting the contract on ethical grounds. Subsequently, the consultant and the City agreed to continue the contract with City staff agreement to refrain from trying to influence the outcome of the report.

In August, 2018, Patrick Siegman, now operating his own consulting business, contacted the City Manager to let him know that the staff's use of the Nelson\Nygaard parking model was not credible. Nevertheless, the City Manager backed his staff. In September the City Council approved the concept of the parking garage. The number of proposed parking spaces was reduced from 640 to 600 in order to fit a few affordable housing units. My Public Records Act request to see City staff inputs into the parking model was denied.

On June 23, 2020, the City Council, with Katherine Beiers and Sandy Brown dissenting, approved the concept of a parking garage of 400 spaces—a size equivalent to the garage on Soquel and Front St. The proposed building includes a floor library and a minimum of 50 affordable housing units. At the Council meeting, City staff continued to predict a future parking deficit.

City staff's plan for paying off the debt on the garage—\$87 million over 30 years—rests on their prediction of increased parking demand. Meanwhile many cities in the US are experiencing a decline in parking demand (think Uber, Lyft, and decline in car ownership among young adults). Parking demand in Downtown Santa Cruz has declined 10% since 2008. A dubious plan to finance the garage puts Downtown businesses at risk of higher parking rates, and ultimately puts the City's finances at risk.

The Nelson\Nygaard Downtown Parking Strategic Plan has never come to the Council's attention. It is now the responsibility of the mayor and city council to invite Nelson\Nygaard

to present to the council, which is a provision of the contract. For more information, see GarageAlternatives.org.

Rick Longinotti is co-chair of Campaign for Sustainable Transportation.

Santa Cruz Sentinel *Letters to the Editor*

Letter | City should heed columnist's words

May 31, 2020 at 7:15 a.m.

Stephen Kessler always makes sense, and expresses his thoughts much more elegantly than one expects to find in a local paper: so I respect and applaud the Sentinel for publishing him frequently.

I don't agree with him about everything, but his stand on the mega-concrete-parking-library colossus is absolutely sound. I pray that our lovely little city will quit pushing the goofy plans they've been promoting, and keep the library and the joyous, magnolia-shaded farmers market right where they are.

— *Jan Harwood, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Santa Cruz doesn't need a concrete monstrosity

June 4, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

As Jean Brocklebank (May 12) and Curt Simmons (April 28) pointed out in separate Sentinel commentaries, city plans for a multipurpose garage /library/apartment structure is not looking inviting. Now Craig Wilson (May 30) has also stepped up. I applaud all three! I mostly frequent Live Oak library, but I go to Central branch almost always when I'm downtown.

I've been hoping that the city council would recognize that the entire county is affected by the decisions they make on this. I asked Cynthia Mathews several years ago why she was adamant about the destruction of public open space being considered. She said, "We need more parking." I drive downtown often and always find parking in short time. Public libraries, in my lifetime of use, are almost sacred places, restful oases of quiet, calm, limitless browsing, reading. The thought of a concrete monstrosity in the heart of our small urban center feels just wrong.

— *Susan I Stuart, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Changes can be made without adding a library

June 7, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

Housing combined with a garage on Cathcart and Cedar streets and moving the farmers market to Front Street can proceed as projects without adding a library. Making Cathcart a walking alley can proceed without adding a library. Adding housing is marketing for moving the library away from the civic center, dispersing gatherings. The proposal has served to create controversy and division, for reasons I don't understand. And it isn't what voters thought they were supporting.

— *Sylvia Caras, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Jump bike racks take up parking spaces

June 10, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

So the red Jump bikes are gone—over a month, it would seem—but (at least on the Westside) the racks are still there.

Is the City negotiating with another rent-a-bike company who is interested? Are the racks now City property for use by locals and their own bikes?

The racks I see regularly take up high-demand parking spots. One example is on Woodrow in front of the branch library. Many times I've observed a mom idling the car while a youngster dashes in to return a pile of borrowed books, jumps back in the car, buckles up, and off they go on other errands.

Can the City take the Jump racks down, then bill Jump (presuming they are solvent) accordingly for City labor, or can the City sell the metal and hope it's enough to cover City labor?

— *Jane Walton, Santa Cruz*

Letter | DWC supports mixed-use option for library

June 14, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

The DWC membership supports a vision for Santa Cruz that includes a library we can be proud of as well as much needed affordable housing. DWC supports the mixed-use option that will provide 60-120 affordable housing units as well as a new library with the square footage needed for programs and services the community deserves. An adequate library and access to housing are social justice issues, and are necessary to provide more equity to our city.

— *Peggy Flynn, correspondence secretary, Democratic Women's Club*

Letter | Mixed-use project will give more to community

June 17, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

I continue to be amazed at how many bully-pulpit columns Stephen Kessler has used to direct his anger toward the mixed use library project. The bottom line is that the library in the mixed use project can be larger and offer more to the community. Some people will continue to drive to the library and the affordable housing component is a great asset to the project and community for leveraging cost-effective housing. Many people like the idea of the mixed use project and we are not anti-environmentalists in this perspective. I guess we will just have to disagree – but PLEASE – give it a rest already with the anxiety over a parking garage. It's going to be OK – the Farmers Market will thrive in a different location and we can grow more trees.

— *Ron Powers, Aptos*

Letter | Library committee made the right recommendation

June 19, 2020 at 5:30 a.m.

As a former library director, I've had the privilege of leading efforts to build, renovate, and repair scores of library buildings. This experience taught me that libraries must respond to a changing reading environment and fulfill community expectations for safe places for public gatherings.

Ross Eric Gibson's article shows he doesn't understand the needs of today's library users and doesn't understand why the Downtown Library Advisory Committee recommended building a new library. The recommendation came after months of study including more than 2,000 survey responses for a post Measure S downtown library.

The plans developed by Jayson Architects, and later by Group 4, were proposals developed to meet program requirements. Group 4's plan confirmed my opinion that DLAC made the right recommendation: relocating the library is not only the most cost efficient solution, it's also a way for the city to have a library that it can be proud of.

— *Martín Gómez, Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries president*

Letter | Let voters decide on library's future

June 19, 2020 at 5:30 a.m.

On the ballot measure a few years ago, I voted "yes" to tax us to improve our Downtown Library. I like the Downtown Library.

On that ballot measure, I don't remember any mention of building a new library combined with a five-story parking garage.

I would have voted "NO" on the ballot measure if I knew that was a possibility. That is a terrible idea. It would destroy the ambiance of the area. What little of it that is left in our town.

Remember the song: "Don't it always seem to go, That you don't know what you've got Til its gone. They paved paradise And put up a parking lot."

Let the voters decide what to do. We are having an election in a few months. Put a ballot measure on it to let all of the Santa Cruz citizens decide what to do in their City. That is the right thing to do.

— *Bill Malone, Santa Cruz*

Letter | History articles offer much needed perspective

June 19, 2020 at 5:30 a.m.

What an eye-opener to read Ross Gibson's article on the history of our Santa Cruz downtown library with his mature and thoughtful approach to the subject. Solidly informative with excellent images, it put so much into perspective for me. That is one of the things historians do, and it is greatly appreciated by this reader after the tired, ingrown opinion pieces by Stephen Kessler and Mark Primack.

Please give us more columns like Mr. Gibson's in the future.

— *Isabelle Scott, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Apology owed to Mathews for personal attack

June 22, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

Mr. Kessler's commentary on Cynthia Mathews is nothing more than slander. The issue he speaks of boils down to opposing sides to building a new library in Downtown Santa Cruz. He points out that she is recused from voting on this item before the City Council because she owns property near the new proposed site.

Without clarification, he claims that "this hasn't kept Mathews from" campaigning for the project "in the face of significant popular opposition." To use language about this issue, e.g., "it's a stinking pile of political excrement" in the same paragraph as Mathews' name, is pure old-style muckraking rather than informed investigating journalism. It is argumentum ad hominem, which is a fallacious strategy whereby a genuine argument is replaced by attacking

the person rather than the issue. No person deserves a personal attack, public official, or not. He should apologize to her.

— *Stanley D. Stevens, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Councilwomen listened to constituents

June 26, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

Katherine Beiers I think was incredible supporting her constituents and questioning the integrity, and process of the Santa Cruz City Council, city manager and city leaders. She asked basic questions and received some answers that attempted to placate her. Also Sandy Brown who entered the meeting, I think, with the idea of supporting the mixed use library proposal truly listened to her constituents. I believe she realized that she could not serve the public trust by pushing the mixed use library. I believe these two councilwomen realized they were witnessing a power push against the will of the people.

I was amazed the council as a whole did not have a grasp and depended on the city manager and city leaders in understanding the scope of the mixed use library proposal. It had a feel of a slick back room deal that the city council was manipulated to believe in.

— *Tim Kensit, Santa Cruz*

Letter | City Council's library decision is shameful

July 1, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

In 2016, the Santa Cruz Public Library Facilities Financing Authority unanimously voted to place a \$67 million bond measure (designated Measure S) on the June 2016 ballot to address most urgent needs. With 70% approval, county-wide voters agreed to fund Measure S, the Library Improvement Bond Measure. As a result, Santa Cruz County property owners are now assessed \$49.40 per residential parcel, per year, for a 30-year period beginning January 2017. And now – four individuals, four city council members, have taken this voter-approved tax fund and made it their choice to use a huge part of these taxes to build a parking monstrosity in the midst of our small, tree adorned urban center. Never allowing it to be voted on by the whole county who agreed to be taxed for library improvements. Shameful! My eyes teared up and my heart sank when I read the headlines. Shameful!

— *Susan I Stuart, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Repurpose current library space

July 4, 2020 at 6:30 a.m.

Santa Cruz City Council passed a bizarre “mix use” library/housing/parking complex at the farmers market site—a terrible combination piled six stories high! Santa Cruz is caving to the car. Wasted time and money for these plans. The library is placed under the complex surrounded by cars and apartments. Did the “designers” forget that the mighty San Lorenzo River floods its banks? Then you have mixed books and water.

Go ahead, have low cost housing, have parking—somewhere else—leave the library alone. The second floor of the library is under-utilized. You may have been in the children’s section or meeting room, but there are other areas closed to the public. There is 44,000 square feet of usable space in the building. Repurpose the employee lunchroom, repurpose the meeting room, clean out the storage—give it a big facelift, then leave it alone.

— *Chris Moran, Ben Lomond*

Letter | City council made right choice in mixed-use library

July 5, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

The community should thank, not, criticize the Santa Cruz City Council vote to move the library mixed-use project forward. The library subcommittee and the full council, after a year of careful study, came to the same conclusion that the DLAC and previous council came to through thorough examination of the facts.

The choice is clear. The mixed-use option, because of the frugal efficiency of cost sharing, delivers a new and modern Downtown Branch Library the community can be proud of, much needed low-income affordable housing, and related parking that replaces unsightly surface lots.

Thank you city council.

— *Tim Willoughby, Boulder Creek*

Letter | Future of downtown library deserves public vote

July 5, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

The new “library/parking” proposal has not been approved by the citizenry, yet they will pay \$50 per household, year upon year. Worse yet, a multi-story parking lot will totally change its charm and character. The farmers market is a beloved part of Downtown Santa Cruz, where organic farmers and consumers meet. Replacing the market with parking lot/library/affordable housing is questionable, at best. To do so without the consent of the governed, yet hand them the bill, just feels wrong. Slipping in affordable housing to justify the bill just doesn’t make it a good idea. I totally agree with yesterday’s writer, Susan I Stuart, who cites that four individuals on the City Council, are deciding for the entire county how and

where to use funds approved by the citizenry. This wasn't a unanimous vote by the council! A decision this important and this impactful deserves a vote by the citizenry.

— *Myra Morris, Santa Cruz*

Letter | State-of-the-art library prospect is exciting

July 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

I am at a loss to understand the sorrow over replacing an existing parking lot with a garage, a garage that enables us to have a new state-of-the-art library. As a Santa Cruz County home owner and long-time library user, I am excited at the prospect of a mixed-use building with low-cost housing as well as a garage. It is an efficient use of our taxpayer money, providing not only a new main library, but also expansion and replacement of other branches. An additional benefit is the prospect of a new covered space for the farmers market so farmers will not be rained out come winter.

— *Joan Gilbert Martin, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Years later Santa Cruz still faces same choices

July 15, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

Thank you for Ross Eric Gibson's article on what could have happened to us 70 years ago. Nothing much changes as we are facing the same choice today. It took an obscene amount of money to recall two city councilmen who would have voted against the unexpected, unwanted, and unsanctioned library/garage project that will replace our farmers market and mow down beautiful historical trees.

The garage is the beginning of a vision of LA by people who will make millions with this plan and strip our beautiful city of beauty and charm. Be careful who you vote for in November. It is now that we decide how we want to live.

— *Erica Aitken, Santa Cruz*

Letter | Virus creates need to re-imagine public spaces

July 19, 2020 at 5:00 a.m.

So far in the pandemic, Santa Cruz has closed only parts of a couple of streets to make room for pedestrians and allow restaurants to claim more sidewalk space. It's becoming clear that this type of action will need to be permanent and much more extensive. Outdoor space will need to be deployed more and more to substitute for indoor space— hosting retail, personal services, performances, and many types of personal and public uses; not new garages.

There's a new need to re-imagine public spaces and new ways to utilize the urban landscape to maximize the natural advantage of open space, versus enclosed spaces, in minimizing the spread of viruses. New ways to utilize the urban landscape over the long term require more than just sidewalk dining in a few spots here and there. As a first step, let's abandon the garage-library plan and keep the farmers' market space open.

— Aldo Giacchino, Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz Sentinel **Coastlines**

Coast Lines | Library reading program goes virtual

June 2, 2020 at 7:15 a.m.

SANTA CRUZ

Library reading program goes virtual

Santa Cruz Public Libraries popular reading program for children, Tales to Tails, has gone virtual. The library will stream wet-noses and furry paws straight to the SCPL YouTube channel for hundreds of kids to easily access and view.

Children can read to therapy dogs at 10 a.m. every Wednesday via the library's Youtube channel, youtube.com/santacruzpl, or register to participate via Zoom at <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6764928>. Each week you register, the library will send you a printable dog bone and activity. These are dated dog bones your child can color and email to us. The following week, they will be displayed live on the feed.

Parents and caregivers are invited to post their child's first name and city in the YouTube comments, along with the book they are reading, and program staff will read off as many names as they can, live, during the break for the dogs. Kids and parents will have the ability to comment in real-time and give a thumbs up.

Please note, the children will not be on the screen — only the animals and handlers. The program will be available to access on YouTube anytime after the event, making access to this reading development program even easier.

If you have a news event or announcement for Coast Lines, email newsroom@santacruzsentinel.com and place "Coast Lines" in the email subject line. Coast Lines items are run at no charge. Please include contact information for questions. Information: 831-706-3252 Tuesdays to Saturdays. To view previous Coast Lines items, visit SantaCruzSentinel.com/tag/coast-lines.

Coast Lines | Library film club to view 'Just Mercy' Saturday

June 25, 2020 at 7:25 a.m.

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries invite you to an evening of cinema with the Hidden Gems Film Club at 7:30 p.m. Saturday. This month the club will watch and discuss the movie "Just Mercy," in which actors Michael B. Jordan and Jamie Foxx are cast in the story of an innocent man who is sent to prison, and the Harvard-educated lawyer who wants to save him. Darrell Darling, NAACP Santa Cruz Guest Speaker, will make introductory remarks. RSVP by email to cinephile95060@gmail.com to receive a Zoom invitation.

Each month, enjoy these "hidden gems" foreign films, documentaries, independents and even some mainstream movies you might have missed.

Info: hiddengemsfilmclub.weebly.com/.

Coast Lines | Democratic Club to honor Felton Library champions

July 6, 2020 at 6:22 p.m.

SAN LORENZO VALLEY

Democratic Club to honor Felton Library champions

The Democratic Club of North Santa Cruz County will honor Nancy Gerdt and Michele Mosher as the 2020 recipients of the John and Deloris Crosson Democratic Ideals Award at an upcoming meeting, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday via Zoom.

The award is named after long-time Felton political activists and advocates for social justice. Gerdt and Mosher, both Felton residents, will be recognized for their leadership in spearheading the Felton Library project. They worked tirelessly to engage the community and help raise funds from the project's planning stages to the grand opening ribbon cutting event in February. Members of the public who would like to join the Zoom meeting can send an email to redmtn2@comcast.net.

Award recipients are recognized at the club's annual spring fundraiser which was cancelled this year due to COVID-19. In lieu of the fundraiser, community members who would like to donate funds to support Democratic candidates on the November ballot can visit the club's website at www.svslvdemocrats.org.

Coast Lines | Libraries to host Magical Moonshine Theater performances

July 13, 2020 at 7:15 a.m.

SANTA CRUZ

Libraries to host Magical Moonshine Theater performances

Magical Moonshine Theater are master storytellers who engage young audiences with their amazing puppetry and masquerade. They will perform two different shows for the Santa Cruz Public Libraries in celebration of Summer Reading in Santa Cruz. Performances are via Zoom and registration is required to get the Zoom link.

Both performances are on Saturday, July 18. Start at 11 a.m. with The Three Little Pigs.

Register here: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6780145>. Then tune in at 3 p.m. for

Puppylocks and the Three Bears. Register

here: <https://santacruzpl.libcal.com/event/6780147>.

These events are part of the libraries' Summer Reading Program, Imagine Your Story. Register at santacruzpl.org/srp.


Reviews

No YELP reviews for this period.

Google My Business

Scotts Valley received a 5 Star Rating with no review in June 6.

Aptos received a 5 Star review on June 25

I like all of the Santa Cruz libraries but Aptos is my go to library because it is near to me and dear to me .

Aptos received a 5 Star Review on July 20

Great library! Always helpful and pleasant

Email

We received many responses about our statement against racism and police brutality.

June 4

I am offended by this email.

Officers don't arrest and kill people because they are racist.

Criminals die because they use drugs and resist arrest.

Take my off your list.

Why is no one addressing black on black gang violence... why is at always this manufactured racial divide.

Bravo to the library for this powerful message!

Hello all,

Thank you for the message of change. May I suggest the title "The Spook That Sat By The Door" to be added to suggested reading?

Thanks for listening.

Excellent!! Thank you so much. I assume you support us referencing these resources and SCPL in an email newsletter?

Thank you for taking a stand! ♥

Sent from my iPhone

Good job! Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Yes! Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

Thank you for making this statement.

Thank you for your comments and thank you for relinquishing you claim to neutrality. There is a passage from Dante's Inferno that says the hottest spots in hell are reserved for those that

maintain their neutrality during times of social crisis. Obviously not a new concept but one all too often ignored.

Thank you

Wow, I am so disappointed in the political statements and the politicizing of the “public” library by Susan Nemitz Director of Libraries and Eric Howard Assistant Director of Libraries. You have just lost a longtime friend of the “public” library with your politically charged comments in your email to all recipients on your mailing list. The “public” library should be neutral and not express a bias one way or the other when it comes to politics. In fact you should not be using this platform for anything political. You are free to have whatever political beliefs you want but you should not have used the platform of the “public” library to express them. It is disappointing that you feel that you can express political views on a platform that is funded by the general fund that is made up of property taxes, sales taxes and some private donations. Shame on you for not realizing this before sending that email.

I think that everyone that received that email deserves an apology from both of you for expressing you “personal beliefs” on a “publicly”funded platform.

In the future, if you feel so compelled to express your personal beliefs Publicly please make a sign and join the masses at a protest near you and enjoy your first amendment rights and post your pictures on the social Media platform of your choice but do not think for a minute that you can use our tax dollars and the privacy of our personal emails to subject us to those beliefs.

I am sorry to say that as soon as the library is reopened for patrons we will be turning in our library cards and no longer visiting the library.

June 5

You both have a lot of nerve using your workplace to promote a personal point of view. ALL lives matter, not just black people. ALL, white, black, Mexican, Asian, all lives matter. If you want to promote your personal point of view then do it on your time, not while you are working and the taxpayers are paying your salaries. You have an incredible amount of self centered nerve. You do not speak for everyone. My son, who was born and raised in Santa Cruz, is a police officer. HIS live MATTERS to me and you are helping to instigate trouble for all police officers when most of them are just trying to protect YOU! I moved to Watsonville to get away from people like you that have taken over Santa Cruz. When I was little Santa Cruz was such a nice place to live, now it's not because of off the wall thinking. I am sick of hearing about black lives that matter, we all matter! Promote people being nice to each other. I'm going to e-mail your mayor and tell him that you are wasting time and not doing the jobs you are paid to do, which is check out library books to all people.

Thank you - would you share any suggested books for young children (by age) to educate them on this very important topic? Parents would appreciate any guidance you may have.

ALL lives matter! There is good and bad in every race. Do you think the police officers that have gotten shot and stabbed deserved that? They were doing their jobs. I do not think the library needs to be wasting tax payer dollars sending out statements like this.

Your vocal support is heartening to all especially communities of color.

Thank you.

Thank you for taking this stand. It means a lot.

June 16

I received this email which was printed half Spanish language. I am a Caucasian, American 67 year old woman and thought this is the United States of America where I've lived all my life,, with the official language as English, (voted on by Americans). I would like information about books and publications IN ENGLISH PLEASE.

AN OPEN LETTER TO SANTA CRUZ LIBRARY DIRECTOR, SUSAN NEMITZ,

Dear Library Director Susan Nemitz,

I have always thought highly of you, Ms. Nemitz. As a councilmember, I enjoyed your enthusiasm and I was caught up in your aura of positivity and can-do spirit. Additionally, you are a librarian and I've always had the greatest respect for those who promote reading and individual and collective scholarship and help people with their research needs. The library has always held a special place in my heart and to now have it at the center of political controversy, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic and combined with the pain of a slow economic meltdown, I am shocked and saddened that you are pinning your Santa Cruz legacy as Library Director onto the garage-library concept. I've been involved with this discussion since 1998 (or 2000?) when public works staff wanted to build a parking garage at the same site, "Lot 4." A hoax is being perpetrated on this community. The public was by no means supportive of the city council's recent 4-2 garage-library decision. I believe you sensed this earlier, and many now already glimpse an evident looming disaster if this project proceeds. I do not believe the feeling in the community has changed during the four years of this discussion.

One Question

My question is simple: Why did you as a reasonable and thoughtful director not advise the elected officials to take a step back from this decisional abyss? I believe you had a chance. From my political now-spectator lens, this project is surprisingly similar to the way the desalination issue played itself out here in Santa Cruz. In that case, previous city councils wasted somewhere between \$7 million and \$15 million on consultants to study, aver, assert, and cajole the community into accepting yet again, a last century technological fix, but in that case, it was to address our water problems. It was soundly defeated at the polls, or at least a past council saw it that way and never again brought it to the ballot for an up or down vote as the original ballot measure as written would force any council to do.

Library-in-a-five-story-garage-atop-the-Farmer's-Market, Really?

It is absolutely the wrong decision to build the library-in-a-five-story-garage-atop-the-Farmer's-Market-site. If it is ever built, it will be a municipal mistake of Titanic proportions. It is a political error that's

currently tearing at the heart of this community. Not entering into this library-in-the-basement-of-a-garage deal would have left a door open for more creative solutions. This *build baby build* action has created a kind of heartache that now throbs through this town like a sucker punch in the gut. What you hear next may well be the sound of an exploding collective community appendix. Whether that takes the shape of a divisive election, a lengthy law suit, or people chaining themselves to heritage trees on Lot 4, it won't be pretty.

Are You a Betting Person?

This decision hurts for several reasons. First, it defies the will of the thousands of Santa Cruzans. The winning candidates in 2018 said they agreed that *voters did not vote for a library-garage project, they voted to remodel the current structure at its venerable downtown site*. Even immediately before the vote, hundreds more let the city council know that they stood four-square against moving our downtown library. (By the way, did the city's pollster, Gene Bregman, ever poll residents to find out if they favored this garage project? That wouldn't have been difficult to do. I believe it may never have been done because he would've found overwhelming support to keep the library where it is and NOT build a parking garage atop the current site of the Downtown Farmer's Market.) There is a distinct smell of a *fait accompli* here being carried out against the will of the electorate. My sense—political, social, and psychological—is that this project will likely not be implemented any time soon, if ever. I suspect you might have 5-10 more years with the city? You have a chance of advising the city manager to pull back and begin remodeling the current library as time is running out on using the bond money, and building costs escalate daily as you are well aware. Knowing the deep opposition to this project and the anxious vitriol that has been stirred because of certain city bureaucrats (not you) contempt for the public, I sincerely doubt the current project will even begin before you retire, and I state this for several reasons.

Santa Cruz's Fighting Spirit

I have seen many projects going back to the convention hotel that was once planned for our wonderful **Lighthouse Field**... and then there was the 10,000 housing units once envisioned for the **Wilder Ranch** site, and other development pressures on **the Pogonip**. These projects all appeared to be done deals until the most important party came to the table, the community. Those projects never happened because of the powerful sense of civic pride and political acumen harnessed by locals, UCSC transplants, artists, and visionaries who all call Santa Cruz home. In addition, the Dream Inn was never put on a planned steroid diet of concrete once local organizing began. And remember, it took more than 20 years of land-use shenanigans of various sorts to allow the La Bahia to degrade and finally, at the eleventh hour of decrepitude, the Seaside Company prevailed. It was a painful battle that did not have to happen similar to this one. A revamped and remodeled library could have begun this year, and still can, and you could oversee it as it becomes the anchor of our city's civic core, complementing city hall, the civic auditorium and the Greek church. You may even still be able to cut the ribbon of a remodeled and revamped library if we hurry.

Kafkaesque

The garage-library project promotes and idolizes last century technology. It flies in the face of our Climate Action Plan and oft-stated green community values. While we cannot house our homeless residents (witness the withdrawal of the "done deal" purchase of the Seaborg property to house a 24/7 navigation center on Coral Street), we now stand prepared to figure out how to house automobiles at \$75k per space? Surely this is a Fellini dream I am having and will wake up in front of Happy Boys farm stand inside the current Farmer's Market and purchase some heirloom tomatoes after checking out books at the 224 Church Street site. I know you read a lot. You are familiar with the work of **Franz Kafka**? Frankly, this library in a garage, on the site of the Farmer's Market, goes beyond Kafka. It literally pokes a metaphoric stick not only into the eye of our community's relationships with one another, but this decision infects our democratic institutions by by-passing either a plebiscite vote, or in not hearing the incredible outpouring of letters, emails, phone calls, newspaper opinion pieces, and

civic sense not to build the parking garage. Perhaps Kafka's unfinished book, *The Castle*, mirrors our own unfinished garage-library story here. His story was about an uncaring bureaucracy alienated from the community and unwilling to respond to the will of the people. I remind you, *The Castle* was an unfinished manuscript at the time of Kafka's death. This garage-library story is not over yet either.

Furthermore, the library-in-a-garage project may well end up costing more than any other that the city has been able to marshal the people's efforts and tax dollars to create, more than the sewer treatment project and the police department building, more than the purchase of the **Pogonip** and **Moore Creek Uplands**, and likely, before it is finally completed, more than the city's one-year of General Fund revenue of \$100 million.

Epilogue

This community deserves better. If I were a betting man, you, the Public Works department, the city manager, and some members of the city council have just thrown down the gauntlet. The clock is ticking and the community knows it. It was an initial decision that roils the community's sensibilities and will likely be one of the two or three top issues confronted by candidates in the November election. We are confronting so much right now. This library-in-a-garage-atop-the-Farmer's-Market controversy did not have to be one of them, unless it was to be a community-wide vote. That could've sufficed, but now we have what looks to be a looming blood bath of community disagreement. Where will it end? Not on Lot 4. Ms. Nemitz, I urge you to implement your good will, indomitable spirit, and energetic disposition to help turn this project around, it is not too late.

Sincerely, Chris Krohn

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 6, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: 4th Qtr. Report Community Impact Measures

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File Community Impact Measures for 4th Qtr. 2019-2020

DISCUSSION

This 4th quarter report covers the time period of April 1, 2020 through June 30, 2020 and compares this data to the previous year.

Due to the impact of COVID-19 protective measures, the library system closed all branches March 15, 2020. The Library quickly assessed budget shortfalls, staffing and continuing library services. Virtual programs continued almost immediately. However, because of the virtual nature of the program's attendance was unable to be tracked. Curbside service began to be available late May first at Aptos, Downtown, and Scotts Valley. Quickly followed by Felton and Live Oak. Curbside visitors were not able to be counted.

Given these unprecedented circumstances the closures have had dramatic effects on our community impact measures.

- Total circulation system-wide decreased by 52%
- Total visitors by branch system-wide decreased by 100%
 - Capitola and La Selva Beach were closed during this time period.
 - Felton reopened on February 22, 2020.
 - Boulder Creek closed on February 22, 2020.

- Total number of new registrations decreased by 61%
- Total hours of public internet computer use system-wide decreased by 100%
- Total hours of wireless internet sessions decreased by 64%
- Total sessions of public internet use decreased by 100%
- Total number of public wifi sessions decreased by 67%
- Total hours of meeting room use system-wide decreased by 100%
- The total number of programs held system-wide decreased by 91% and system-wide program attendance decreased by 83%

Attachment: 4th Quarter Community Impact Measures

Report Prepared by: Kira Henifin, Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

CIRCULATION BY BRANCH														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals	
	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20
Aptos	57,895	57,622	-0.5%	52,313	52,919	1%	56,406	45,835	-19%	55,101	3,823	-93%	221,715	160,199
Boulder Creek	10,599	10,589	-0.1%	10,423	9,387	-10%	11,280	5,567	-51%	10,727	0	-100%	43,029	25,543
Branciforte	20,779	20,325	-2.2%	19,196	18,534	-3%	21,225	16,901	-20%	21,349	28	-100%	82,549	55,788
Capitola	8	0	100%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	8	0
Downtown	65,435	59,841	-8.5%	59,609	54,533	-9%	63,142	46,755	-26%	58,755	4,970	-92%	246,941	166,099
Felton	6,331	6,258	-1.2%	6,221	2,600	-58%	6,281	8,807	40%	6,295	1,015	-84%	25,128	18,680
Garfield Park	12,899	14,077	9.1%	12,239	13,585	11%	12,793	11,698	-9%	13,272	3	-100%	51,203	39,363
La Selva Beach	4,622	3,803	-17.7%	4,504	22	-100%	4,978	0	-100%	5,199	0	-100%	19,303	3,825
Live Oak	45,091	46,950	4.1%	41,225	44,236	7%	46,287	38,089	-18%	44,871	1,778	-96%	177,474	131,053
Scotts Valley	47,351	47,723	0.8%	42,734	46,643	9%	46,741	40,423	-14%	45,327	3,663	-92%	182,153	138,452
Outreach	11,523	9,732	-15.5%	11,332	9,796	-14%	10,220	8,969	-12%	10,249	1,613	-84%	43,324	30,110
TOTAL	282,533	276,920	-2.0%	259,796	252,255	-3%	279,353	223,044	-20%	271,145	16,893	-94%	1,092,827	769,112
Digital Branch	61,538	85,739	39.3%	73,036	85,148	17%	73,643	103,408	40%	70,717	146,523	107%	278,934	420,818
Total incl. DB	344,071	362,659	5.4%	332,832	337,403	1%	352,996	326,452	-8%	341,862	163,416	-52%	1,371,761	1,189,930

VISITORS BY BRANCH														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals	
	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20
Aptos	37,125	38,126	2.7%	35,786	33,943	-5%	38,744	29,908	-23%	40,186	0	-100%	151,841	101,977
Boulder Creek	10,426	8,701	-16.5%	10,029	5,438	-46%	11,420	851	-93%	10,877	0	-100%	42,752	14,990

Branciforte	24,440	22,904	-6.3%	23,582	22,318	-5%	25,618	19,237	-25%	24,078	0	-100%	97,718	64,459
Capitola	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0
Downtown	85,753	89,823	4.7%	79,963	80,621	1%	93,375	73,501	-21%	89,423	0	-100%	348,514	243,945
Felton	6,097	6,129	0.5%	5,638	2,176	-61%	6,020	11,695	94%	6,387	0	-100%	24,142	20,000
Garfield Park	14,232	18,134	27.4%	13,602	18,592	37%	13,564	14,683	8%	12,922	0	-100%	54,320	51,409
La Selva Beach	9,500	7,704	-18.9%	9,510	0	-100%	9,484	0	-100%	9,252	0	-100%	37,746	7,704
Live Oak	25,491	42,943	68.5%	37,599	38,143	1%	41,871	32,081	-23%	41,134	0	-100%	146,095	113,167
Scotts Valley	42,931	45,511	6.0%	39,847	44,331	11%	45,726	33,785	-26%	44,701	0	-100%	173,205	123,627
Outreach	6,533	6,513	-0.3%	6,442	6,105	-5%	6,088	5,445	-11%	6,476	0	-100%	25,539	18,063
TOTAL	262,528	286,488	9.1%	261,998	251,667	-4%	291,910	221,186	-24%	285,436		-100%	1,101,872	759,341

NEW REGISTRATIONS														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals	
	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20
Aptos	339	341	0.6%	313	338	8%	315	291	-8%	285	118	-59%	1,252	1,088
Boulder Creek	83	77	-7.2%	68	70	3%	79	55	-30%	82	12	-85%	312	214
Branciforte	128	123	-3.9%	124	129	4%	140	99	-29%	139	35	-75%	531	386
Capitola	26	35	34.6%	32	27	-16%	25	14	-44%	31	39	26%	114	115
Downtown	695	729	4.9%	605	669	11%	656	575	-12%	688	377	-45%	2,644	2,350
Felton	53	61	15.1%	63	58	-8%	70	230	229%	87	46	-47%	273	395
Garfield Park	89	71	-20.2%	60	72	20%	57	72	26%	61	22	-64%	267	237
La Selva Beach	42	28	-33.3%	35	4	-89%	32	4	-88%	42	20	-52%	151	56
Live Oak	290	283	-2.4%	321	284	-12%	354	232	-34%	304	53	-83%	1,269	852
Scotts Valley	248	293	18.1%	201	250	24%	266	188	-29%	314	60	-81%	1,029	791

Outreach	330	121	-63.3%	127	320	152%	34	95	179%	69	40	-42%	560	576
TOTAL	2,323	2,162	-6.9%	1,949	2,221	14%	2,028	1,855	-9%	2,102	822	-61%	8,402	7,060

HOURS OF PUBLIC INTERNET COMPUTER USE														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals	
	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20
Aptos	3,910	4,354	11.4%	3,976	4,095	3%	4,457	3,367	-24%	4,562	0	-100%	16,905	11,816
Boulder Creek	1,093	880	-19.5%	967	826	-15%	979	536	-45%	833	0	-100%	3,872	2,242
Branciforte	1,784	1,388	-22.2%	1,544	1,366	-12%	1,757	1,134	-35%	1,647	0	-100%	6,732	3,888
Capitola	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0
Downtown	18,578	18,367	-1.1%	17,077	16,954	-1%	16,762	13,057	-22%	17,162	0	-100%	69,579	48,378
Felton	454	341	-24.9%	317	108	-66%	350	195	-44%	347	0	-100%	1,468	644
Garfield Park	1,036	1,253	20.9%	1,107	900	-19%	1,187	756	-36%	1,035	0	-100%	4,365	2,909
La Selva Beach	120	121	0.8%	145	0	-100%	127	0	-100%	153	0	-100%	545	121
Live Oak	4,337	4,183	-3.6%	3,853	3,489	-9%	4,164	2,937	-29%	3,940	0	-100%	16,294	10,609
Scotts Valley	2,269	2,283	0.6%	2,133	1,976	-7%	2,193	1,626	-26%	2,152	0	-100%	8,747	5,885
TOTAL SYSTEM HRS	33,581	33,170	-1.2%	31,119	29,714	-5%	31,976	23,608	-26%	31,831	0	-100%	128,507	86,492

HOURS OF WIRELESS INTERNET SESSIONS														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals	
	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20
Aptos	4,907	5,994	22.2%	5,371	4435	-17%	6,746	4,692	-30%	6167	1667	-73%	23,191	16,788
Boulder Creek	1,885	1,816	-3.7%	2,066	1661	-20%	1,942	1,062	-45%	1736	0	-100%	7,629	4,539
Branciforte	2,058	2,154	4.7%	2,449	2087	-15%	2,662	2,500	-6%	2176	1218	-44%	9,345	7,959
Capitola	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0
Downtown	9,421	9,823	4.3%	9,910	7838	-21%	9,741	8,102	-17%	9960	2922	-71%	39,032	28,685
Felton	1,030	1,233	19.7%	1,482	586	-60%	941	1,294	38%	1114	1386	24%	4,567	4,499
Garfield Park	1,214	1,442	18.8%	1,200	1300	8%	1,187	1,299	9%	1067	801	-25%	4,668	4,842
Headquarte rs	1,008	1,008	0.0%	895	878	-2%	893	872	-2%	1064	392	-63%	3,860	3,150
La Selva Beach	1,087	774	-28.8%	1,093	0	-100%	767	0	-100%	828	0	-100%	3,775	774
Live Oak	2,828	3,691	30.5%	2,865	3058	7%	3,642	3,385	-7%	3851	1571	-59%	13,186	11,705
Scotts Valley	5,105	5,576	9.2%	5,228	4692	-10%	5,430	4,452	-18%	5334	1868	-65%	21,097	16,588
TOTAL SYSTEM HRS	30,543	33,511	9.7%	32,559	26,535	-19%	33,951	27,658	-19%	33,297	11,825	-64%	130,350	99,529

* some data was lost from September 2018, so these numbers are lower than actual.

SESSIONS OF PUBLIC INTERNET USE														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals	
	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20
Aptos	5,452	5,872	7.7%	5,213	4,892	-6%	5,874	4,167	-29%	6113	0	-100%	22,652	14,931
Boulder Creek	1,424	1,214	-14.7%	1,330	1,150	-14%	1,310	772	-41%	1161	0	-100%	5,225	3,136

Branciforte	2,512	2,055	-18.2%	2,281	1,940	-15%	2,522	1,716	-32%	2301	0	-100%	9,616	5,711
Capitola	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0		0%	0	0	0%	0	0
Downtown	17,240	18,580	7.8%	16,223	16,346	1%	17,715	13,038	-26%	17841	0	-100%	69,019	47,964
Felton	622	562	-9.6%	511	195	-62%	618	402	-35%	560	0	-100%	2,311	1,159
Garfield Park	1,382	1,366	-1.2%	1,260	1,192	-5%	1,439	1,043	-28%	1315	0	-100%	5,396	3,601
La Selva Beach	187	168	-10.2%	264	0	-100%	225	0	-100%	228	0	-100%	904	168
Live Oak	5,892	5,733	-2.7%	5,416	4,901	-10%	5,980	4,203	-30%	5587	0	-100%	22,875	14,837
Scotts Valley	3,894	3,809	-2.2%	3,622	3,391	-6%	3,788	2,825	-25%	3658	0	-100%	14,962	10,025
TOTAL SYSTEM HRS	38,605	39,359	2.0%	36,120	34,007	-6%	39,471	28,166	-29%	38,764	0	-100%	152,960	101,532

NUMBER OF PUBLIC WIFI SESSIONS														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals	
	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20
Aptos	24,922	30,262	21.4%	29,246	20,131	-31%	30,503	18,447	-40%	32,354	7,783	-76%	117,025	76,623
Boulder Creek	5,576	6,027	8.1%	6,592	4,936	-25%	6,262	3,258	-48%	5,375	0	-100%	23,805	14,221
Branciforte	7,402	7,532	1.8%	9,341	6,556	-30%	8,060	7,109	-12%	7,661	4,536	-41%	32,464	25,733
Capitola	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0	0%	0	0
Downtown	36,191	38,094	5.3%	37,564	28,765	-23%	36,390	27,193	-25%	39,654	10,265	-74%	149,799	104,317
Felton	7,208	6,779	-6.0%	8,901	3,221	-64%	5,428	3,744	-31%	6,292	4,656	-26%	27,829	18,400
Garfield Park	5,099	4,863	-4.6%	4,183	4,546	9%	4,124	4,500	9%	3,997	2,766	-31%	17,403	16,675
Headquarte rs	2,243	3,711	65.4%	3,082	2,896	-6%	3,041	2,726	-10%	3,968	1,282	-68%	12,334	10,615
La Selva Beach	3,789	2,455	-35.2%	3,614	0	-100%	2,667	0	-100%	2,865	0	-100%	12,935	2,455
Live Oak	7,975	10,760	34.9%	8,422	8,240	-2%	10,449	8,391	-20%	11,303	4,662	-59%	38,149	32,053

Scotts Valley	19,830	20,627	4.0%	19,462	15,131	-22%	18,785	14,548	-23%	19,438	7,802	-60%	77,515	58,108
TOTAL SYSTEM HRS	120,235	131,110	9.0%	130,407	94,422	-28%	125,709	89,916	-28%	132,907	43,752	-67%	509,258	359,200

* some data was lost from September 2018, so these numbers are lower than actual.

HOURS OF MEETING ROOM USE														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals	
	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20
Aptos	485	437	-9.9%	498	447	-10%	509	468	-8%	475	0	-100%	1,967	1,352
Boulder Creek	248	150	-39.5%	309	261	-16%	378	4	-99%	239	0	-100%	1,174	415
Downtown	709	532	-25.0%	468	432	-8%	573	485	-15%	619	0	-100%	2,369	1,449
Felton	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	0	232	0%	0	0	0%	0	232
Scotts Valley	292	368	26.0%	485	475	-2%	420	359	-15%	433	0	-100%	1,630	1,202
TOTAL HOURS	1,734	1,487	-14.2%	1,760	1,615	-8%	1,880	1,548	-18%	1,766	0	-100%	7,140	4,650

NUMBER OF PROGRAMS														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals	
	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20
Aptos	89	84	-5.6%	87	150	72%	52	111	113%	99	0	-100%	327	345
Boulder Creek	69	37	-46.4%	60	47	-22%	43	10	-77%	49	0	-100%	221	94
Branciforte	45	49	8.9%	48	86	79%	54	65	20%	49	0	-100%	196	125
Capitola	11	6	-45.5%	12	11	-8%	15	9	-40%	12	0	-100%	50	221
Downtown	111	163	46.8%	145	206	42%	163	204	25%	179	0	-100%	598	573
Felton	14	6	-57.1%	8	1	-88%	10	25	150%	14	0	-100%	46	32
Garfield Park	35	36	2.9%	30	42	40%	28	33	18%	46	0	-100%	139	111

La Selva Beach	65	54	-16.9%	99	12	-88%	83	19	-77%	86	0	-100%	333	85
Live Oak	56	76	35.7%	122	130	7%	110	108	-2%	96	0	-100%	384	314
Scotts Valley	71	118	66.2%	129	125	-3%	110	81	-26%	111	0	-100%	421	324
Outreach	26	26	0.0%	23	27	17%	24	17	-29%	26	72	177%	99	142
TOTAL	592	655	10.6%	763	837	10%	692	682	-1%	767	72	-91%	2,814	2,246

PROGRAM ATTENDANCE														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals	
	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20	% Change	FY18/19	FY19/20
Aptos	1,575	1,002	-36.4%	1,317	2,178	65%	1,060	1,192	12%	1,124	0	-100%	5,076	4,372
Boulder Creek	693	224	-67.7%	659	276	-58%	797	121	-85%	539	0	-100%	2,688	621
Branciforte	809	793	-2.0%	849	1,028	21%	943	739	-22%	1,152	0	-100%	3,753	2,560
Capitola	130	137	5.4%	199	139	-30%	314	156	-50%	172	0	-100%	815	432
Downtown	2,103	1,978	-5.9%	3,300	2,253	-32%	1,895	1,742	-8%	2,714	0	-100%	10,012	5,973
Felton	216	125	-42.1%	28	10	-64%	23	138	500%	139	0	-100%	406	273
Garfield Park	371	385	3.8%	307	503	64%	274	323	18%	358	0	-100%	1,310	1,211
La Selva Beach	1,334	1,005	-24.7%	1,724	157	-91%	1,487	338	-77%	1,348	0	-100%	5,893	1,500
Live Oak	1,337	1,828	36.7%	2,393	1,597	-33%	1,663	1,170	-30%	2,267	0	-100%	7,660	4,595
Scotts Valley	1,633	2,277	39.4%	2,972	2,167	-27%	2,417	1,618	-33%	2,736	0	-100%	9,758	6,062
Outreach	685	717	4.7%	572	748	31%	636	467	-27%	719	2,268	215%	2,612	4,200
TOTAL	10,886	10,471	-3.8%	14,320	11,056	-23%	11,509	8,004	-30%	13,268	2,268	-83%	49,983	31,799

Capitola Closure starting in May and June with a few offsite programs continuing

La Selva Beach Closure on September 1, 2019

Felton Closure on November 1, 2019

Felton Opening on February 22, 2020

Boulder Creek Closure on February 22, 2020

System-wide Closure on March 15, 2020 due to COVID-19

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 6, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: FY 20 Annual Financial Report (unaudited)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File Year-End Financial Report for FY 2019-2020

DISCUSSION

The year-end financial report covers July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

All financial figures included in this report are unaudited.

Revenues

Total Revenue for year-end: 87.7%

Sales Tax 90.4%
Maintenance of Effort 89.7%

Expenditures

Total actual expenditures for year-end: 81.2%

Books and Periodicals-Grants and Donations lines are awaiting adjustments as are capital outlay and computer outlay. These adjustments will keep this line items in budget but will not affect the overall budget.

Invoices are still being processed and posted for FY 19/20.

Personnel Costs

Total Personnel costs for year-end: 92.1%

Regular Full Time 94.5%
Part Time 93.4%
Temporary 76.1%

Attachments: FY 20 Annual Financial Reports (Expenditure, Personnel and Revenue)

Report Prepared by: Kira Henifin
Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

Please click on the link to access the attached Library Financial Dashboard Report:

https://www.santacruzpl.org/files/library_boards/documents/LJPA/LJPA_2020-08-06_financialrpt.pdf

Expenditure Balances

Page 1 of 2

Criteria: Summarize By = Report,Account,Account; As Of = 6/30/2020; Period = 0,1..12; Activity = 36*; Account = 52*,53*,54*,55*,56*,57*,58*,59*

Acct	Title	Year-To-Date Ado Budget	Year-To-Date Adjustments	Year-To-Date Adj Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Encumbrances	Bdgt. to Act. Variance	Pct. Spent
52131	Claims management services - outside	17,000.00	0.00	17,000.00	4,527.54	4,672.46	7,800.00	54.1%
52135	Financial services - outside	462,438.00	24,000.00	486,438.00	471,509.00	0.00	14,929.00	96.9%
52150	Merchant bank fees	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	995.31	0.00	1,504.69	39.8%
52155	Courier services	2,000.00	118.72	2,118.72	1,740.49	759.51	(381.28)	118.0%
52199	Other professional & technical services	113,000.00	229.32	113,229.32	49,909.32	26,631.32	36,688.68	67.6%
52201	Water, sewer and refuse	74,910.00	0.00	74,910.00	69,327.67	1,077.90	4,504.43	94.0%
52202	Hazardous materials disposal	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
52211	Janitorial services	325,026.00	0.00	325,026.00	293,436.00	5,885.25	25,702.75	92.1%
52223	Equip annual inventory charge - internal	4,690.00	0.00	4,690.00	0.00	0.00	4,690.00	0.0%
52226	Vehicle work order charges - internal	22,000.00	0.00	22,000.00	8,673.27	0.00	13,326.73	39.4%
52227	Vehicle fuel island charges - internal	16,485.00	0.00	16,485.00	10,481.95	0.00	6,003.05	63.6%
52240	Office equipment operation/maint	3,600.00	0.00	3,600.00	3,660.96	0.00	(60.96)	101.7%
52241	Vehicle maintenance costs - outside	6,500.00	0.00	6,500.00	16.20	0.00	6,483.80	0.2%
52244	Other equipment operation/maintenance	8,050.00	0.00	8,050.00	7,701.05	0.00	348.95	95.7%
52246	Building and facility o & m - outside	343,303.00	(50,000.00)	293,303.00	244,695.47	31,295.45	17,312.08	94.1%
52247	Landscaping maintenance services	45,450.00	0.00	45,450.00	19,776.74	1,816.00	23,857.26	47.5%
52248	Software maintenance services	422,181.00	(33,000.00)	389,181.00	256,104.76	3,934.63	129,141.61	66.8%
52249	Hardware maintenance services	32,000.00	0.00	32,000.00	24,190.99	0.00	7,809.01	75.6%
52261	Equipment, building and land rentals	237,163.00	14,088.00	251,251.00	247,149.48	5,348.00	(1,246.48)	100.5%
52269	Equipment lease-outside	0.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	13,625.19	2,082.61	(3,707.80)	130.9%
52302	Travel and meetings	15,925.00	(4,000.00)	11,925.00	1,241.45	0.00	10,683.55	10.4%
52304	Training	79,300.00	0.00	79,300.00	57,353.68	0.00	21,946.32	72.3%
52403	Telecommunications service - outside	176,385.00	0.00	176,385.00	77,805.48	3,245.07	95,334.45	46.0%
52932	Liability insurance/surety bonds-interna	37,442.00	0.00	37,442.00	37,440.00	0.00	2.00	100.0%
52933	Liability insurance/surety bonds-outside	48,000.00	20,000.00	68,000.00	51,101.00	0.00	16,899.00	75.1%
52960	Advertising	19,130.00	0.00	19,130.00	12,957.25	0.00	6,172.75	67.7%
52961	Dues and memberships	35,162.00	0.00	35,162.00	30,610.00	0.00	4,552.00	87.1%
52972	Printing and binding-outside	24,600.00	0.00	24,600.00	8,264.39	0.00	16,335.61	33.6%
53101	Postage charges	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00	6,363.81	0.00	636.19	90.9%
53102	Office supplies	23,550.00	0.00	23,550.00	13,996.03	0.00	9,553.97	59.4%
53106	Books and periodicals	1,324,459.00	264,018.14	1,608,477.14	1,189,176.79	0.00	419,300.35	73.9%
53107	Books and periodicals-grants & donations	2,650.00	154,866.53	157,516.53	360,320.61	499.29	(203,303.37)	229.1%
53108	Safety clothing and equipment	12,560.00	0.00	12,560.00	12,592.09	0.00	(32.09)	100.3%
53109	Copier supplies	6,075.00	0.00	6,075.00	0.00	0.00	6,075.00	0.0%
53112	Library functional supplies	141,500.00	0.00	141,500.00	111,846.64	0.00	29,653.36	79.0%
53113	Janitorial supplies	25,250.00	0.00	25,250.00	22,159.80	0.00	3,090.20	87.8%
53311	Electricity	190,275.00	0.00	190,275.00	196,007.65	0.00	(5,732.65)	103.0%

Run: 7/21/2020 9:42 AM

Expenditure Balances

Page 2 of 2

Criteria: Summarize By = Report,Account,Account; As Of = 6/30/2020; Period = 0,1..12; Activity = 36*; Account = 52*,53*,54*,55*,56*,57*,58*,59*

Acct	Title	Year-To-Date Ado Budget	Year-To-Date Adjustments	Year-To-Date Adj Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Encumbrances	Bdgt. to Act. Variance	Pct. Spent
53312	Natural gas	29,450.00	0.00	29,450.00	28,204.89	0.00	1,245.11	95.8%
54990	Miscellaneous supplies and services	186,523.00	32,740.00	219,263.00	118,764.77	0.00	100,498.23	54.2%
56995	Refunded fees and fines	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	618.72	0.00	1,381.28	30.9%
57401	Office furniture/equipment	18,000.00	0.00	18,000.00	14,094.12	0.00	3,905.88	78.3%
57409	Computer equipment	150,000.00	0.00	150,000.00	162,180.76	77,121.46	(89,302.22)	159.5%
57990	Other capital outlay	50,000.00	50,000.00	100,000.00	19,667.75	10,684.00	69,648.25	30.4%
Total		4,744,532.00	505,060.71	5,249,592.71	4,260,291.07	175,052.95	814,248.69	

Run: 7/21/2020 9:42 AM

Expenditure Balances

Page 1 of 1

Criteria: Summarize By = Report,Account,Account; As Of = 6/30/2020; Period = 0,1..12; Activity = 36*; Account = 51*

Acct	Title	Year-To-Date Ado Budget	Year-To-Date Adjustments	Year-To-Date Adj Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Year-To-Date Encumbrances	Bdgt. to Act. Variance	Pct. Spent
51110	Regular full time	5,771,198.00	0.00	5,771,198.00	5,451,078.12	0.00	320,119.88	94.5%
51111	Regular part time	935,597.00	0.00	935,597.00	874,258.01	0.00	61,338.99	93.4%
51114	Overtime	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,109.69	0.00	(2,109.69)	0.0%
51115	Termination pay	0.00	0.00	0.00	55,805.85	0.00	(55,805.85)	0.0%
51122	Temporary	826,000.00	0.00	826,000.00	628,717.17	0.00	197,282.83	76.1%
51130	Other pay	947.00	0.00	947.00	2,082.07	0.00	(1,135.07)	219.9%
51132	Special vacation pay	15,399.00	0.00	15,399.00	18,338.24	0.00	(2,939.24)	119.1%
51133	Special sick leave pay	3,592.00	0.00	3,592.00	0.00	0.00	3,592.00	0.0%
51150	Vehicle-phone-data allowance	3,384.00	0.00	3,384.00	3,120.10	0.00	263.90	92.2%
51201	Retirement contribution	441,806.00	0.00	441,806.00	390,628.39	0.00	51,177.61	88.4%
51202	F.I.C.A.	0.00	0.00	0.00	30,606.18	0.00	(30,606.18)	0.0%
51203	PERS unfunded liability	1,036,465.00	0.00	1,036,465.00	955,742.98	0.00	80,722.02	92.2%
51206	PERS Unfunded payment	336,636.00	(336,636.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
51210	Group health insurance	1,401,982.00	0.00	1,401,982.00	1,269,494.16	0.00	132,487.84	90.5%
51212	Group dental insurance	96,279.00	0.00	96,279.00	90,594.96	0.00	5,684.04	94.1%
51213	Vision insurance	16,403.00	0.00	16,403.00	14,935.49	0.00	1,467.51	91.1%
51214	Medicare insurance	90,888.00	0.00	90,888.00	98,192.56	0.00	(7,304.56)	108.0%
51215	Employee assistance program	4,237.00	0.00	4,237.00	3,712.89	0.00	524.11	87.6%
51220	Group life insurance	1,889.00	0.00	1,889.00	1,697.80	0.00	191.20	89.9%
51221	Disability insurance	75,924.00	0.00	75,924.00	38,520.48	0.00	37,403.52	50.7%
51222	SDI	0.00	0.00	0.00	15,190.22	0.00	(15,190.22)	0.0%
51230	Unemployment insurance	50,186.00	0.00	50,186.00	54,199.79	0.00	(4,013.79)	108.0%
51240	Workers' compensation	256,390.00	0.00	256,390.00	267,748.00	0.00	(11,358.00)	104.4%
51250	Temp employee benefits - budget only	115,640.00	0.00	115,640.00	0.00	0.00	115,640.00	0.0%
Total		11,480,842.00	(336,636.00)	11,144,206.00	10,266,773.15	0.00	877,432.85	

Run: 7/21/2020 9:46 AM

Revenue Balances

Page 1 of 1

Criteria: Summarize By = Report,Fund,Account; As Of = 6/30/2020; Period = 0,1..12; Fund = 951

Acct	Title	Year-To-Date Ado Budget	Year-To-Date Adjustments	Year-To-Date Adj Budget	Year-To-Date Actual	Bdgt. to Act. Variance	Pct. Spent
Fund 951 -- Library Joint Powers Authority							
41211	Sales and use tax	8,311,763.00	(49,013.00)	8,262,750.00	7,470,856.06	791,893.94	90.4%
43110	Federal operating grants & contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	(5,000.00)	0.0%
43190	Federal grants - other	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
43210	State operating grants and contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,301.00	(14,301.00)	0.0%
43310	Local operating grants and contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)	0.0%
43311	Maintenance of effort contributions	5,725,273.00	0.00	5,725,273.00	5,136,974.86	588,298.14	89.7%
44630	Room rentals-library JPA	4,640.00	0.00	4,640.00	6,960.00	(2,320.00)	150.0%
45131	Library fines	140,500.00	0.00	140,500.00	92,295.38	48,204.62	65.7%
46110	Pooled cash and investment interest	91,910.00	0.00	91,910.00	16,039.58	75,870.42	17.5%
46190	Interest earnings - other	17,433.00	0.00	17,433.00	22,069.34	(4,636.34)	126.6%
46303	Donations - library	13,100.00	248,420.65	261,520.65	10,446.69	251,073.96	4.0%
46309	Donations - library - Friends of the Lib	19,423.00	111,401.53	130,824.53	174,597.00	(43,772.47)	133.5%
46910	Miscellaneous operating revenue	8,500.00	0.00	8,500.00	1,748.98	6,751.02	20.6%
46916	Cash over/short	0.00	0.00	0.00	(29.20)	29.20	0.0%
46990	Miscellaneous non-operating revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	(146.00)	146.00	0.0%
49122	From Library Private Trust Fund	22,190.00	111,802.49	133,992.49	0.00	133,992.49	0.0%
49201	Sales of surplus equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,782.00	(3,782.00)	0.0%
Total Library Joint Powers Authority		14,354,732.00	423,611.67	14,778,343.67	12,956,895.69	1,821,447.98	
Total		14,354,732.00	423,611.67	14,778,343.67	12,956,895.69	1,821,447.98	

Run: 7/21/2020 9:48 AM

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 6, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: 4th Qtr. SCPL Incident Report

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File Incident Report for 4th Qtr. 2019-2020

DISCUSSION

The 4th quarter incident report articulates the number of incidents that have occurred system-wide, the categories or infractions in which the incidents occurred, and the number of suspensions issued.

Since moving to the new tracking software and reformatting the report we do not have comparable numbers from last year during this same time period. We look forward to having these comparable statistics once we have a year of data entered into the new software system.

Attachment: Incident Report for 4th Qtr. FY 2019-2020

Prepared by: Kira Henifin,
 Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz Library Director

SCPL Incident Report by Branch - FY 19/20															
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change
Aptos	7	21	200%	27	18	-33%	21	8	-62%	26	8	-69%	81	55	-32%
Boulder Creek	8	3	-63%	7	13	86%	1	7	600%	2	0	-100%	18	23	28%
Branciforte	14	15	7%	19	18	-5%	26	27	4%	22	0	-100%	81	60	-26%
Capitola	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Downtown	142	68	-52%	204	74	-64%	109	57	-48%	145	29	-80%	600	228	-62%
Felton	N/A	0		N/A	Closed			1		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Garfield Park	3	7	133%	7	2	-71%	8	8	0%	7	6	-14%	25	23	-8%
La Selva Beach	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Live Oak	26	21	-19%	16	13	-19%	12	9	-25%	17	6	-65%	71	49	-31%
Scotts Valley	2	2	0%	1	2	100%	7	2	-71%	2	1	-50%	12	7	-42%
TOTAL	202	137	-32%	281	140	-50%	184	119	-35%	221	50	-77%	888	446	-50%

*Though consistent with previous quarter, the decrease is attributed to the change in how we track these after hours trespasses. They are currently being tracked by incident and not as individuals. For example, if 4 people are ejected at the same time this is counted as 1 incident not 4 incidents.

Code of Conduct: 1. Interferes with a Comfortable & Welcoming Environment															
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change
Aptos	N/A	2		N/A	3		N/A	1		N/A	1		N/A	7	N/A
Boulder Creek	N/A	1		N/A	3		N/A	2		N/A	0		N/A	6	N/A
Branciforte	N/A	6		N/A	1		N/A	3		N/A	0		N/A	10	N/A
Capitola	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	N/A
Downtown	N/A	15		N/A	15		N/A	7		N/A	2		N/A	39	N/A
Felton	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Garfield Park	N/A	1		N/A	0		N/A	0		N/A	0		N/A	1	N/A
La Selva Beach	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Live Oak	N/A	4		N/A	1		N/A	1		N/A	0		N/A	6	N/A
Scotts Valley	N/A	0		N/A	0		N/A	2		N/A	0		N/A	2	N/A
TOTAL	NA	29		0	23		0	16		0	3		N/A	71	N/A

	Code of Conduct: 4. Conduct that Does Not Maintain a Healthy and Clean Environment														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change
Aptos	N/A	1		N/A	4		N/A	1		N/A	1		N/A	7	N/A
Boulder Creek	N/A	0		N/A	5		N/A	3		N/A	0		N/A	8	N/A
Branciforte	N/A	2		N/A	0		N/A	4		N/A	0		N/A	6	N/A
Capitola	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	N/A
Downtown	N/A	3		N/A	12		N/A	1		N/A	2		N/A	18	N/A
Felton	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	N/A
Garfield Park	N/A	4		N/A	0		N/A	7		N/A	1		N/A	12	N/A
La Selva Beach	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	N/A
Live Oak	N/A	2		N/A	1		N/A	0		N/A	0		N/A	3	N/A
Scotts Valley	N/A	0		N/A	1		N/A	1		N/A	0		N/A	2	N/A
TOTAL	NA	12		0	23		0	17		0	4		N/A	56	N/A

Suspensions by Branch															
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change
Aptos	2	2	0%	1	2	100%	1	0		7	0		11	4	-64%
Boulder Creek	6	0	-100%	1	1	0%	1	1		0	0		8	2	-75%
Branciforte	3	5	67%	3	0	-100%	2	4		2	0		10	9	-10%
Capitola	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Downtown	34	17	-50%	30	27	-10%	29	13		34	0		127	57	-55%
Felton	N/A	0		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Garfield Park	1	1	0%	2	0	-100%	0	0		0	0		3	1	-67%
La Selva Beach	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	
Live Oak	1	1	0%	2	1	-50%	0	1		1	0		4	3	-25%
Scotts Valley	0	0	0%	1	0	-100%	2	0		0	0		3	0	-100%
TOTAL	47	26	-45%	40	31	-23%	35	19		44	0		166	76	-54%

	Code of Conduct: 2. Interferes with Making Information Resources & Materials Accessible for All														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change
Aptos	N/A	0		N/A	2		N/A	0		N/A	2		N/A	4	N/A
Boulder Creek	N/A	2		N/A	4		N/A	3		N/A	0		N/A	9	N/A
Branchfort	N/A	4		N/A	3		N/A	6		N/A	0		N/A	13	N/A
Capitola	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	N/A
Downtown	N/A	11		N/A	25		N/A	18		N/A	7		N/A	61	N/A
Felton	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	N/A
Garfield Park	N/A	2		N/A	1		N/A	0		N/A	0		N/A	3	N/A
La Selva Beach	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	N/A
Live Oak	N/A	2		N/A	7		N/A	1		N/A	0		N/A	10	N/A
Scotts Valley	N/A	2		N/A	0		N/A	1		N/A	0		N/A	3	N/A
TOTAL	NA	23		0	42		0	29		0	9		N/A	103	N/A
	Code of Conduct: 3. Conduct that Does Not Ensure a Safe & Secure Environment														
	QTR 1			QTR 2			QTR 3			QTR 4			YTD Totals		
	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change	FY 18/19	FY 19/20	% Change
Aptos	N/A	20		N/A	16		N/A	7		N/A	5		N/A	48	N/A
Boulder Creek	N/A	2		N/A	7		N/A	7		N/A	0		N/A	16	N/A
Branchfort	N/A	15		N/A	14		N/A	25		N/A	12		N/A	66	N/A
Capitola	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	N/A
Downtown	N/A	64		N/A	62		N/A	42		N/A	28		N/A	196	N/A
Felton	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	N/A
Garfield Park	N/A	5		N/A	2		N/A	1		N/A	5		N/A	13	N/A
La Selva Beach	N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed		N/A	Closed	N/A
Live Oak	N/A	19		N/A	11		N/A	7		N/A	5		N/A	42	N/A
Scotts Valley	N/A	1		N/A	1		N/A	1		N/A	1		N/A	4	N/A
TOTAL	NA	126		0	113		0	90		0	56		N/A	385	N/A

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 6, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: 4th Quarter Workplan FY 2019/2020

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File Workplan for 4th Qtr. FY 2019-2020

DISCUSSION

Attached, please find the fourth quarter workplan. The fourth quarter plan runs from April through the end of June and the report attempts to capture the Library's work and programs/services that provided or supported a high impact in the community across five areas: 1. Learning 2. Digital Inclusion 3. Transformative Spaces 4. User Experience 5. Organizational Capacity.

Attachment: 4th Qtr. Workplan

Report Prepared by: Eric Howard,
Assistant Director

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

WORKPLAN: QUARTER 4

1. LEARNING	Adult Programming: <i>Creative Aging and Life Skills</i> Youth Programming: <i>Kindergarten Readiness</i> <i>Student Success</i> <i>Safe Afterschool</i> <i>School Partnerships</i> Outreach: <i>Bookmobile</i> <i>Jails</i> <i>Kermit</i> <i>Events</i>	
2. DIGITAL INCLUSION	Tools Resources Innovation	
3. TRANSFORMATIVE SPACES	Aptos Boulder Creek Branciforte Capitola Downtown	Felton Garfield Park La Selva Beach Live Oak Scotts Valley
4. USER EXPERIENCE	Staffing Collections Convenience Security Localization	
5. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY	Administration Friends of the Library Volunteers Staff Training Succession Planning	

1. Learning Accomplishments:

Quarter 4

ADULT

"I love that the library is changing to the times and using technology. I don't think I was really aware of the available resources from the library and the Monterey Bay site. I'll be sharing the info with people I know."

- **Participant in the Library's Virtual Resume Workshop**

"Undoubtedly, Tech Talks is beneficial in all aspects of everyday living than ever before! I petition for Tech Talks to continue and request that Tech Talks is an ongoing learning approach that is available 1x/week. Thank you, library staff for your time making Tech Talks."

- **Participant in the Library's series, Tech Talks**

Virtual Programming

Library virtual programming ranges from book discussion groups to speed sketching to parenting programs on managing the stress of parenting to resume building workshops and much more. The Library held 56 events with a total attendance of 925 (many of the Library's programs are now recorded and actually garner many more viewers than the initial number of participants.)

More Examples of Programming/Services from this Unique Quarter

- Created a "Spring Into Reading" program - 130 adults participated in a month-long reading challenge, reading books and completing activities during the April shelter-in-place
- Used the library Online Calendar to connect our patrons with relevant community events, including County Supervisor Town Halls, City of Santa Cruz Community Forum on changing the culture of policing, SC County Chamber of Commerce webinars, UCSC science lectures, and Downtown Streets Team series about the impact of COVID-19 on people experiencing homelessness
- Researched best practices for book discussions in online environments and created tip sheet to be used by library book groups. Held 15 book discussions. Total attendance 112
- Held 3 monthly Conversations for Change virtual programs for community members to discuss timely topics in a respectful manner. Conversation topics were: Life in the Time of Coronavirus, Inequitable Impact of the Virus, and Police-Community Relations. This program is a volunteer-led partnership with Project Connect. Total attendance 55

- Held 8 Tech Talks - digital learning workshops on topics including mobile device security, iPad productivity, and a series on using Zoom. Total attendance 54
- Developed and began the monthly “Community Resilience Project” discussion panel series. Critical service providers came together for a discussion on how, we as a community, can build community resilience during the current crisis. The first in this monthly series focused on “Housing Is Healthcare” and asked us to consider how we can come out of this crisis stronger than before. People from all walks of life were invited to come with questions and ideas to help us build a more resilient community. Panelists included representatives from SC County Human Services, Community Action Board, Homeless Persons Health Project, and Housing Matters. According to the post-program outcomes survey, as a result of this program: 92% of attendees were more aware of issues in their community, 75% intend to become more engaged in their community, and 100% were more aware of resources & services provided by the library. Attendance 84
- Held Triangle Speakers LGBTQ+ Panel in partnership with The Diversity Center of Santa Cruz County. Triangle Speakers work to eliminate fear, prejudice, and hatred towards LGBTQ+ people so that a healthy environment exists where all members of our community can thrive and live full and healthy lives. Panelists tell their life stories, discuss what it means to be part of this community, and answer audience questions. Attendance 13
- Shelter In Faith 4-part series featuring faith leaders from many traditions in panel discussions about finding wisdom and hope while our community shelters in place. Panels discussed: Crisis & Recovery, Grief & Loss, Separation & Connection, and Meaning & Productivity. Total attendance 265
- Downtown Life Literacy Center partners, Wings Homeless Advocates, began holding office hours at the corner of Center and Locust streets, outside of the Downtown Library on Thursday, June 25th. This service is provided every Thursday, 10:30am -12:00pm. Wings is a volunteer organization that provides free birth certificates and notary services for people experiencing homelessness.

Virtual Programming

- Youth programming began supporting virtual storytimes at the beginning of May. They have continued to add storytimes and craft programming.
- Added toddler time in Spanish to the Library's virtual offerings.
- Presented Celebración del Día del Niño on April 27th through Facebook Live, featuring the Latin Grammy-winning duo 123 Andrés.

Summer Reading Goes Virtual

- Summer Reading Programming went entirely virtual this year. Staff renegotiated contracts with performers, and distributed newly incentivized prizes in an entirely new way. (As of July 15th, 877 kids and teens had signed up and 220 adults signed up as well. 262 books have been distributed to kids and teens.)

Outreach to Schools

- The Library continues to support schools by working with them to increase access to digital library cards for students
- Delivered over 100 DIY craft kits to Branciforte Elementary students. (Originally intended for an in branch program, but closure prevented it.)
- Created over 300 Library cards for Gault Elementary
- Connected with over 600 families during the summer school lunch program to distribute books and STEAM kits.
- Added services to the Information Concierge Service for Teachers:
<https://www.santacruzpl.org/kids/teachers-parents/>
- Developed new partnerships with schools to increase curated ebook collections.
- The Advisory Council of Teens (ACT) contributed to a redesign of the Library's Teen page: <https://www.santacruzpl.org/teens/>

Quarter 4

OUTREACH

County Corrections Facilities (CCF): People & Stories Distance Learning

- SCPL continued to provide People & Stories sessions to participants housed at the county jails via "Distance Learning" packets. Each participant received a packet, which consisted of an introduction to People & Stories, a short story, writing/drawing/poem prompts, author bio, supplemental materials, and ended with a poem. Total attendance 149.

County Corrections Facilities (CCF) Book Deliveries

- Provided approximately 30 books to meet individual requests (placed via TelMate, an online messaging system) every other week at the Main Jail
- Provided deposit collections (approximated 75 books for each facility) every other week to Rountree, Rehabilitation & Re-Entry Facility, and Blaine Street

Career Online High School

- One scholarship awarded

Collaborated with FSCPL to provide donated books to emergency shelters

- Sent 300+ donated books to emergency shelters with suggested guidelines on safe and healthy distribution and handouts about online and telephone library resources available during Shelter In Place order.

Endless Computers provided to clients at emergency shelters

- SCPL lent 7 [Endless Computers](#) and 2 iPads to SC County for people in the emergency hotel shelters on April 17. The computers do not come with a monitor, a keyboard, or a mouse (keyboards and mice were provided by SCPL) and guests used the T.V. monitors in the hotel rooms in lieu of a computer monitor.

Santa Cruz County Human Services set up the Isolation/Quarantine shelter for persons experiencing homelessness. There was/is concern about the effects of social isolation for these older adults who are being asked to shelter in place in a motel setting, and who often don't have access to technology that would allow them Internet access or video contact with friends, family or service providers (including health care providers). Shelter staff assists the shelter guest with using the device to remain connected to websites, including face-time with family or service providers. The shelter site has WiFi access for each of the rooms. More computers for distribution are the process of being delivered.

2. Digital Inclusion Accomplishments:

Quarter 4

Digital Inclusion Becomes Vital During the Health Crisis

- The Library recognizes that the needs of the community have changed dramatically since the health crisis began in March. SCPL is responding by improving WiFi access and supporting our patrons over the phone and through programming to help bridge the digital divide. In order to assist with both of those services the Library has produced videos to teach patrons how to better access e-resources at the Library.

3. Transformative Spaces Accomplishments:

Quarter 4

The Library made minor changes to its doors and interior spaces to five locations and Headquarters in order to accommodate curbside and health protocols for the pandemic.

The Aptos Design Committee met regularly to discuss proposals culminating in a recommendation for Bogard Construction/Anderson Brule Architects.

Santa Cruz City Council voted to support the conceptual design for the Downtown Library to be relocated to a multiuse site with housing.

Completed a schematic design for Live Oak Library Annex.

Completed construction documents for Garfield Park and Branciforte.

The Scotts Valley branch also made improvements to its teen area (by reupholstering its booths) and signed contracts for more structural changes in the near future.

4. User Experience Accomplishments:

Quarter 4

Customer Service

- Opened two additional sites for curbside service (Live Oak and Felton), bringing the total locations to five locations.
- Refined LibAnswers' functionality so that school-related questions can be directed to the K12 Email group.
- Prevented items from becoming overdue during this unique period and until book returns become fully open.

Increased Access

- Introduced a Lucky Day collection for ebooks on OverDrive
- Opened Lucky Day books to patron requests.
- Removed waiting list on OverDrive for Black Lives Matter Community Read Titles.
- Partnered with Santa Cruz City Schools to introduce Sora, a reading app that provides access to SCPL's OverDrive collection to students.

5. Organizational Capacity:

Quarter 4

The Library invested resources into training staff to support Zoom meetings and virtual services.

Initiated Equity Team.

Initiated the move of all production servers into the cloud.

Moved offsite backups to Headquarters.

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 6, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: Library Sales Tax Revenue Update

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept and File Library Sales Tax Revenue Update for 4th Qtr. 2019-20

DISCUSSION

The Library Sales Tax Revenue Update covers the period from April 1 through June 30, 2020.

Attachment: Library Sales Tax Revenue 4th Qtr. Update

Report Prepared by: Nicole Coburn,
 Assistant County Administrative Officer

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073
831) 454-2100 • FAX: (831) 454-3420 • TDD/TTY: CALL 711
CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

July 23, 2020

TO: Each Member of the Board of Directors of the Library Financing Authority

2019-20 4th QUARTER LIBRARY SALES TAX REVENUE UPDATE

Dear Members of the Board of Directors:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update on the Library Sales Tax final actual receipts for the 4th quarter of 2019-20.

Actual receipts for the 4th quarter totaled \$1,932,316, which is \$314,921 (3.1%) more than the 4th quarter estimate provided to the Authority in June. Despite the improvement, the Authority received \$553,230 (22.3%) less than the adopted budget for the 4th quarter. The reduction in sales tax revenue is directly related to the economic downturn resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019-20, the Authority received a total of \$10,403,578 in sales tax revenue, or \$263,587 (2.5%) less than the adopted budget. This is a \$542,952 (5.0%) decrease from 2018-19 actual receipts as shown in the attached history. A decline from the prior year was anticipated as a result of delayed payments from the State that were received in 2018-19. However, the decline is nearly double what was anticipated due to the significant financial impacts of the pandemic.

In October, this office will provide an update on the 1st quarter sales tax receipts for 2020-21. If you have any questions, please call me at 454-2100.

Sincerely,

Nicole Coburn
Assistant County Administrative Officer

Attachment

cc: Library Director, Santa Cruz City/County Library System
Library Director, Watsonville Library
County Administrative Officer
City Managers
Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector
Finance Director, City of Santa Cruz
Finance Director, City of Watsonville

SERVING THE COMMUNITY – WORKING FOR THE FUTURE

Library Sales Tax Receipts - Quarterly and Annual

Year	Quarter	Quarterly Actual	Estimate *	Annual		
				Actual / Estimate *	Change over Prior Year	% Change over Prior Year
2009-10	1	1,783,988				
2009-10	2	1,764,882				
2009-10	3	1,747,693				
2009-10	4	1,650,856		\$6,947,419	(\$656,239)	-8.63%
2010-11	1	1,845,994				
2010-11	2	1,944,408				
2010-11	3	1,784,248				
2010-11	4	1,738,035		\$7,312,685	\$365,266	5.26%
2011-12	1	1,977,610				
2011-12	2	2,017,194				
2011-12	3	1,926,748				
2011-12	4	1,878,232		\$7,799,784	\$487,098	6.66%
2012-13	1	2,067,292				
2012-13	2	2,213,276				
2012-13	3	2,073,641				
2012-13	4	2,010,230		\$8,364,440	\$564,656	7.24%
2013-14	1	2,308,067				
2013-14	2	2,271,714				
2013-14	3	2,211,364				
2013-14	4	2,082,934		\$8,874,079	\$509,639	6.09%
2014-15	1	2,321,923				
2014-15	2	2,338,481				
2014-15	3	2,295,975				
2014-15	4	2,183,913		\$9,140,291	\$266,212	3.00%
2015-16	1	2,458,685				
2015-16	2	2,516,897				
2015-16	3	2,378,260				
2015-16	4	2,244,832		\$9,598,675	\$458,384	5.01%
2016-17	1	2,503,646				
2016-17	2	2,571,786				
2016-17	3	2,487,745				
2016-17	4	2,334,143		\$9,897,319	\$298,645	3.11%
2017-18	1	2,650,310				
2017-18	2	2,701,663				
2017-18	3	2,548,173				
2017-18	4	2,445,825		\$10,345,970	\$448,651	4.53%
2018-19	1	2,621,108				
2018-19	2	3,060,073				
2018-19	3	2,755,632				
2018-19	4	2,509,718		\$10,946,530	\$600,560	5.80%
2019-20	1	2,763,878				
2019-20	2	2,808,769				
2019-20	3	2,898,615				
2019-20	4	1,932,316		\$10,403,578	(\$542,952)	-4.96%
2019-20 Total Receipts Net of Fees/Costs				\$10,391,350		

History for additional years going back to Fiscal Year 1997-98 is available upon request.

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 6, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: Budget Adjustment for FY 19/20 Moving Capital Outlay Monies Out of Operating Budget and Into Capital Fund

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve and amend the FY 2019-2020 operating budget to transfer monies from operating budget to capital outlay fund totaling \$70,000.

DISCUSSION

The FY 2019-2020 operating budget included monies for capital outlay expenditures totaling \$150K and a \$50K transfer from the Friends of the Santa Cruz Libraries for the new Felton Branch Library.

At the end of the FY 19/20 fiscal year the library is expecting a remaining balance of \$25K in the capital outlay line and \$45K in the Felton Branch monies that were transferred.

The Library continues to finish up the final touches of the Felton Library Branch and would like to set these funds aside in order to make purchases in FY 20/21.

The Library also foresees additional expenses when finishing up the other facility projects this year such as the La Selva Beach and Capitola Branch Libraries.

To that end, we are recommending the Board approve the transfer for these funds totaling \$70K, to be transferred out of the FY 19/20 operating budget and moved to the Library's Capital Outlay Fund for use in FY 20/21.

Report Prepared by: Kira Henifin,
Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 6, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: Approve Additional Monies for Added Scope of Work for LSB Building Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve a \$100,000 Friends of the Libraries grant made payable to Santa Cruz County for the La Selva Beach Branch Library building project.

DISCUSSION

The Library is requesting \$100,000 for the La Selva Beach Branch Library Nanawall project.

The Nanawall project includes providing roof shoring as needed for the renovation of the existing building. There is a main roof beam that is being removed and replaced with a steel beam. All roof framing being supported by the beam will need to be removed and shored.

Payment will be made to the County who is managing the La Selva Beach Branch Library construction project.

Report Prepared by: Kira Henifin,
Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 6, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: Approve Additional Monies for Boulder Creek Library Branch Building Project

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- 1.) Approve grant funds from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation in the amount of \$300,000.
- 2.) Approve \$100,000 of the above grant funds for the Boulder Creek Library Branch building project.
- 3.) Approve additional funds from the Friends of the Santa Cruz Libraries in the amount of \$75,000 to be used for the Boulder Creek Branch Library building project.

DISCUSSION

The Santa Cruz Public Libraries was awarded a matching grant in the amount of \$300,000 from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation. The grant was awarded to help with building project costs for the Boulder Creek, Garfield Park and La Selva Beach Library Branches.

The Library is requesting \$100,000 of the grant be allocated for the Boulder Creek Branch Library building project to help with the costs associated with remodeling the children's room.

In addition, the Friends of the Santa Cruz Libraries has approved \$75K to be allocated for the same purpose.

These two sources of funding for the Boulder Creek building project will be paid directly to the County.

Report Prepared by: Kira Henifin,
Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Tina Friend
Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 6, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
RE: Annual Financial Audit for FY 2018-2019

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Review and accept prepared Annual Financial Audit for FY 18/19

DISCUSSION

Please review attached Annual Financial Audit report from Eide Bailly, CPAs and Business Advisors, for the fiscal year 2018-2019 ending on June 30, 2019.

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director



March 31, 2020

To the Board of Directors
Santa Cruz Libraries Joint Powers Authority
Santa Cruz, California

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and the general fund of Santa Cruz Libraries Joint Powers Authority (Authority) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019, and have issued our report thereon dated March 31, 2020. Professional standards require that we advise you of the following matters relating to our audit.

Our Responsibility in Relation to the Financial Statement Audit

As communicated in our letter dated June 26, 2019, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to form and express an opinion about whether the financial statements that have been prepared by management with your oversight are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of its respective responsibilities.

Our responsibility, as prescribed by professional standards, is to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit of financial statements includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, as part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the Authority solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control.

We are also responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures for the purpose of identifying other matters to communicate to you.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

We conducted our audit consistent with the planned scope and timing we previously communicated to you.

Compliance with All Ethics Requirements Regarding Independence

The engagement team, others in our firm, as appropriate, our firm, and other firms utilized in the engagement, if applicable, have complied with all relevant ethical requirements regarding independence.

Qualitative Aspects of the Entity's Significant Accounting Practices*Significant Accounting Policies*

Management has the responsibility to select and use appropriate accounting policies. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the Authority is included in Note 1 to the financial statements. There have been no initial selection of accounting policies and no changes in significant accounting policies or their application during the year. No matters have come to our attention that would require us, under professional standards, to inform you about (1) the methods used to account for significant unusual transactions and (2) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus.

Significant Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's current judgments. Those judgments are normally based on knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments.

Financial Statement Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures involve significant judgment and are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Significant Difficulties Encountered during the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management relating to the performance of the audit.

Uncorrected and Corrected Misstatements

For purposes of this communication, professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that we believe are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Further, professional standards require us to also communicate the effect of uncorrected misstatements related to prior periods on the relevant classes of transactions, account balances or disclosures, and the financial statements as a whole. We are pleased to report that no misstatements were identified from our audit procedures.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, concerning a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, which could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. No such disagreements arose during the course of the audit.

Representations Requested from Management

We have requested certain written representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated March 31, 2020.

Management's Consultations with Other Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. Management informed us that, and to our knowledge, there were no consultations with other accountants regarding auditing and accounting matters.

Other Significant Matters, Findings, or Issues

In the normal course of our professional association with the Authority, we generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, business conditions affecting the entity, and business plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement. None of the matters discussed resulted in a condition to our retention as the Authority auditors.

This information is intended solely for the information and use of the board of commissioners and management of the Authority and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eide Sallie LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Palo Alto, California

Please click on the link to access the Library Audit Report:

https://www.santacruzpl.org/files/library_boards/documents/LJPA/LJPA_2020-08-062020.08.06_FY_2019_Library_Audit_Report_-_Final.pdf

Chair Jamie Goldstein
Vice Chair Martin Bernal
Board Member Carlos Palacios
Board Member Tina Friend



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 6, 2020
TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
FROM: Susan M. Nemitz, Library Director
RE: FY 2021 SCPL Budget Update

RECOMMENDATION

Review and discuss.

BACKGROUND

The LJPB adopted the FY 20/21 Budget back in June with unanimous approval. The LJPB voted to have updates brought to the Board monthly during this uncertain and unprecedented time.

DISCUSSION

Revenue

The sales tax projections for FY 2020-21 remain unchanged. There is still so much uncertainty that the recommendation is to wait and see the first quarter sales tax results before making future predictions.

Personnel

As part of the adopted FY 20/21 budget the Library made the following cuts to its personnel budget.

Temporary workers were eliminated which consisted of all on-call substitutes and Library Aide staff. The savings from this cutback was estimated at \$776K. The Library also instituted a 10% furlough for all regular staff resulting in a savings of \$700K. In addition, the Library froze all hiring on vacant positions totaling an estimated \$500K.

In the FY 20/21 projections the Library had considered a retirement incentive and the Library did receive 9 interested applicants. After consultation with the Chair of the LJPB, the Library was unable to grant the retirement incentives since it would bring staffing levels to dangerously low levels in order to continue to provide services system-wide. The savings estimated through retirement savings was \$300K. The Library plans to make up for these savings through continued hiring freezes if more positions become vacant throughout the year.

The total estimated personnel savings adopted as part of the FY 20/21 budget were \$2,276,000.

Non-Personnel

As part of the adopted FY 20/21 operating budget the Library also cut \$150K in non-personnel expenditures.

The Library is poised to make further cuts in the non-personnel budget if revenues from sales tax continue to fall during this fiscal year. Cuts that the Library has identified as able to be made are in training, travel and professional services.

Reserves

The Library estimated ending FY 19/20 having used \$633K in reserves. In comparison, FY 19/20 ended with the Library using only \$431K.

The Library is also reporting ending FY 19/20 with it's 20% reserve at \$2.96M and its unrestricted fund balance at 1.36M.

Report Prepared by: Kira Henifin, Principal Management Analyst

Reviewed and Forwarded by: Susan Nemitz, Library Director

Chair Jamie Goldstein
 Vice Chair Martin Bernal
 Board Member Tina Friend
 Board Member Carlos Palacios



STAFF REPORT

DATE: August 6, 2020
 TO: Library Joint Powers Authority Board
 FROM: Susan Nemitz, Library Director
 RE: Library Operational Recommendations under Covid-19

RECOMMENDATION

Review Library Operational Recommendations under Covid-19

DISCUSSION

In late June, the Library surveyed library staff about their critical service priorities and reopening concerns. Having achieved access to print materials through curbside pickup and provided learning opportunities through expanded virtual programming, staff identified patron access to computers, the internet and printing services as the greatest need. Thousands of community members regularly bridge the digital divide at the Library because the Library provides free Wi-fi, computer access and technology.

2019/20 Public PC's Hours of Use

Branch	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Total
Aptos	1535	1472	1347	1441	1266	1388	1510	1246	611	0	0	0	11816
Boulder Creek	253	343	284	289	300	237	323	213	0	0	0	0	2242
Branciforte	435	479	474	513	447	406	494	433	207	0	0	0	3888
Capitola	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Downtown	6188	6246	5933	5805	5462	5687	5447	5071	2539	0	0	0	48378
Felton	106	127	108	108	0	0	0	69	126	0	0	0	644

Garfield	413	398	442	327	303	270	318	295	143	0	0	0	2909
La Selva Beach	58	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	121
Live Oak	1342	1446	1395	1198	1124	1167	1279	1127	531	0	0	0	10609
Scotts Valley	767	818	698	776	581	619	730	620	276	0	0	0	5885
SYSTEM	11097	11392	10681	10457	9483	9774	10101	9074	4433	0	0	0	86492

2019/20 Public WiFi Hours of Use

Hours of Public Wifi Use	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Aptos	5994	4435	4692	986
Boulder Creek	1816	1661	1062	0
Branciforte	2154	2087	2500	795
Capitola	0	0	0	0
Downtown	9823	7838	8102	1871
Felton	1233	586	1294	892
Garfield	1442	1300	1299	515
Live Oak	3691	3058	3385	1022
La Selva Beach	774	0	0	0
Scotts Valley	5576	4692	4452	1039
System	33511	26535	27658	7358

2019/20 Public Printing Usage by Pages Printed

JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR
16,126	13,240	22,087	12,133	11,107	22,847	17,033	18,2660	7,473

As a result, the Library began to plan for staged opening of library facilities at a few branches. Nationally, libraries that have begun reopening have focused on appointments for computer use and allowing a small number of patrons into branches to browse and check out materials. These facilities often have limited to no seating, no bathroom access and time limits. I don't believe that any Bay area libraries have yet accomplished this.

On July 13, 2020, the Governor once again ordered closures for indoor activities. As a result, the Library will delay its plans to open on a limited basis in order to align with the new direction. SCPL is exploring the following measures:

1. Expand access to the internet
 - Boost WiFi signals to reach 600 feet from designated buildings (5)
 - Create WiFi schedule for bookmobile

- Develop WiFi hotspot marketing campaign
 - Partner with other organizations like Cruzio, School Districts
2. Expand access to computer hardware
 - Purchase and check out 200 Chromebooks (3 week checkout period)
 - Purchase and check out 15 Fire Tablets
 - Provide 100 Endless OS computers (donation) to homeless shelters/underserved communities using our partners
 - Create outdoor, socially distanced spaces at designated branches with Windows laptops
 3. Expand access to printing
 - Implement free On-the-Go Wireless Printing
 - Provide curbside pickup at 5 locations
 4. Expand access to technology support
 - Staff and train Telephone Information
 - Provide virtual training for patrons
 - Expand K-12 Digital Concierge program to student/parents

In the current fiscal year, the Library has lost 62 temporary workers, about 10 currently vacant positions and staff has reduced their pay and work availability by 10%. In total, available work hours in the systems have been reduced by 36%.

The Library has responded by limiting service to 5 locations (Aptos, Downtown, Felton, Live Oak, Scotts Valley) and limiting the hours of curbside pickup. The five locations were chosen because they have a program room that can be used to quarantine returned books, they have traffic patterns/parking that allows a drive-up service/after hour WiFi use and are geographically spread. The Boulder Creek, Capitola and La Selva Beach branches are currently closed for construction. The Garfield and Branciforte branches would ordinarily close for construction by the end of 2020 and do not offer the features for curbside services. Capitola and La Selva Beach will open in early 2021 and services will need to be restored. Larger reductions to the system's budget will require a greater contraction in services.

The Library is also in the process of retraining all staff to work in branches. Librarians were assigned curbside shifts in early July. Administrative staff will be trained as well. All staff have been told their job duties, work sites and work shifts may change over the coming year.

SCPL leadership is undergoing a review and evaluation of our virtual learning programs to prioritize important and high demand activities. We will continue to work with partners to help us serve special populations.

SCPL continue to work with the Employee Union to determine how the Library can safely and respectfully incorporate volunteers' support in this environment.

