

SANTA CRUZ • PUBLIC
LIBRARIES
A City County System

LIBRARY JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY BOARD

Monday, February 2, 2009
Community Meeting Room
224 Church Street, Santa Cruz

NOTE: 7:15 PM LIBRARY FINANCING AUTHORITY MEETING

7:30 PM PUBLIC MEETING

1. ROLL CALL
2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER
3. APPROVE AGENDA
4. APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2009
5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
6. CONSENT AGENDA
 - None
7. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. "Libraries more important than ever, new research shows."
<http://www.txla.org/html/pr/survey.html>.
 - B. "Folks Are Flocking to the Library, a Cozy Place to Look for a Job."
The Wall Street Journal, January 15, 2009.
8. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES
 - A. Friends of the Santa Cruz Libraries, Inc.
9. MEMBER REPORTS
 - A. Felton Library Task Force (Gerdt)
 - B. Scotts Valley Report (Reed)

Library Headquarters and System Services
117 Union Street • Santa Cruz, California 95060 • (831) 420-5600

10. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Director's Monthly Report (oral)

11. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Election of Officers (Chair and Vice Chair)
- B. Budget Process for FY 2009-2010 (oral)
- C. Updates on Library Budget Issues and Services (oral)
- D. Changes to Meeting Dates in 2009 (oral)
 - The Board might wish to consider rescheduling:
 - *Monday, July 6th Meeting
 - *Monday, September 7th Meeting

12. NEXT MEETING TOPICS

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, March 2, 2009. The Board will consider its legislative program for the year and review second quarter final sales tax revenues if available.

12. ADJOURN

The Library Joint Powers Authority Board will adjourn from the regularly scheduled meeting of February 2, 2008 to the next regularly scheduled public meeting on March 2, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Community Meeting Room of the Central Branch Library.

The Santa Cruz City-County Library System does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Out of consideration for people with chemical sensitivities, the Library requests that you attend fragrance free. The Central Branch Library is a fully accessible facility. If you wish to attend this public meeting, and you will require special assistance such as sign language or other special devices in order to attend and participate, please call (831) 420-5600 seventy-two (72) hours prior to the event to make arrangements for assistance. Upon request, agendas for public meetings can be provided in a format to accommodate special needs.

SANTA CRUZ PUBLIC LIBRARIES
A CITY-COUNTY SYSTEM

LIBRARY JOINT POWERS BOARD

MINUTES

January 26, 2009

Central Branch Community Meeting Room
224 Church Street, Santa Cruz

7:30 PM PUBLIC MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Supervisor Ellen Pirie, Citizen Nancy Gerdt, Citizen Barbara Gorson, Councilmember Katherine Beiers, Councilmember Jim Reed, Citizen Leigh Pottinger, Councilmember Mike Rotkin, Supervisor Mark Stone, Councilmember Sam Storey

Staff: Susan Elgin, Acting Director for Santa Cruz Public Libraries

II. INTRODUCE NEW MEMBERS

The board is please to introduce a new member Councilmember Katherine Beiers, representative from the City of Santa Cruz.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA OF JANUARY 26, 2009

Councilmember Reed moved, seconded by Supervisor Pirie

that the Board approve the agenda of January 26, 2009 will the following adjustments: move item 10 A up on the agenda to item #7.

UNAN

IV. APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2009

Councilmember Rotkin moved, seconded by Supervisor Pirie

that the Board approve the minutes of January 12, 2009 with the correction of adding a comma to \$624,960 figure on Amendment #3 page 4.

UNAN

V. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

None

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. FY 2008-09 Budget Revisions to Meet Deficit

Susan Elgin, acting Library Director, reported that the Library Leadership Committee comprised of SEIU members, Supervisors, and Mid-Managers, meet concerning the implementation of the furlough. A recommendation that the Leadership Committee decided on was to have part time employees be exempt from the furlough since the savings is so small in comparison to the targeted savings and because the cost to the part time employees would be financially burdensome. The various bargaining units may come back with changes or deferrals in their agreements. The discussions are preliminary but the hope has been that the concessions that the unions may make to address the library's budget gap will be used to off set the furlough already imposed on library employees.

Sonia Laracunte, Internal Organizer for SEIU 521, reported that the union is still in the "meet and confer" process. The union has also been looking at possible cost savings for the library. The union would like the board to consider borrowing money from the City of Santa Cruz to pay for the completion of the Aptos Parking Lot expansion and use the savings of approximately \$235,000 to defer the library employee furlough.

Supervisor Stone commented that he would hate for the Board to send library workers out on furlough and then have the City come to an agreement with the union where a furlough is not necessary.

Leslie Auerbach, SEIU Steward, reported that the City has asked SEIU to have a draft proposal before City Council's Special Session on February 3, 2009. SEIU is meeting with the City on Friday January 30th and Monday February 2nd to come to some agreement.

Councilmember Rotkin commented that the library budget is in default now and we need to find some way of achieving savings to fill the gap. He also added that the City has no reserves to pick up costs for the completion of the Aptos Parking Lot project.

Heidi Jaeger-Smith, Development Librarian and Project Manager for the Aptos Parking Lot, reported that the library entered into an agreement with the county regarding the Aptos Parking Lot Project. The County has a pay as you go system for their own budgeting process and they needed to be paid at every phase of the development. Money has already been paid to them out of the entire project fund which is approximately \$300,000. Some of what is going towards funding the Aptos Parking Lot Project is coming from endowment money because the library did not have enough in reserves to complete the project. Funds have been committed, locked down and are gone. There is not an opportunity now to go back and re-negotiate with the County.

Leslie Auerbach, SEIU Steward, first wanted to state that the "meet and confer" process begun only as of last week, which is too late for the union to work more efficiently with the

City in the decision making process. The sessions have begun to clear up some questions particularly with regards to the library. The Library has been extremely forth coming with information and has done so in a cooperative manner. The union has had difficulties with extracting relevant information from the city. Principle questions still remain between SEIU and the City. In particular whether contractual concessions of improvements that are due in the next fiscal year (ie: COLA due in October 2009), would offset part or all of the furlough in the library. In the City as a whole SEIU has been told that although the City is not ripe with cash there is a fund balance that can be used so that if workers did agree to concessions that covered the short fall right now the workers of SEIU in the City would be relieved of a burden of furlough. The union understands that the library does not have a similar fund balance. The union again suggests that the City be asked to loan, at no interest, the library monies to complete the Aptos Parking Lot Project for the remaining costs which are estimated at approximately \$235,000. The City has told the union that it is of prime importance to them that the concessions include the salary improvements that would hit in October 2009. It is important not only for the money in the immediate sense, but for public perception for the City's ability to pass a revenue enhancement measure in the future.

Heidi Jaeger-Smith, Operating Engineers 3 Supervisor Division, commented that the union has also meet with Susan Elgin and representatives from HR. The Supervisor's union is a much smaller group but has chosen to defer their 3% COLA's for the year until the end of June. The union does understand that there may be an extension of their current contract. There is a consensus in the supervisor's union that four hour furlough for full time employees and the deferred COLA will help to get the library through the next 21 weeks. The hope is that this will ensure no one losses their job and that the public does not have to take a larger hit in the library services.

Richard Eberle, library staff member, commented on the Board's earlier decision to furlough. When the Board decided to close on Friday's it was not just based on the furlough. The library has unfunded positions, employees covering unfilled positions, and a cut that has already been made in the substitute budget. The coverage to operate the library branches on Friday's needs to be considered.

Jessie Bunker-Maxwell, library staff member, commented that the plan now only takes into account the 3rd and 4th Quarter. We don't know what will happen in 1st Quarter of this year (July). The thought of ending the furlough early rather than starting the furlough late, may make more sense in the long run. It may be that the furlough is more obviously necessary when we look at the figures in April.

Councilmember Rotkin clarified that any savings for this year will be applied to offsetting this year's furloughed hours and the same would go for next year.

Supervisor Stone moved, seconded by Councilmember Rotkin

that by motion the Board consider any money that is saved through deferrals or other actions taken by the various unions on behalf of the library members will be returned to that unit in the future either by (and there are a range of possibilities): reducing the length of the existing furlough, not extending future furlough if one becomes necessary as long, reducing potential future lay off's in that unit. One way or another insuring that whatever money saved through their action doesn't go to some other part of the library budget but goes back to the personnel costs of those units.

Intent is that by this action and knowing that the City is going to be taking action in negotiations with unions that we are not doing anything to disadvantage library employees. If the concessions that are made benefit our budget, than our staff ask to meet with the union to recover from that.

UNAN

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

A. FURLOUGH OF PART TIME EMPLOYEES

Councilmember Rotkin moved, seconded by Councilmember Storey

that by motion the Board adopt staff recommendations to not furlough part time employees working between 21-30 hours per week.

UNAN

IX. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A. Library PG & E Bills for all Library Sites

B. Article on the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA)

C. Preliminary Revenue Estimates for 2009-2010 to the Library Financing Authority from Pat Busch, Assistant County Administrative Officer

Attachment 1- Sales Tax History

Attachment 2- 2008-09 Graph

Attachment 3- Long Term Graph

D. Upcoming CALTAC Workshops

IX. REPORTS OF ADVISORY BODIES

Report at next meeting

X. MEMBER REPORTS

Report at next meeting

XI. STAFF REPORTS (CONTINUED)

A. Acting Director's Monthly Report

Acting Director reporting the following events:

- Boulder Creek has resurrected the Boulder Creek Friends Group and has already held a fundraiser
- Will be adding word processing due to the increase in need and to fill a gap during these economic times

B. One Day Closure System-wide

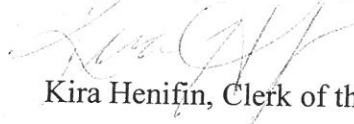
XII. NEXT MEETING

February 2, 2009

XIII. ADJOURN

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kira Henifin, Clerk of the Board



Sheila Fraser, Substitute Clerk of the Board

All documents referred to in these minutes are available in the Library Office.

For more information, contact:
Brenda Thompson, 512-461-5644
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Libraries more important than ever, new research shows

Texas voters support more funding for public, school libraries

Note: Full survey results, including respondent demographics, are available at
<http://www.txla.org/html/pr/survey.html>.

January 15, 2009

AUSTIN—Libraries are very valuable to Texans—even more so in challenging economic times—and more than eight in 10 voters across the state support increasing funding for school and public libraries, according to a new statewide survey released today by the Texas Library Association (TLA).

Conducted by KRC Research on behalf of TLA, the telephone survey of 1,201 registered voters in Texas found that an overwhelming majority believes their public library is very important (79%, with 13% saying fairly important) to their community. Nine in 10 agree that, during economic hard times, public libraries provide important resources to families and job seekers, and 83% believe public libraries support the economy through job skills training, career and job information, and resources for local businesses.

When it comes to school libraries, the vast majority of Texans believe that they are almost as important as classroom education. Nearly all respondents (99% including 84% who strongly agree) believe school libraries are essential to education and are willing to vote in support of them. The vast majority (93%) would support legislation that would require public schools to provide students with a school library and librarian that meets statewide standards. More than nine in 10 (94%) believe that school librarians are critical to student achievement.

“I believe strongly that libraries are vital to the success of our schools and communities,” says Senator Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo). “They not only provide innovative learning tools for children to develop reading and research skills, but also offer the latest technology and educational resources to the communities they serve.”

Strong majorities across every demographic, geographic, and political spectrum support increasing public funding for both public (81%) and school (82%) libraries, according to survey results. Texas voters agree that public libraries are a good value for tax dollars (94% including 70% who strongly agree) and deserve more funding (87%, including 62% who strongly agree).

“With at least seven in 10 voters supporting increased funding for both public and school libraries, it’s clear that Texans not only love libraries—they’re willing to support them with their tax dollars,” says Carol Brey-Casiano, director of libraries, El Paso Public Library.

Texas voters believe nearly unanimously—97% agree (including 78% who strongly agree)—that libraries provide important programs and services for children and young people. Ninety-five percent believe that public libraries improve the quality of life in their communities.

Texans say many library services are very important to the community: 83% say reading programs and organized activities for children and young people is very important, and 80% say free access to diverse and current books and other information is very important.

The vast majority of respondents (93%) would support legislation that would require public schools to provide students with a school library and librarian that meets statewide standards. More than eight in 10 voters across every demographic segment and geographic region support the legislation, including 88% of Republicans, 95% of Democrats, and 96% of Independents.

“Texans clearly see a link between academic success and strong school libraries, with more than eight in 10 voters stating that school libraries make a major contribution to a child’s education. Providing kids with robust and innovative learning tools and resources should be one of the highest priorities in our state,” says Jim Hundemer, manager of Houston ISD Libraries.

Other key findings from the survey:

- Public and school libraries enjoy strong and intense voter support regardless of where respondents live or whether they have school-age children.
- Texas voters say school libraries are as important as classroom education and nearly eight in 10 believe that school libraries make a major contribution to children’s education.
- School libraries are viewed as essential because they provide opportunities for children to develop reading and research skills and voters see a link between academic success and strong libraries.
- Not only are Texas voters supportive of funding increases, but the vast majority are opposed to funding cuts for public and school libraries.

TLA’s first comprehensive statewide survey was made possible through the generous support of the Brown Foundation of Houston and the Tocker Foundation of Austin.

For detailed survey results and more information, go to <http://www.txla.org/html/pr/survey.html>.

About the survey:

Commissioned by the Texas Library Association, KRC Research conducted 1,201 telephone interviews with a random sample of Texas voters from Oct. 17 through Nov. 2 2008. The margin of error for the entire sample is +/- 2.8 percentage points.

About the Texas Library Association:

The Texas Library Association is the largest state library association in the United States with more than 7,000 members who work in public, school, academic and special libraries, plus library vendors and citizens who support libraries. TLA offers a wide range of services, including an annual conference that attracts more than 8,000 librarians and exhibitors, a leadership

development program, continuing education, legislative advocacy, and publications. For more information, see www.txla.org.

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PAGE ONE | JANUARY 15, 2009

Folks Are Flocking to the Library, a Cozy Place to Look for a Job

Books, Computers and Wi-Fi Are Free, But Staffs Are Stressed by Crowds, Cutbacks

By JIM CARLTON

TRACY, Calif. -- The financial crisis has caused a lot of withdrawals at the public library.

A few years ago, public libraries were being written off as goners. The Internet had made them irrelevant, the argument went. But libraries across the country are reporting jumps in attendance of as much as 65% over the past year, as newly unemployed people flock to branches to fill out résumés and scan ads for job listings.

Other recession-weary patrons are turning to libraries for cheap entertainment -- killing time with the free computers, video rentals and, of course, books.

Last Friday, there was a particularly long waiting list of 157 to check out the popular vampire novel "Twilight," by Stephenie Meyer, from a branch of the Stockton-San Joaquin County Library here in Tracy. This central California town has been ravaged by mortgage foreclosures, and area libraries report a surge of traffic. Shamika Miller huddled over a laptop at the Tracy branch. Laid off from her job as a bookkeeper at Home Depot more than a year ago, Ms. Miller, 29 years old, says she has visited the library "if not every day, every other day" since October to check job listings with her computer.

"I come here, first of all, because it's a free Wi-Fi spot," says Ms. Miller, who supports a 10-year-old daughter on her unemployment compensation. And, she says, "there's something about the library that helps you think, at least for me."

At the Ferguson Library in Stamford, Conn., "it's not unusual for us to have 40 or 50 reserves on a popular book," says spokeswoman Linda Avellar. At the Randolph County Public Library in Asheboro, N.C., a 25% increase in visitors over the past six months from a year ago has been hard on 14-year-old carpeting that officials say needs to be replaced now rather than in six years, as planned.

This isn't the first time library attendance has spiked in a downturn. The 1987 and 2001 recessions saw similar jumps, librarians say. But few people thought that libraries would again be in such favor after so much information flooded the Web.

One big draw: Most libraries have put in free computer and Wi-Fi service. And

they've begun stocking DVDs and videogames. With the recession weighing on them, "people recognize what a great value the public library is," says Jim Rettig, president of the American Library Association in Chicago.

Librarians are turning into job counselors -- and even social workers -- as they have to deal with a sometimes-desperate new class of patrons. "They are frustrated, overwhelmed and thought they would not be job hunting again in their lives," says Jan Perrier, head of reference and adult services at the Roxbury Public Library in Succasunna, N.J. "I had one woman just so overwhelmed she sat in front of the PC and cried."

Many jobless people are reporting to the library as they used to report to the office. Career books are in particularly great demand at the Morris County Library in Whippany, N.J. "The shelves are bare," says Lynne Olver, chief librarian there. She says attendance in "Career Resource Seminars" that the library has held for many years jumped to 745 in 2008, from 472 in 2007.

Others come in to escape their troubles for a while. Wesley Martin on Friday tapped his hands to the beat of a hip-hop video he was watching on one of the Tracy library's computers. "This is just a chance for me to get out of my house," said the 33-year-old, who lost his job at a discount store a month ago.

The sheer numbers of jobless visitors are overwhelming some libraries at a time of funding cuts by cash-strapped local agencies. The library in Winter Park, Fla., reports a 25% increase in checkouts of its books and other materials over the past 15 months, even as its budget for stocking new items has been cut 12%.

Some libraries are cutting their hours, reducing staff or even being closed altogether because of budget problems. The Schenectady County Public Library in Schenectady, N.Y., says it has had no money to replace four librarians who have left in the past two years. "As a result, we recently found that it is taking up to five days to resshelf books, as just one tiny example of the impact," says Karen Bradley, a reference librarian there.

The Randolph County library in North Carolina can't afford to replace those rugs: "We are just going to have to live with the worn carpet for now," says Suzanne Tate, the library's director. An average of 230 people a day line up to use the library's 27 computers. To help manage the traffic, the library has taken to bumping users off if they try to stay on for more than the one-hour limit.

But the patrons keep coming. "Many times a day there is a line of people waiting to get on one of our three computers," says Mary Wright, director of the Marks-Quitman County Library in Marks, Miss., who says many of the new patrons are laid-off workers from nearby casinos.

Tracy library officials have ordered nine more Internet-access computers. For now, patrons have to line up at a kiosk to make a reservation to use one of the 11 existing terminals, says Kathleen Buffleben, the supervising librarian.

At a checkout counter nearby in the Tracy library, Brandon Perry, 24, and his fiancée, Chardenac Van Rooter, 21, were applying for library cards Friday to aid in their job searches. The couple, who were with their 1-year-old daughter, said they support themselves largely on part-time restaurant work by Mr. Perry, who

was laid off as a heavy-equipment operator at a ski resort a year ago. On top of their other troubles, the couple said they were forced to move into a homeless shelter a few weeks ago after a relative's home where they were staying was foreclosed on.

"Now," says Mr. Perry, "we just want to go to Hawaii. We don't have a computer, so we'll start coming here to find a job there."

Write to Jim Carlton at jim.carlton@wsj.com

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