

BUTTE COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
Paradise Branch (3:00PM -5:00PM)

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

PRESENT: Ron Serrano, Ruthmarie Ferris, Toni Scott, Penny Louton, Jeff Wanee, Patti Conlin, Mary Lou Johnson, Ronda Hoffman, Mel Lightbody, Oliver Allen, Caroline Payne, Heidi Mitchell, Sarah Vantrease

GUESTS: Supervisor, Maureen Kirk

ABSENT: Carolyn Driscoll, excused.

Public Comment

Ms. Joanna Gutierrez from the Friends of Paradise applied and received the California (Cal) Reads Grant under California Humanities which is a grant that promotes different books throughout the year (<http://www.calhum.org/grants/california-reads-grant>). Ms. Gutierrez thanked the LAB for their support of this Grant. Although the grant was submitted and received at the Paradise Branch, this is a benefit for the entire Butte County. The book that Cal Reads Grant provided funds for this time is called *What It Is Like To Go To War* by Karl Marlantes. The grant will provide funds to help veterans reconnect with their community after coming home from war. Ms. Gutierrez stated that she is working with the Library Branch Managers to provide a two (2) hour conference on a Thursday evenings and Saturday Afternoon which would include one hour of information and one hour of community discussion. The county will receive 90 books to place in the Libraries as well as some to provide a resource to community leaders who meet regularly to discuss issues regarding veterans. Ms. Gutierrez stated that she will be working with the Veterans medical Center in Redding as they have some excellent resources for veterans and will be setting up a kiosk of resources which will include suicide prevention and other information pertaining to veteran needs. The promotion of Karl Marlantes' book will begin September 18, and end November 8. Senator Nielsen has indicated he is interested in supporting this through possible attendance to the promotion events. Ms. Gutierrez stated that she is working with California Reads for an Author Visit with Karl Marlantes while he is in the greater Sacramento area between September and November. This grant is \$2,000 with \$2,000 of in-kind funds. Mr. Serrano thanked Ms. Gutierrez for her hard work and requested that she send any paperwork so he can send to remaining Board Members.

Ms. Marlene Brenden came as Ms. Johnson's guest providing information on reading for dyslexic persons. Ms. Brenden shared that she is a High School Counselor and has taught K-8th grades and currently works at and runs a Learning Center in Chico. She stated that she wanted to share that as there are teachers that teach a specific way in the classroom that not all students are able to learn how to read. With all of the studies that Ms. Brenden has done, she stated that some children with ADD and dyslexia can learn to read by using the Orton-Gillingham method or the Barton Reading program. Ms. Johnson stated that she is going through the Orton-Gillingham program to help one of her students she tutors regularly. Essentially this approach to reading helps to identify the way students learn so that tutors are teaching the student the way they learn. Ms. Johnson inquired how the libraries can utilize this type of reading program for their tutors. Ms. Brenden stated that she was willing to share her knowledge and provide information for helping tutor's to utilize this type of program. Mr. Serrano requested that Ms. Brenden meet with Carey Gross, Literacy Manager regarding this information and discuss how the library can move forward.

1. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Serrano inquired if there were any changes to the January 2014 LAB minutes. Ms. Johnson was present at the January meeting. The minutes are approved with the addition of Ms. Johnson as being present at the January 2014 meeting.
Ms. Johnson moved for approval.
Ms. Ferris seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

2. Introductions

Supervisor Maureen Kirk, District 3
Kathy Rudd and Marilyn Vaughn, Paradise Friends of the Library President and Vice-President.

3. Correspondence:

Mr. Serrano stated that he shared a letter from Avi that was addressed to the Butte County Library Advisory board. He contacted Avi and apologized for the delayed response but that the LAB would address this question at April 9th meeting. On this note, Mr. Serrano inquired about the Butte County Wish List. Ms. Lightbody stated that there may be a wish list for the “home” library (Chico). Mr. Serrano stated that he would contact Brenda and request that she contact the patron for items on wish list.

4. Branch Manager Report – Sarah Vantrease, Oroville/Paradise Branch Librarian:

Ms. Vantrease stated that she is the Branch Librarian for both Paradise and Oroville. Ms. Vantrease stated that the Paradise Library is attractive, welcoming, and keeps displays current. Lately the Paradise branch has provided live music on Fridays, chess group, American Sign Language training, and crafts for all ages. The Paradise story time has grown to an average over 35 children at each story time.

The Oroville Branch remodel is moving along. Ms. Vantrease discovered that the counter was not working properly and has gotten it repaired. After the repair, it was discovered that attendance of patrons to the library is up, and that makes the Oroville branch the second busiest library in Butte County. Ms. Vantrease stated that the Oroville Branch will re-open at the end of May and the mini branch will open April 22nd instead of April 14th as originally planned.

Ms. Vantrease shared that Paradise and Oroville branches have received an LSTA (Library Services and Technology) grant from the State Library to fund a program developed by the literacy department called KinderGo. It is a program to work with parents who have children starting kindergarten. The program will share activities families can do together to prepare and build confidence in their children as the big day approaches. This will be an outreach towards younger families.

5. Library Director’s Report:

Ms. Lightbody shared her cell phone number with the LAB and stated that it was absolutely no problem to contact her that way especially with the remodel underway. Ms. Lightbody stated that there have been a few statistics glitches and would work with Nicole Kazena and Caroline to get the issues resolved. Despite the glitches, circulation is up by 26,000 items as over last quarter. With the addition of having the Library open on Sunday, the circulation has not dropped but Sundays provide the same percentage of items circulating through the libraries.

Ms. Lightbody inquired if Dropbox worked for everyone to receive the LAB packet contents. Ms. Hoffman and Ms. Conlin prefer to have the information printed although they would review the material on Dropbox prior to attending the meeting. Library Administration will provide copies of the packet material to Ms. Hoffman and Ms. Conlin.

6. Old Business

a. Paradise/Oroville Librarian

Mr. Serrano inquired if Butte County needed an additional full-time librarian for Oroville/Paradise branch. Ms. Vantrease stated that she and her staff have gotten used to her being in both places however, some of her staff are having to make supervisory decisions while she is not on site. While Ms. Vantrease trusts her staff, she feels this is a tough place to put her staff in. She is also disappointed that she is unable to attend all events that each branch is putting on for the local community. Ms. Vantrease feels that if Butte County had a librarian for both branches, there would be more things that would come from having a full time librarian at both branches.

Mr. Serrano stated that in 2010 a Long-Range plan was developed and at that time noted that the libraries were understaffed. Mr. Serrano inquired if the LAB would support a fulltime person for both Oroville and Paradise branches. Supervisor Kirk encouraged the LAB to make contact with the Board of Supervisors via letter informing them of this additional need. Supervisor Kirk stated that a good time to send the letter would be before June with an argument for the needs and information about the growing number of patrons at each branch. It would be good to send a representative and other people come to support the issue. Mr. Serrano will check with Supervisor Doug Teeter about a timeline for the letter. Once determined, the LAB will send a letter including a strategy and why there is an additional request.

Ms. Hoffman requested a talking point page that would include specific examples of decisions that the Library assistants have had to make while the librarian was at the other library. Mr. Serrano and Ms. Vantrease will collectively provide some talking points for the LAB to take to their Board of Supervisors.

b. Friends of the Library monetary contributions

Mr. Serrano reminded the Library Administration that the LAB would like the monetary fund amounts and volunteer hours from the Friends of the Library. These numbers will provide the LAB with the real cost of Library operations to the county.

c. Long Range planning

Mr. Serrano stated that he shared the 2010 Long Range plan with the LAB. Mr. Serrano stated that although the LAB has accomplished some of the long range plan goals there are still several that need to be addressed and completed such as being a community partner with in the community and working with groups who work with older adults.

Ms. Lightbody inquired where the LAB sees the Butte County libraries going in the future and what they would like to see happen in the libraries. Ms. Lightbody stated that she had recently heard comments indicating that "(Butte County Library) could be worse". While these comments may seem negative, the libraries are maintaining and improving their services and doing all they can with what they ~~de~~ have available to them. Maybe

Butte County Libraries do not want or need a better system to maintain the services being offered. Ms. Lightbody stated that maybe a survey needs to be taken in order to address some of these issues.

Mr. Serrano interjected that it is time to address the issues at hand and make some more positive changes for Butte County Library. After further discussion on the subject of addressing the issues, it was decided to have a retreat for the LAB. The retreat agenda will include but not limited to a discussion on, LAB roles, mission and vision as well as lay out a strategic plan and financial plan.

The Library Administration will collectively find a date that will work for all LAB Members. The Library administration will provide the LAB with an items wish list as well as an expanded 2012 wish list. Library administration will find a facilitator to guide the group on goal setting and strategic planning. A few suggestions include, Cathy Grams and Stott Winters (Behavioral Health Board) as well as the Janet Turner museum. Keeping in mind the up-coming retreat, Mr. Serrano has requested that the Board committees wait to meet until after the retreat.

7. New Business

a. Friends of the Library Reporting Assignments

Mr. Serrano requested that all FOL's chairs provide the quarterly report to Caroline in a timely manner for reporting to the LAB.

b. Next Supervisor Invitation

Mr. Serrano requested that Ms. Louton and Ms. Driscoll extend an invitation to Supervisor Lambert, District 4 to attend the next LAB meeting.

c. Library Action Plan-Draft letter to BOS

Mr. Serrano stated that he had inquired of the Board of Supervisors when the LAB could submit their letter in support of additional books funds. With the Board of Supervisors still working on the negotiations of employees, this request has been placed on hold. Mr. Serrano requested this item be moved to the July meeting.

Discussion on an expansion request ensued that the Library Advisory Board felt it might be beneficial to request a 1/8th % tax be added to the county taxes. Based on professional reports in prior years, the voters did not suggest high agreeability to this idea therefore it was not added to the ballot for final implementation. The LAB understands that, as an appointed board of the Board of Supervisors, they cannot take any action to foster or support this kind of measure.

d. Library Survey

Ms. Lightbody will send out the library survey that was done in Marin County to all the LAB to review. Mr. Serrano stated that a goal for the LAB was to conduct a survey. He requested that everyone review the survey from Marin County and prepare to have further discussion at the June LAB meeting.

e. **Staff Request**

Library Staff from the LLT (Library Leadership Team) have requested that LAB members visit their local library as a visitor one time between LAB meetings to see what the library is doing and working on. LAB visit libraries between meetings will be included on the next agenda as Old Business.

8. Friends of the Library Liaison Reports:

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

9. Review of Assignments/Action items for next meeting:

- a. Ms. Gutierrez send any paperwork to Mr. Serrano so he can send to remaining Board Members
- b. Ms. Brenden meet with Carey regarding dyslexic reader and discuss how the library can move forward with use of the Orton-Gillingham method.
- c. Library Administration will add Ms. Johnson to the attendance for the January 2014 minutes
- d. Mr. Serrano stated that he would contact Brenda and request that she contact the patron (Avi) for items on wish list.
- e. Mr. Serrano and Ms. Vantrease will collectively provide some talking points for the LAB to take to their Board of Supervisors regarding a second fulltime Librarian for Oroville/Paradise branches.
- f. The Library Administration will collectively find a date that will work for all LAB Members for the retreat.
- g. The Library administration will provide the LAB with an items wish list as well as the 2012 wish list expanded.
- h. Library administration will find a facilitator to guide the group on goal setting and strategic planning.
- i. Ms. Louton and Ms. Driscoll extend an invitation to Supervisor Lambert, District 4 to attend the next LAB meeting in June.
- j. Library Action Plan-Draft letter to BOS be moved to next meeting under old business
- k. LAB visit libraries between meetings will be included on the next agenda as Old Business.
- l. Library Admin will send out reminder to LAB regarding visiting their local library.

10. Additional Items

At the January meeting, Historical Research was a topic of discussion as several of the libraries were receiving inquiries regarding history of Butte County. Oliver Allen stated that he has been working with some historical societies and created a pamphlet with places that people can go to find further information on the history of Butte County. He will provide a draft digital copy to the LAB. Upon completion of the pamphlet, Mr. Allen will have them printed and distributed to the local Chamber of Commerce as well as provide a copy to each library branch.

The LAB requested that we continue to be members of Cal Tech. One Membership would be sufficient and can be distributed to other LAB members. This provides professional up to date information regarding what is happening in the Library world.

Meeting closed at 4:52 PM