

**BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING**



**FEBRAURY 15, 2024, 6:00 PM
ROBERT & ELAYNE STEIN MEETING ROOM
MAIN LIBRARY**

1. ROLL CALL

Trustees Present: Trustee Baltazar-Sabbah, Trustee Hayashibara, Trustee Landmann, and Trustee Milich

Trustees Absent: Trustee Vega

Staff Present: Library Director Martinez, Principal Librarian Addison and Administrative Analyst Martinez

MOTION: Excuse Trustee Vega absence

Moved by: Trustee Landmann

Seconded by: Trustee Milich

AYES (4): Trustee Baltazar-Sabbah, Trustee Hayashibara, Trustee Landmann, and Trustee Milich

ABSENT (1): Trustee Vega

Carried (4-0)

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2.a MOTION APPROVING MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2024

MOTION: Approve January 18, 2024, minutes

Moved by: Trustee Milich

Seconded by: Trustee Hayashibara

AYES (4): Trustee Baltazar-Sabbah, Trustee Hayashibara, Trustee Landmann, and Trustee Milich

ABSENT (1): Trustee Vega

Carried (4-0)

3. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA – No items were removed.

4. PRESENTATION & ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

4.a ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & TRUSTEES

Trustee Landmann shared comments that were posted on social media regarding the new Aptos Library design and layout. She noted that this discussion questioned the aesthetics decisions but reflected positively on what the Watsonville Library has to offer to residents of south county.

4.b ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR

a) LIBRARY OPERATIONS UPDATE

On Monday, February 5, 2024, we closed the library for a successful staff day. The staff day provided an opportunity for all library staff to come together, meet new colleagues, and reconnect with those they don't often see due to scheduling conflicts. The day included various activities aimed at improving efficiency and staff well-being. This included reviewing procedures and streamlining processes, conducting ergonomic reviews of new chairs and footrests to ensure staff comfort and health, and providing training on interacting with unhoused patrons. The librarians utilized the after session to brainstorm ideas for our upcoming summer reading program. As part of staff day, librarians were assigned the task of re-imagining the library, encompassing both its physical layout and the expansion of services to enhance community engagement. If you have the opportunity explore the teen space where additional shelving has been installed to accommodate growth, along with increased seating options. These alterations are merely a glimpse of the broader array of enhancements anticipated to unfold throughout the library.

The Library Director wanted to congratulate Stephanie Barraza on her recent promotion to Senior Librarian. She was promoted to help Library Director Martinez, supervise the Technical Services department, and address Strategic Goal Number 3, Streamline in-houses processes in regard to technical services, circulation services, explore third party vendors, or City of Watsonville IT department. Additionally, we are recruiting a full-time library clerk for the circulation department that will support circulation, outreach and programming. Furthermore, two library page interns have been hired to assist with shelving duties at both library locations.

Last week, the Library Director met with the Santa Cruz County Library Financing Authority. We anticipate receiving \$3.9 million, which is excellent news, a final report will be emailed to the board when it becomes available.

b) TEEN ACTION (TAC) UPDATE

Teen Librarian Celeste Carrillo gave a brief update on all the amazing events the TAC has done thus far. TAC recently had their quarterly round table, where various youth leadership organizations came together to discuss various topics. De'Andre from PV Health Trust spoke about the new mental health resource center geared for youth opening in Watsonville. This will be a great free resource and new hangout area for youth to drop in and seek free mental health resources. He emphasized how the center will be youth led – so any events or programs will youth voice centered. Justin Meeks from Community Development presented the General 2050 plan for Watsonville. Jessica Beebe from Parks & Community Services sought for the youth's vision for the downtown area; what can be improved, and ideas for youth programming. The youth suggested a roller- or ice-skating rink. TAC shared their interest in the Reading Buddies program prior to the announcement of the program returning in March and were excited to hear that they can volunteer and read to younger kids.

Daniela Hernandez, TAC library representative announced that along with the activities chair, treasurer, and marketing chair they are coordinating the Friends quarterly book sale which will take place on Friday, March 8 from 3:00-5:00pm in the Main Library lobby. They are discussing the idea of a spring garden theme and are planning on distributing a make your own pot/plant kit.

Daniela is also a part of the Youth Action Network which focuses on the 41 Developmental Asset model and meets once a month with other youth leadership members to educate South County youth about the various assets and how to achieve them. At the youth leadership team building meeting youth from Jovenes Sanos, Empower Watsonville, Luna y Sol and TAC got together to build connections with one another, learn about other organizations and given an introduction to the 41 developmental assets model. They created a vision board which demonstrated that youth value the environment in Watsonville whether that is physical exercise outdoors or being environmentally friendly by properly discarding trash and recycling. Another value is togetherness and creating a sense of community with one another like they did at the team building event.

c) OTR LITERACY UPDATE

Shiela Mitchell, Literacy Program Assistant, retired in December 2023. Currently, we are actively recruiting on-call Literacy Program Assistants to support the Opportunity to Read Program. Additionally, we are seeking literacy tutors. If you are aware of anyone interested, please refer them to the library.

d) POET LAUREATES UPDATE

Our poet laureates maintain busy schedules; visit our website for details on

their upcoming events. They recently served as featured speakers at the last Poets' Circle Program, making it a truly delightful event.

e) **CLA AND CA STATE LIBRARY RELATIONS**

The Library Director distributed the 2024-2025 California Library Association State Budget report. She briefly mentioned that despite the reported deficit, Watsonville will remain unaffected.

4.c COMMENT FORMS

The Library Director received an email acknowledging Librarian Chris Brant's exceptional effort in promptly providing requested information.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.a LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

a) **PROJECT UPDATES**

Library Director Martinez distributed Watsonville Public Library Strategic Plan 2023-2028 handout; a comprehensive document that outlines the diverse initiatives undertaken by the library to achieve our goals. This flyer will be displayed throughout the library and made available on our website.

Library Director Martinez will share the final rendering of the library atrium design at the next board meeting. However, she is awaiting the final report, which will detail the project's scope, including a cost analysis. The anticipated cost of the entire project is estimated to be no less than 2 million dollars. Upon receiving the final report, the Library Director Martinez will proceed with construction documents that will need to be approved by City Council before going out to request proposals for construction. Funding possibilities under consideration include Measure R, potential CDBG funding, and exploring the option of a bond.

b) **MEASURE R BUDGET EXPENDITURES**

Administrative Analyst Martinez provide a handout to the Board detailing the expenditures for items purchased to provide a streamline process with a user-centric focus. Such items include new self-check machines, a one-stop service desk, interactive educational technology for both youth and teens.

6. REPORTS

6.a FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The Friends of the Library are establishing a yearly Community Reads: Watsonville Reads, featuring two compelling books: "The Buddha in the Attic" by Julie Otsuka and "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" by Jamie Ford. Principal Librarian Addison presented the board with the community read event program guide which includes the various events happening from February through June 2024, including the special commemorative event in honor of Mas

Hashimoto on February 24, 2024, 2:00-4:00pm in the Civic Center Plaza.

The exhibit "Never Again Is Now" was curated by Dr. Alice Yang, Chair and Associate Professor at UC Santa Cruz. The exhibit will be at the library from March through June. We are looking forward to showcasing the rich history and contributions of Japanese and Japanese American women culture, activism and their enduring legacy in our community and beyond.

The Library Board was invited to the reception for the exhibit "Beyond the Ivory Tower: Community Engagement, Education, and Organizing in California's Central Coast". This exhibit showcased the remarkable collections of Florence Wyckoff, William H. Friedland, William MacKenzie, and the California Farm Research and Legislative Committee. We are proud to highlight Florence Wyckoff, a pioneer who played a pivotal role in establishing the Freedom Branch Library.

6.b PROGRAMS

a) CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Our diverse calendar of programs reflects our commitment to serving all age groups in our community.

Please remember to visit the library's website, sign up for the library's newsletter and mobile app; and social media outlets to learn more about the library's resources and programs.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Trustee Blanca Baltazar-Sabbah, Co-Chair

ATTEST:

Alicia Martinez, Library Director