CALL TO ORDER: 6:01 PM

PRESENT:
- Anthony Wright, District 2
- Diane Adams, District 3
- Holly Bishop, District 4
- Rosie Ledesma, District 5
- Sharon Hallberg, Chair, City of Davis
- Kristin Peacock, City of West Sacramento
- Mark Fink, County Librarian & Chief Archivist
- Sharon Tani, Assistant County Librarian

1. INTRODUCTIONS: Roll call of Library Advisory Board members
   Absent: Stephanie Chavez, District 1, and Margaret Bailey, City of Winters

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

3. APPROVAL OF LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES FROM AUGUST 11, 2021
   Anthony Wright abstained since he was absent during the last meeting.

4. ACTION ITEM: Mark Fink discussed CA Assembly Bill 361 that authorizes continued virtual meetings for local
government bodies as a measure to promote social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. He asked the
Board to authorize remote meetings until new guidance is provided from the County’s Public Health Officer
and stated that when circumstances change, the Library Advisory Board will revert to following the Brown Act
rules in the future.
Holly Bishop described her negative experiences with the virtual meeting format that prevented attendees from easily seeing who is speaking and the difficulty of processing the meeting content and conversation flow. She said face to face meetings are more effective. Also, she expressed frustration that it’s been a challenge to accomplish tasks with government agencies when staff are teleworking instead of being in the office and residents don’t know who to contact to ask questions. She encourages the Board to meet in person as soon as it’s allowed.

Rosie Ledesma and Sharon Hallberg asked for clarification about the authorization procedure. Diane Adams inquired if community case rates or other factors were the basis for the changing guidance. The group discussed the ongoing COVID situation within Yolo County.

Anthony Wright moved to authorize virtual meetings. Kristin Peacock seconded. Motion passed.

5. COUNTY LIBRARIAN’S REPORT

a. Personnel Updates
   i) Anna Taloma, Full-time Youth Services Librarian for Arthur F. Turner Community Library started working with the team on October 4, 2021.
   
   ii) Rachel Poutasse, Part-Time Library Assistant, Shipley Walters Center for Yolo County Archives and Library Services will start on October 25, 2021.

b. Library Service updates
   The Library’s permanent positions have been filled. There are still many extra-help vacancies, accordingly; not all the branch libraries have been able to reopen at pre-COVID levels. The Stephens-Davis Branch is now operating at 6 days a week, the Arthur F. Turner Library is at 5 days a week and the rural branches are at 4 days a week, which still provides communities with a high level of service. Some temporary staff have been separated from the County and others chose not to return so local recruitments are being conducted to supplement staffing. The Knights Landing and Esparto branches will be changing and/or expanding hours in the coming weeks.

c. Yolo County Library’s Strategic Priorities
   Mark Fink presented the finalized Library Strategic Priorities for 2022-2027. The plan is structured with a preamble that explains the approach and focus of the goals, an Institutional Framework that describes how these major concepts influence all of the priorities, including Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Workforce and Staff Development, Long Term Fiscal Sustainability, Technology and Measuring Our Impact.

   The five Strategic Priorities are:
   
   - Ensure Residents Read and Thrive
   - Help Lifelong Learners Succeed
• Offer Programs and Services that Strengthen Community Connections
• Maximize Our Impact on Community Development
• Support and Promote the Yolo County Archives, Records Center and Historical Collection

The Strategic Priorities were developed with extensive input from staff, stakeholders, and the public.

The Library hired a Data Analyst to interpret, compile and interpret the results. The results were then included into a draft document. The draft was reviewed and refined during six Zoom sessions with staff and the final version was posted on the Library website. Staff will create measurable and specific actions for each goal and the Library will promote the Strategic Plan over the coming months.

Sharon Hallberg commented that the document was very visual and easy to read.

Anthony Wright inquired about how the Library’s Strategic Priorities relate to the County’s Strategic Plan. Mark Fink responded that Library services align with the County’s first priority - “Thriving Residents.”

Mark Fink stated that 90% of the patrons who completed the survey were very satisfied with library services and encouraged Board members to review the Executive Summary and Findings.

Diane Adams asked if the Library will be conducting annual surveys for patron satisfaction. Mark Fink responded that the plan may be to modify existing survey questions so the Library can track more information about user satisfaction.

d. Summer Reading Program results (Appendix 1)
Mark Fink previously emailed out the infographic about the program’s success. One highlight is the 4,000 free books that were given away when cardholders registered and finished the program. Mark Fink noted that Library staff did an exceptional job reaching patrons with direct promotions and corresponding reading lists to encourage families to read. He thanked the Library Foundation and the Friends of the Library groups for their support of the program and the book giveaways.

Mark Fink noted that during the last two summers of COVID-19, the Library experienced a big drop in the number of people who registered and completed the Summer Reading Program compared to 2019. It is still noteworthy that in 2021, the number of people who registered and completed the program both doubled compared to 2020.

e. Facilities

i) New Yolo Branch Library: The groundbreaking ceremony was held on September 14, 2021. The County Board of Supervisors, Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry, Deputy State Librarian Wendt and Friends of the Yolo Branch Library President Alves were in attendance. The event was kept as a
small gathering to protect community health, as local residents were concerned about too many people attending and not following social distancing protocols. The event was positively received by those in attendance. The event was filmed and posted on the Library’s YouTube channel.

Rosie Ledesma walked to the temporary Yolo Branch Library during the meeting and live streamed a panoramic view of the construction site for the Library Advisory Board.

Mark Fink noted that more than 20 public art proposals were reviewed by the Public Art Committee. He noted that the entries were diverse and high quality. A recommendation will be made to the Board of Supervisors in the next few months.

The Library submitted a preliminary application to the California State Library’s Infrastructure Grant program in support of the Yolo Branch Library construction. If awarded, the grant will provide gap funding for the project. The County will submit a comprehensive application in December or January, and results should be known in the Spring 2022.

ii) **Knights Landing Branch Library**: Almost all of the facility upgrades have been completed. The Library is waiting for new furniture to be delivered in the next two months.

iii) **Clarksburg Branch Library broadband installation**: Mark Fink noted that it will still take two years for the fiber connection to be completed (in the Fall of 2023).

f. **Grant Opportunities**:

i) **Library Infrastructure Funding**: The Library will be applying for this funding, which is being coordinated by the California State Library. The Library will apply for gap funding for the Yolo Branch Library. The preliminary application has been filed by the County, and the County will submit a comprehensive application between December and February when the application period opens.

ii) **Stronger Together: Improving Library Access**: This is another funding opportunity coordinated by the California State Library for mobile library services. The Library is applying for a mobile vehicle to deliver services to underserved areas of the County, like the Capay Valley and other regions in East and West Yolo. The grant application is due in November 2022. The Library has three potential partners for the project: Yolo County Housing (Migrant Centers), First 5 Yolo, and Yolo County Children’s Alliance.

Sharon Hallberg asked if a special driver’s license would be needed and Mark Fink responded that a vehicle like a sprinter van wouldn’t require one.
Library activities will be conducted outside of the van in order to reduce the need for people to have to climb into van. Staff are also looking into providing WiFi capabilities and a canopy during inclement weather.

Mark Fink reported that although the timeline to submit the application was very short, Library staff were excited to work on this grant application. Sharon Hallberg and Anthony Wright expressed support for the need to reach Capay Valley residents. Sharon Hallberg said she remembers how valuable a library van was to her experience of living in her rural hometown and feels that this service would really benefit the County.

Mark Fink noted that mobile library services would essentially require the Library to support another library branch. Outreach programs like this are much loved and a “very person-centric” service that’s based on cultivating relationships. From his experience with Santa Clara County, he said it would require a separate collection and would need a dedicated staff person to coordinate routes. To meet this need, the Library would use grant funding initially, but would look to converting a part-time position in the Library budget to sustain the program in the future. A regular schedule would include stops throughout the County, Migrant Centers and urban West Sacramento. In addition, the van would also be used for special events.

g. Publicity as of September 22, 2021. Links to these press releases are included in the agenda.

i) Yolo County Library Hosts Free Virtual Screening of Documentary: The Stephens-Davis Branch virtually presented the film, "Not If, But When: Wildfire Solutions," which was followed by a Q&A with the Directors.

ii) Groundbreaking Ceremony Kicks Off Construction of the New Yolo Branch Library on September 14, 2021

iii) Yolo County Library and Yolo Reads Celebrate Literacy Month in September: The Board of Supervisors issued a proclamation for the YoloReads program. The presentation included testimonial stories from learners and tutors as part of the celebration.

iv) Discover the Power of a Library Card to encourage new library card sign-ups

v) Dial a Story: The new program is gaining more community usage each month and Sharon Tani is working on expanding the program to include recordings by local authors

vi) Yolo County Archives and the Yolo County Historical Collection promoted the launch of the Axiell Research Database and the event commemorating Japanese Internment
6. **YOLO COUNTY LIBRARY FOUNDATION REPORT**

Sharon Hallberg described a potential Library Foundation event with Alexandra Huynh, the 2nd National Youth Poet Laureate, who is from Sacramento, if she is available. The Foundation is also looking to add new members to help with ongoing fundraising efforts, since a few will term out soon.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**: None.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**: None.

9. **LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

   a. **Kristin Peacock** reported that the West Sacramento Friends of the Library are working on doing an online annual meeting that may include virtual bingo. Book sales have resumed in the Library alcove and revenue from sales has been increasing.

   b. **Rosie Ledesma** said she didn’t have more to report beyond her live virtual tour of the Yolo Library construction site.

   c. **Diane Adams** reported that as part of her involvement with the Yolo County Archives she attended an event hosted by author Shirley Dickard. Standing on the site of her great-grandmother’s gravesite at the Woodland Cemetery, Dickard discussed her new book, *Heart Wood: Four Women, for the Earth, for the Future* and then shared stories about the life and times of Yolo activist pioneers during the tour.

   d. **Anthony Wright** reported that traffic at the Logos bookstore has increased significantly since students returned to campus at UC Davis. He thanked the Library for providing his son, a Davis High School student, with inspiration and access to library facilities between sporting practice events. He showed the group a copy of *The Librarian* comic book that he recently discovered. In response, Sharon Hallberg showed her famous Librarian Nancy Pearl action figure with corresponding book accessories to the LAB members in attendance.

   e. **Holly Bishop** reported that the Friday book sales in the Stephens-Davis Library parking lot have been lucrative. The Friends average about $2,000 in revenue every Friday. Logos Books earned $10,422 last month and she extended kudos to volunteer workers who love the bookstore. Holly has the job of sorting through children’s books to assess their value and to determine if they should be sold online or at book sale. She discovered a great vintage copy of *The Phantom Tollbooth* during a research interaction. She also requested that board member email and phone numbers be listed on the meeting agenda or minutes. Mark said he can send out a roster.

10. **County and City Officials/Staff Reports and Comments**: None.

11. **ACTION ITEM**
12. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 (Happy Birthday, Sharon Hallberg!) at 6 PM
Location: Zoom.