

**MINUTES
SARATOGA LIBRARY &
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 26, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Victoria Zhang called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Victoria Zhang, Vice Chair Cristina Meiser, Commissioners Robert Gulino, Eric Lewis, Valerie Nygaard
Absent: None
Also Present: Stephen Fitzgerald, David Guidry, Jennifer Van Dalsen, Saralyn Otter, Crystal Bothelio, Leslie Arroyo

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Library & Community Engagement Commission Minutes

Recommended Action:

Review and approve the minutes from the April 17, 2023, Regular Meeting.

GULINO/ZHANG MOVED TO **APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 17, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.** MOTION PASSED. MOTION PASSED. AYES: GULINO, ZHANG, LEWIS, MEISER, NYGAARD. NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

2. Saratoga Teen Advisory Board Report

Recommended Action:

Receive Saratoga Teen Advisory Board report.

No report.

3. Santa Clara County Library District Report

Recommended Action:

Receive Santa Clara County Library District report.

Deputy County Librarian, Stephen Fitzgerald, provided a report in Jennifer Weeks' absence. Fitzgerald provided a July update and event throughout the month. Fitzgerald discussed the addition of Narcan in all libraries. Also discussed that next door to their headquarters, they are building a new facility focused on literacy. Construction has not yet started. Fitzgerald also stated the Saratoga Community Librarian position is now posted.

4. Saratoga Community Library Report

Recommended Action:

Receive Saratoga Community Library report.

Acting Community Librarian, Saralyn Otter, stated they held a book sale in April, and May was busy and steady. In May, they held a Volunteer Appreciation event, celebrated AAPI, and held several teen events. The library is partnering with County Parks and a series of naturalists for a series of Saratoga's geology and wildlife. They are also partnering with Open Space and conducting a guided hike. Otter also discussed the Coding Club, which was held every Friday in June. Otter also shared the library provides State Park passes where user can put holds on them and check them out. The physical passes are per car.

5. Friends of the Saratoga Libraries Report

Recommended Action:

Receive Friends of the Saratoga Libraries report.

Saratoga Friends of the Saratoga Libraries President, David Guidry, stated they have raised enough money to grant the Saratoga Library \$150,000. Saratoga Library will take \$65,000 for use, as the Saratoga Library hadn't spent the money they received from last year due to fewer dollars being spent on page hours. Acting librarian Otter stated they had several staff members on loan to Campbell. Commissioner Eric Lewis stated they also spent money on digitizing. Friends of the Saratoga Library will determine what to do with the remainder of the funds. The Friends are considering improvements to Book Go Round.

Guidry stated the Friends of the Saratoga Library is having their General Meeting on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at Board Member Jennifer Van Dalsen's home, who will be the new president starting July 1. The president's term is for three years.

Van Dalsen reported to the group that the Ebay program is going well and is making nearly \$12,000 annually for Friend of the Library.

6. Commission Committees Report

Recommended Action:

Receive report from Commission Committees that have updates to share on recent efforts.

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY SUB-COMMITTEE.

Vice Chair Meiser and Chair Victoria Zhang discussed upcoming “Celebrate Diversity” project to encourage community members to submit a story or artwork to celebrate the diversity of the Saratoga community. The sub-committee is finalizing a flyer to communicate to the community and promote at City’s next Summer Movie Night. Deadline to participate is September 1, 2023. Submissions will roll out on September 23, 2023. They are also considering an oral history project for next year.

PARENT-STUDENT COLLABORATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

Commissioner Valerie Nygaard reported on the pilot Coding Club held at the Saratoga Library every Friday for 90 minutes, in June. Attendance varied. The sub-committee will look to do this again in the fall.

GOOD NEIGHBOR SUB-COMMITTEE.

Commissioner Robert Gulino attended Neighborhood Watch Joint Session with the City Council to share information about Good Neighbor Day. Commissioner Valerie Nygaard inquired about funds for Good Neighbor Day and to consider asking for funds next year from the City but would need to identify an idea and/or activity for use of funds.

7. Library & Community Engagement Commission Chair Report

Recommended Action:

Receive Library & Community Engagement Commission Chair report.

Chair Victoria Zhang had nothing to report.

8. City of Saratoga Report

Recommended Action:

Receive City of Saratoga report.

Crystal Bothelio provided updates on Commission Recognition Dinner on June 28, 2023, Free Tree Removal Permits, Annual Independence Day event, Summer Movie Nights, Saratoga Classis and Cool Car Show, Housing Element, and the Community Emergency Response Team.

9. Community News & Trends

Recommended Action:

Share news and trends within the community.

Commissioner Valerie Nygaard shared an idea of a human book was shared as a trend. Libraries are “checking out” real people, and those that check out the real person can hear their stories, in an “ask me anything” situation. This is especially impactful for the underrepresented groups.

SUMMARIZE ACTION ITEMS

None

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

No additional items.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Victoria Zhang adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Leslie Arroyo, Assistant City Manager