



Santa Barbara County

Library

Advisory

Committee

610 Mission Canyon Road
Santa Barbara California 93105
(805) 568-2461

Members

1st District Representative
Priscilla P. Whittaker

2nd District Representative
Dorothy T. Brilliant

3rd District Representative
Neil Baker

4th District Representative
Barbara Raggio

5th District Representative
Vacant

Buellton Representative
Dave King

Goleta Representative
Debbie Aceves

Santa Maria Representative
Hinda Beaman

Library Directors

Molly Gerald, Lompoc
Irene Macias, Santa Barbara
Jack Buchanan, Santa Maria

**Board of Supervisors
Representative**

2nd District Supervisor
Janet Wolf

County Staff

Terri Nisich, Asst. CEO
Sonia Thompson
Administrative Professional

ACTION SUMMARY

March 18, 2009

Solvang Veteran's Hall
1745 Mission Drive
Solvang, California 93463

- I. Meeting Officially Convened: 10:04 a.m. by Supervisor Wolf.
- II. Roll Call:
 - Members Present: Barbara Raggio, Hinda Beaman, Priscilla Whittaker, Debbie Aceves, Neil Baker, Dave King
 - Library Directors Present: Jack Buchanan, Irene Macias, Molly Gerald
 - Board of Supervisors Representative Present: Janet Wolf, 2nd District Supervisor
 - County Staff Present: Terri Maus-Nisich, Sonia Thompson
 - Members of the Public: Claudia Sigona, City of Goleta
- III. Motion to Approve the December 17, 2008 Meeting Minutes
Janet Wolf / Priscilla Whittaker / Unanimous
- IV. Public Comment Period – no comments from the public
- V. County Library Video Report
 - a. The County Library video was sent out to the Library Advisory Committee via e-mail (included in March 18 meeting packet). The video is currently running on GATV-Channel 20. If the libraries would like to make special arrangements to show the video on their channels or need additional copies, please contact Ms. Nisich. During National Library Week the video will run more frequently in celebration of National Library Week.

VI. Update on FY 09-10 Budget Submittals and Impacts to Service Levels

- a. CEO recommended budget will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in June during the County Budget Hearing week. Ms. Nisich reported that at this time the library budget is stable and there are no proposed reductions. The D-pages (the same material that will be presented at the budget hearings) was provided to the LAC in the December meeting packets. Ms. Nisich asked the directors to finalize performance measures and forward information as soon as possible. Ms. Nisich reiterated she needs additional information regarding overall circulation of materials among the districts, registration of patrons, youth programs attendance, and any significant accomplishments for each zone, strategic action or any key project that the library would like to spotlight, and any dramatic change that libraries need to propose due to the current economy.

Supervisor Wolf asked that the Library D-Pages be submitted with the library meeting packet in June.

VII. Discussion of Broadband Technology, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and possible opportunities for libraries (*Attachment to the meeting packet*)

- a. This item was presented as informational to the LAC. Ms. Nisich reported that the announcement of the stimulus package has brought a number of opportunities to cities in this area and a copy of the handout is included in the meeting packet. This program highlights grants for model projects demonstrating innovative uses of network technologies. Grants will be awarded to state, local and tribal governments, health care providers, schools, libraries, police departments, and community-based non-profit organizations. Right now there is \$200 million for competitive grants to expand public computer center capacity at community colleges and public libraries, as well as additional grants to encourage adoption of broadband. Ms. Nisich wanted to be sure that the committee was aware that these opportunities are available. Ms. Nisich reported that the County is working on a larger program where there are eight different funding opportunities ranging from infrastructure to social services programs and re-employment programs. One project Ms. Nisich is promoting is ensuring that all library projects, activities, and needs are categorized appropriately. This is an effort to assist libraries as they apply for grants. Ms. Nisich noted that it is important to capture information as a community and show that we as a county (regionally) are reflecting all the work that the libraries are doing. She wants to be sure that any work that the libraries do in terms of reaching out and bringing money into our community is captured as well. The goal is to assist the libraries to capture appropriate grant money for individual communities and being able to report on it countywide.

Ms. Gerald reported that the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has a targeted approach to helping the libraries with the digital divide issue. Ms. Gerald reported that the first two grants for libraries were for computers, but this past year the Foundation has worked on broadband issues throughout the country, and this is done on a state by state approach. In the past six months the libraries were asked, as a consortium, to provide line speed information and forward to the state. Ms. Gerald contacted the State library for further information attached is an email she received from the State Library regarding broadband issues. Ms. Gerald noted that the stimulus funding is preliminary. Ms. Gerald also

commented that our libraries are above the threshold that the Gates Foundation is willing to help libraries, since the line speed at the libraries is higher than the threshold that was set by the Gates Foundation. Ms. Gerald added that they will stay current on this issue and that the libraries will be pursuing this broadband opportunity.

Ms. Macias commented that in the past the libraries have taken advantage of grants sometime as jurisdictions. She noted the Gates Foundation computers grants; each jurisdiction applied and was awarded computers in two rounds. For other grants, the libraries applied as a consortium. She gave an example of the libraries receiving monies for the broadband connections. The libraries determine whether to apply as a consortium or if each jurisdiction will need to apply individually. Ms. Macias also stated that they will be looking at their options. Ms. Macias commented regarding the terms of the connection speed stating that yes they do quite well. However, in other libraries they may not have as many due to the building constraints. For example, in the Montecito library there is no place to put more than 4-6 computers.

Ms. Nisich inquired about the outlying communities such as Guadalupe or Cuyama. Ms. Nisich asked if there were any opportunities out in those communities that should be explored. Mr. Buchanan stated that they were taken care of with the Gates Foundation grants; so there has been recent hardware installed at those locations.

Mr. Baker inquired about the Wi-Fi system. Mr. Baker's concern is that there are a number of people who are using Wi-Fi outside of the library. Ms. Macias gave an overview of the Wi-Fi system at her libraries stating that each library has a different set up and the issues in terms of the barriers within the library and how it relates to the Wi-Fi; at the Santa Barbara library there is a public network that anyone can have access to; and the stationary computers are connected to the Black Gold network which is a secure network. However, in the Carpinteria library the Friends group paid for laptops which are loaned out to the public and have access to the public wireless network. Mr. Baker clarified that he was trying to determine whether rewiring was required in the older facilities to deter people wandering in and receiving access, because Mr. Baker is concerned about the patrons who pull up outside and use the Wi-Fi system after the library is closed.

VIII. National Library Week (April 12 -18, 2009)

- a. The libraries are preparing for National Library Week. Ms. Gerald stated that the American Library Association has a template that can be used and customized to the individual need. Ms. Nisich asked that all information be forwarded to her by the first week of April. Supervisor Wolf stated that April 14 would be the date for the Resolution. Ms. Sigona stated that the Goleta City Council meets on April 7; and she will follow up with the City of Goleta office. Ms. Nisich will work with the directors.

IX. Issues for discussion

- a. Santa Maria Ordinance – Continued from December 2008; Mr. Buchanan reported that the City of Santa Maria recently adopted this ordinance addressing conduct (attachment included in meeting packet). The ordinance is based on two other documents; 1) *Rules of Conduct*, 2) *Library Policy Regarding the Use of Public Computers*. Mr. Buchanan reported that since the implementation of this ordinance they have issued half dozen citations. Currently they pay for a park ranger to patrol the library. Ms. Macias noted the City of Santa Barbara does not have a program in place, but they do have two building monitors on duty. This is also a problem in Santa Barbara and they often tell people to leave for a day, week, or month and if serious, and they do issue restraining orders. Ms. Nisich commented that once the research is complete, and the directors have met and discussed the needs countywide; that this issue could be addressed; they do have to consult with the individual cities as to their issues and needs. Ms. Gerald added they had an incident a couple of weeks ago. Someone started harassing a small child. She said this was scary for the family and for the children in the children's room. Ms. Gerald also commented that people see this and do not want to come back to the library, especially if this is their first trip to the library and they encounter someone who is aggressive and mentally ill. Ms. Gerald commented that this is a great first step to address this issue and their board of trustees will be looking at policy issues. Ms. Gerald noted that they do not have a building monitor and that this issue is probably a weekly occurrence in their libraries. Supervisor Wolf stated that they will talk with County Counsel regarding some general guidelines. Ms. Nisich will follow up with County Counsel to possibly bring on the agenda for next meeting.
- b. Smoking on grounds – Ms. Macias stated that they have had problems at the City of Santa Barbara library with people smoking outside the building. They did post the County ordinance in the Central library, which states that you cannot smoke within 20 feet of a County building. However, they were informed by city police that the ordinance could not be enforced because the library is within city limits. They are currently looking into adopting a similar city ordinance. Ms. Macias commented that this is especially a problem for the kids that come out for tours and want to have lunch outside, and can't due to the people smoking outside the building. They will be pursuing this issue in the future. Mr. Buchanan stated this is a big issue in Santa Maria, however, they were told by the police department that this would be very difficult to enforce.

X. February 3, 2009 – Director's report

- a. Supervisor Wolf thanked everyone for a great presentation. She commented that this information combined with the video was well put together. The presentation achieved its purpose of informing the Supervisors of what is happening in the County libraries and gave the Supervisors an opportunity to meet the Library Advisory Committee. Ms. Macias added her thanks to Ms. Nisich and staff commenting that the presentation was a great opportunity to publicize the array of services provided by the libraries, commenting that the publicity aspect is one thing the libraries have not spent a great deal of time on and it was great to see it all come together.

XI. Round Table Discussion

Irene Macias, Santa Barbara Library Director - The Children's Library Project: closed off lower level which is the first step in the project. Right now the children's library is about 1,200/sq.ft. and will increase to 6,000/sq. ft. This project will greatly enhance the children's library. The library has partnered with the Santa Barbara Junior League on the project and the Junior League is very enthusiastic to be doing the fundraising and to be working with the library in identifying various elements of the children's library which will emphasize early literacy and create new trends to engage kids in libraries. The most recent fundraiser was a gala in the library which was a successful event.

Budget: submitted a budget that reflects an 8.4% cut for the city libraries general fund. Working on developing budgets for the other libraries that are administered: Goleta Library is administered as a contract as well as the other three libraries (Carpinteria, Montecito, and Solvang). They are proposing to close all the libraries in the system on Mondays. The libraries will be open Tuesday through Saturday. The Central library will be open on Sundays. There are discussions with City of Goleta regarding the hours; currently the Goleta library is the only other library open on Sundays. Ms. Macias stated that Sundays are the busiest day, but the libraries are staffed by hourly staff, so cost for providing service is minimal compared to other days of service. She also added that they are looking at various ways in increasing self-service which will cut staff costs. One mechanism in use is the self-check machines. The City budget will be filed on April 21st. The library public hearing is schedule for May 4th at 6:00PM at that time Ms. Macias will present the recommended budget to the City Council.

Programs: Reads program is collaboration with UCSB; they are reading "Ethics for a New Millennium" by the Dalai Lama. Tomorrow night there will be a panel at the library and Ms. Macias will be on the panel. They will continue the Summer Reading Program; the reading program has been shortened, mainly to tailor to the needs of the community. The program is to start July 1.

Jack Buchanan, Santa Maria Library Director: They have reduced their appropriations for the current year by 5%; this meant eliminating three vacant positions. There will not be a change in hours. Their goal is to keep current employees employed and they are using a voluntary time off program. In 2010 all employee contracts expire and at that time they will be looking at a mandatory time off program. Mr. Buchanan noted that like Santa Barbara they have many programs dependant on outside money which is provided by the "Friends of Libraries" groups. In Guadalupe they pay for a position; Orcutt, the Friends Group provides \$14K-\$15K/annually. They would like to see the funds continue. On the bright note, they paid \$3K to buy a program called "Book letters". This program provides an immense amount of library content that can link to a website; essentially they are trying to communicate digitally with people. They are looking at cutting out printed overdue notices which cost of \$10K/yearly. The overdue notices will be sent out via email or an automated phone call. They are also in the process of collecting email addresses from their customers and affiliated groups so they can look at digital targeted program.

Molly Gerald Lompoc, Library Director: Programs – Scrabble Mania tournament on April 19th for the literacy program; this idea came from the Santa Barbara library. The Culture of

the Chumash on the Central Coast program scheduled on April 15th at 7PM, John Johnson and Jan Timbrook from the Natural History Museum will be attending. The volunteers will also be honored at this event. Currently they have 110-115 volunteers. Nicky Sandoval is the new education director at the reservation in Santa Ynez and she will be attending. Buellton library - during National Library week there will be a program honoring the 3rd Graders in the Buellton School District. This group of 3rd graders applied for a Care and Share grant from the Santa Barbara County Education office. This grant is non-competitive and is designed to teach children about grant funding and how they can make a difference through their community. The group of 3rd graders, which was 4 different classrooms, received \$250 for each group (\$1,000 for materials for children at the Buellton Library), and the Buellton library will be hosting a party in their honor. They have hired a new person in adult services management. This person has a vast technology friendly background and will be working with youth staff in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria.

Budget - The libraries participated in a budget planning workshop on January 30 and presented their goals and needs. They work with a two-year budget cycle. Their City Administrator will go back to Council in April and in June each department will make a presentation and priorities will be defined and the decisions are made. They have been asked to provide the City with scenarios for the main library for an impact of a 5%, 10% and 25% cut in funding. The Sunday closure is likely for the main library and currently the other two branches are not open on Sundays. If deep cuts are made they may need to eliminate another day of service, this will probably be Sunday and Monday. San Luis Obispo County went to the museum model which is Tuesday through Saturday service; this currently is not definite. Buellton City Council has been very supportive to the library and there is no cut to that allocation. Vandenberg Village relies on community support; their target has been \$12,500 for the last two years this is the third year of that campaign. This includes grants from the Chumash and other agencies and organizations. If they are not able to raise funding; there are plans in place to scale back.

Debbie Acevas, Goleta Representative announced that the Friends of Goleta Library are holding a silent auction for the month of April -- they will have 120 books all signed at the silent auction.

Pricilla Whittaker, 1st District Representative, announced that on April 26th the Friends of Carpinteria Library bookstore will be closing down. They will be moving to the Cavalli property in the month of June. There will be an Annual meeting on June 8th and Owen Dell, well known writer, will be the main speaker.

Public Hearings – None

Announcements

The next Library Advisory Committee Meeting will be at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at the Solvang Veteran's Hall. To place an item on the agenda, please contact Sonia Thompson at (805) 568-2467 at least one week prior to the scheduled meeting date.

- XII. Motion to adjourn: Neil Baker/Hinda Beaman/Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

From: Brandis. Rushton [mailto:rushbrandis@library.ca.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2009 5:41 PM
To: GERALD, MOLLY
Subject: RE: broadband issues

Molly,

Thank you for your message. Several things.

1) Gates Foundation

1.1) The Gates Foundation effort is aimed at public libraries that have connection speed of less than 1.5 mbps. That is the "floor" for eligibility. That connection speed minimum was established by the Foundation. The overall grant application process has not been established.

1.2) As a preliminary step, the Gates Foundation hired LRW, an outside survey contractor, to do an inventory of current connect line speeds. According to the data gathered by them, Lompoc Public Library locations (Buellton Branch, Lompoc Public Library, Village Branch) have a connect speed of 3.0 Mbps and are therefore not eligible.

2) federal broadband stimulus funding

2.1) ALA has a Web site for libraries to monitor. Go to <http://www.ala.org/knowyourstimulus>

for the latest information. Also see the related links at the bottom of that site.

2.2) The NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration), US Department of Commerce, has a web site where all their announcements will be made. They will have a majority of the money for broadband. Go to

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/>

2.3) The Rural Utilities Service, US Department of Agriculture will also have money for broadband, but not as much as the NTIA.

3) For a comparison of the two (NTIA and RUS) under the new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, go to

<http://connect.educase.edu/Library/Abstract/ComparisonofApplicationRe/48258?time=1236989814>

or

<http://tinyurl.com/anoeqh>

4) According to the National Conference of State Legislatures

<http://www.ncsl.org/programs/fiscal/stimulusoversight.htm>

-----begin quoting here-----

The California Assembly has formed the Stimulus, Economic Recovery and Jobs Task Force (SERJ). SERJ will work with local governments on developing strategies to implement ARRA in the state. Assemblymember V. Manuel Perez will head the task force, which will be made up of chairs of relevant standing committees.

-----end quoting here-----

Perez is a Democrat from Coachella, serving the 80th District. Coachella Community Library is part of the Riverside County Library System. The library Web site is at

<http://coachella-library.com/aboutus.aspx>

The Riverside County Library Web site link for Coachella is at

<http://www.riverside.lib.ca.us/RCLS/branches/coachella.shtml>

The Web site for Assembly Member Perez is at

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a80/>

Summary: It is still early in the process for both the Gates Foundation project and the broadband portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Let me know if you have questions.

Rush

Mr. Rushton Brandis, Programs Consultant
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From: GERALD, MOLLY [mailto:M_GERALD@CI.LOMPOC.CA.US]
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2009 4:48 PM
To: Brandis. Rushton
Subject: broadband issues

Rush – I'm not sure that I'm contacting the right person, but perhaps you can answer or redirect my question.

Does the broadband project that is currently being developed through Gates grant funding for CA libraries mean that we don't need to try to access or participate in the broadband fund allocation that is part of the stimulus funding? Our Santa Barbara County Library Advisory Board meets this coming week, and the agenda I just received includes information about federal funding for broadband in public libraries. The County Executive Office is trying to help us be aware of this funding source, I'm sure. It would be very helpful to be able to explain whether or not our needs are already being addressed in the Gates funding. My concern is that all of us are too busy in this difficult budget period to spend time researching possibilities that are not really beneficial. Thank you for your help – Molly Gerald

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