

**MINUTES  
SARATOGA LIBRARY &  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 17, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Victoria Zhang called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Chair Victoria Zhang, Vice Chair Cristina Meiser, Commissioners Robert Gulino, Eric Lewis, Valerie Nygaard  
Absent: None  
Also Present: Jennifer Weeks, Saralyn Otter, Alice Patrick, Manlin Zhang, Crystal Bothelio

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS**

None

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Saratoga Teen Advisory Board Report

**Recommended Action:**

Receive Saratoga Teen Advisory Board report.

Manlin Zhang, Teen Advisory Board Co-President, shared the outcome of Career Day. She announced Coffee House on May 16 and welcomed outreach suggestions.

Commissioner Valerie Nygaard suggested home school Facebook groups.

2. Community Event Grant Program FY 2023/34 Funding Recommendation

**Recommended Action:**

Review the competitive Community Event Grant Program applications for Fiscal Year 2023/24 and provide a recommendation on funding allocations for City Council consideration.

Crystal Bothelio, Consultant, provided a staff report.

Chair Victoria Zhang invited applicants to provide a 3-minute presentation on their application.

Applicants addressed the Commission.

GULINO/NYGAARD MOVED TO **~~RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL MAKE THE FOLLOWING ALLOCATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2023/24 COMMUNITY EVENT GRANT PROGRAM COMPETITIVE ALLOCATIONS:~~**

- **~~BLOSSOM FESTIVAL TABLE: \$500~~**
- **~~MURAL, MURAL, ON THE WALL: \$1,700 (IF FINAL ARTWORK FOLLOWS ART APPROVAL PROCESS DESCRIBED IN CITY OF SARATOGA PUBLIC ART POLICY REGARDLESS OF FINAL MURAL LOCATION)~~**
- **~~DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL: \$2,000~~**
- **~~'SARATOGA, MY HOME' PUBLIC ART CONTEST: \$1,200~~**

MOTION PASSED. MOTION PASSED. AYES: GULINO, LEWIS, MEISER, NYGAARD, ZHANG. NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

3. Library & Community Engagement Commission Minutes

**Recommended Action:**

Review and approve the minutes from the February 13, 2023 Regular Meeting.

GULINO/LEWIS MOVED TO **~~APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 13, 2023 REGULAR MEETING.~~** MOTION PASSED. MOTION PASSED. AYES: GULINO, LEWIS, MEISER, NYGAARD, ZHANG. NOES: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE. ABSENT: NONE.

4. Santa Clara County Library District Report

**Recommended Action:**

Receive Santa Clara County Library District report.

Jennifer Weeks, Santa Clara County Librarian, provided an update on the District. She shared after school activities and programming at Saratoga Library and Women's History Month, Poetry Month, and National Library Week activities. She provided an update on the District's upcoming fiscal year budget. She also provided an overview of the Criminal Justice Open House and library services at Youth Justice Centers.

The Commission discussed adult literacy concerns and Jennifer Weeks, Santa Clara County Librarian, provided information about the District's literacy and English learning programs.

5. Saratoga Community Library Report

**Recommended Action:**

Receive Saratoga Community Library report.

Saralyn Otter, Acting Saratoga Librarian, announced Saratoga Library visitor numbers, kinder readiness programming, early learning programs for children, family story time, and popular programs hosted by Saratoga Library. She also provided an update on the recent art exhibits and announced the upcoming Protect Yourself from Scammers program and SED Talks.

6. Friends of the Saratoga Libraries Report

**Recommended Action:**

Receive Friends of the Saratoga Libraries report.

Alice Patrick, Friends of the Saratoga Libraries, announced that the Friends are on target to reach their fundraising goal and expect to issue the full annual grant of \$150,000 to Saratoga Library. The Friends are interested in funding Wifi improvements as a result of issues experienced during recent storms. The Friends hosted a trivia night, participated in the Blossom Festival, and hosted a kindergarten visit. In May, the Friends will participate in the Chamber's wine stroll event. Additionally, a Friends subcommittee will be reaching out to volunteers to better understand their experience supporting retail efforts and a subcommittee will be reviewing the Friends' bylaws.

Jennifer Weeks, Santa Clara County Librarian, provided information about the Wifi issues experienced during recent storms and improvements that are planned.

7. Library & Community Engagement Commission Chair Report

**Recommended Action:**

Receive Library & Community Engagement Commission Chair report.

Chair Victoria Zhang announced she had nothing to report.

8. City of Saratoga Report

**Recommended Action:**

Receive City of Saratoga report.

Crystal Bothelio, Consultant, announced updates related to Wildwood Park, Arbor Day, Blossom Festival, Paint the City, the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Survey, Free Tree Removal Permits, and the City Council/Neighborhood Watch Joint Session.

Commissioners Eric Lewis and Robert Gulino considered attending the Joint Session.

Vice Chair Cristina Meiser informed the Commission that Kayla Nakamoto is no longer with the City of Saratoga.

9. Community News & Trends

**Recommended Action:**

Share news and trends within the community.

Commissioner Robert Gulino commented on the prevalence and popularity of artificial intelligence.

Vice Chair Cristina Meiser shared information about a defamation suit in Australia related to ChatGPT.

Commissioner Eric Lewis informed the Commission he would be unable to attend the June 12 meeting.

The Commission agreed to reschedule their meeting for June 26.

**SUMMARIZE ACTION ITEMS**

None

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

No additional items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Victoria Zhang adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Crystal Bothelio, Consultant