

**MINUTES
SARATOGA LIBRARY &
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

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

City consultant Crystal Bothelio confirmed that all commissioners could hear Vice Chair Cristina Meiser (participating by teleconference) and that she could hear the meeting proceedings. Commissioners in person also confirmed, based on voice and facial recognition, that they had no doubts that it was Vice Chair Meiser participating in the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Victoria Zhang, Vice Chair Cristina Meiser, Commissioners Robert Gulino, Eric Lewis, Valerie Nygaard
Absent: None
Also Present: Council Member Chuck Page, Jennifer Weeks, Jennifer Van Dalsen, Saralyn Otter, Crystal Bothelio

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

None

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Library & Community Engagement Commission Minutes

Recommended Action:

Review and approve the minutes from the June 26, 2023, Regular Meeting.

GULINO/NYGAARD MOVED TO **APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 26, 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.

Jennifer Weeks, Library District, shared her experience with the City of Saratoga Youth in Government students. She also provided updates on upcoming health programs, the County Poet Laureate, Homework Help program, and Narcan administration training for County Library staff.

4. Saratoga Community Library Report

Recommended Action:

Receive Saratoga Community Library report.

Saralyn Otter, Acting Community Librarian, reported on current library use data, the summer reading program, Code Red donation drive, children’s summer programs, adult and teen summer and fall programs, new science fiction and fantasy book club, upcoming author speaking events, and the 20th anniversary celebration of the Saratoga Library remodel.

Public speaker raised questions about programing on mental health for youth.

5. Friends of the Saratoga Libraries Report

Recommended Action:

Receive Friends of the Saratoga Libraries report.

Jennifer van Dalsen, Friends of the Saratoga Libraries President, provided updates on Board elections, the annual grant to Saratoga Library, and the recent influx of book donations.

6. Commission Committees Report

Recommended Action:

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

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY SUB-COMMITTEE.

Chair Victoria Zhang and Vice Chair Cristina Meiser reported on the launch of the “Celebrating Diversity” project. Submissions are being accepted through the City’s website at www.saratoga.ca.us/CelebrateDiversity. Chair Zhang requested that City staff respond to submissions with questions and inquired about timing of City outreach on the project. Crystal Bothelio, City consultant, confirmed outreach has started and will continue. Chair Zhang also inquired about efficient ways for reviewing submissions. Crystal Bothelio, City consultant, advised that submissions could be consolidated for review.

PARENT-STUDENT COLLABORATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

Commissioner Valerie Nygaard reported that the coding club has been scheduled again for a six-week series from October to November. Changes will include a targeted effort to share program information with schools and the addition of a high school coach that will assist students in the club.

Vice Chair Cristina Meiser shared that she will be sharing the updated Project Cornerstone reading list with the Saratoga Library and will be discussing opportunities for showcasing the books with the library. She will also be reaching out to West Valley College to attend the fall fair to share library resources with students and she has a meeting scheduled with Tylor Taylor to discuss collaboration between the senior center and West Valley Collge.

GOOD NEIGHBOR SUB-COMMITTEE.

Commissioners Robert Gulino and Eric Lewis shared that they had no updates from the last meeting and may be revisiting the scope of the work effort.

Commissioner Valerie Nygaard proposed exploring a Perseid meteor shower viewing party in a City park next year.

7. Library & Community Engagement Commission Chair Report

Recommended Action:

Receive Library & Community Engagement Commission Chair report.

No report.

8. City of Saratoga Report

Recommended Action:

Receive City of Saratoga report.

Crystal Bothelio, City consultant, provided updates on Movie Night, State of the City, County Fire's wildfire workshop, the Housing Element, and opening of pickleball courts at El Quito Park.

Council Member Chuck Page addressed questions about the Housing Element.

Public speaker raised concerns about the distribution of proposed housing sites.

9. Community News & Trends

Recommended Action:

Share news and trends within the community.

Vice Chair Cristina Meiser discussed the Katherine Schneider case.

Commissioner Robert Gulino shared information about the Cinequest film festival in San Jose.

SUMMARIZE ACTION ITEMS

- Saralyn Otter, Acting Saratoga Library, will be checking on the selection of Teen Advisory Board president/co-presidents.
- Crystal Bothelio, City consultant, will be leaving a note for Assistant City Manager Leslie Arroyo on questions submitted through the Celebrating Diversity form on the City website and consolidation of submissions.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Selection of Chair and Vice Chair
- City Clerk overview of Commission rules/procedures

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Victoria Zhang adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Leslie Arroyo, Assistant City Manager
City of Saratoga