



San Anselmo Library Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2022

The meeting, which was held remotely via Zoom videoconferencing, was called to order by the Board's chairperson, Doug Holm, at 4:34 p.m.

In Attendance: Anya Bosina, Doug Holm, Eli Welber, Judy Anderson, Karen Licavoli, Mally Nielsen, Scott Fletcher, Town Librarian Linda Kenton

Absent: None

No members of the public were present.

March 2022 Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the March 2022 meeting were approved unanimously.

Discussion Items

A. Youth Commissioner Candidate Interview

The Board interviewed Ava McKeever, a local high school student who had applied to serve on the Board for the 2022-23 school year through the town's Youth Commissioner program. Following the interview, the Board voted unanimously to accept her application and offer her a seat on the Board during the upcoming school year.

B. Librarian's Report

Town Librarian Linda Kenton provided the following updates on library operations, services and activities.

- **Expanded Library Hours:** The library on April 4 expanded the hours it is open to the public (10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursdays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays). The library is now open six days per week for a total of 46

hours per week, five fewer than it was at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020. The hiring in April of a new circulation supervisor, Lindsey Fadden, helped make the expansion in open hours possible. Library staff are now meeting weekly on Thursday mornings instead of just one time per month.

- **Library Parking:** Library and Public Works Department staff are working to improve the availability of parking spaces on Tunstead Avenue, directly in front of the library, which the recent library patron survey had identified as a leading concern. All four parking stalls in front of the library currently have 20-minute time limits. The Town is looking at reducing the time limit for two of the stalls to 10 minutes to facilitate parking availability.
- **Library Signage:** Library staff are also working to install new, more visible signage about open hours and elevator access to the library through the Town Hall basement.
- **Summer Reading Program:** The library's summer reading program for children, teens and adults kicks off on June 6. This year's theme is "Oceans of Possibilities." The Teen Library Council has helped plan the teen component of the program.
- **Healthy Aging Program Series on Alzheimer's/Dementia:** As part of the town's healthy aging program, the library recently concluded a three-part series of programs on Alzheimer's Disease and dementia that was led by Alzheimer's Association. A second series of programs done in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Association is set to begin in July that will focus on behaviors, money management and conversation strategies.
- **Night of the Poets:** After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the library re-started its annual Night of the Poets program on April 28. The program was to be the library's first in-person event since the start of the pandemic but had to be moved online when a library staff member tested positive for Covid-19 the morning of the program. The event was recorded and is available for viewing on YouTube.
- **Library Speakers Consortium Events:** The library has begun a relationship with the California State Library's "Library Speakers Consortium," which sponsors online events with best-selling authors. The first such event will be held in July.
- **Other Library Program News:**
 - A celebration of **El Dia de Los Ninos/El Dia de Los Libros** was held at the Town Plaza on April 30 with a performance by the musical group Cascada de Flores. About 80 people attended.
 - Weekly **Children's Story Time in Spanish** programs re-started on March 23 and are being held on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. on the lawn in front of Town Hall. Two other **Children's Story Time** programs, both in English, are held on the lawn on Mondays and Saturdays at 10:30 a.m.
 - The library will sponsor musical programs during the Town's **Live on the Avenue** events that will be held on San Anselmo Avenue (which will be closed to vehicle traffic) on Friday and Saturday evenings during the summer and early fall. The library is looking at sponsoring performances one Friday night each month from July through October.

C. Library Parcel Tax Renewal Update

Ms. Kenton reported that the Town had completed its polling of San Anselmo residents likely to vote in the upcoming November 2022 election. Among other issues, the poll found that 79% of those responding favored extending the Town's existing library parcel tax, which is set to expire on June 30, 2024.

According to Ms. Kenton, the Town Council supports placing a measure extending the library parcel tax on the November 2022 ballot and will probably vote to do so by the end of July. The exact terms and measure language are to be determined, but it is likely that the Town will ask for the library parcel tax to be renewed for nine years. The current library parcel tax was approved by San Anselmo voters in 2014 and has been levied annually since July 1, 2015. It provides approximately \$280,000 per year in funding that the measure stipulates is to pay for a children's librarian, additional operating hours and enhanced services.

D. Friends of the Library Report

Board members Judy Anderson, Eli Welber and Scott Fletcher, who are also active with the Friends of the San Anselmo Library, provided an update on their group's activities.

- Ms. Anderson reported that Town Books, the used bookstore on San Anselmo Avenue operated by the Friends, is "doing pretty well," having reopened in February after being closed the previous month because of Covid-related concerns. The store is open Wednesdays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is staffed by 45 volunteers, some of whom focus on the store's Amazon online sales operations.
- Ms. Anderson also noted that the store held a well-attended reception on May 6 for local artist Anandi Matteson, whose art will be on display in the store during May and June. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of any art displayed in the store will be donated to the Friends of the San Anselmo Library.
- Mr. Welber added that Ms. Anderson was recently named President of the Friends of the San Anselmo Library.

E. Preferred Format for Future Meetings

The San Anselmo Town Council, at its March 22, 2022, meeting, asked that all town boards and commissions decide whether to continue to meet virtually, in-person, or via a hybrid in-person and virtual format, with the understanding that any of those meeting in-person must be fully vaccinated. The Board voted unanimously to continue to meet virtually via the Zoom videoconferencing platform. Members of the public may also attend virtually.

F. What I'm Reading/Watching/Listening To

Prior to the meeting, Mally Nielsen volunteered to talk about something she had recently read, watched or listened to. She noted that she largely listens to audiobooks while doing other activities.

Audiobooks she enjoyed recently include The Dictionary of Lost Words, a novel by Pip Williams; The Library Book, the recounting of a 1986 fire at the Los Angeles Public Library in 1986 by Susan Orlean; The Midnight Library, a novel by Matt Haig; and The Lions of Fifth Avenue, a novel about the New York Public Library by Fiona Davis.

Board Comments, Questions, Requests for Future Agenda Items

The Board members asked that an update on the planned library parcel tax be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Karen Licavoli volunteered to share something she has read, viewed or listened to.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Doug Holm at 6:09 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, July 14, 2022**, at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Doug Holm