

Citizen's Review Panel


March 9, 2005

Members present: Jan Kafton, Midge Barrett, Venancio Gaona, Mike Wyrick, Sallie Mook
Members excused: Victor Chavez, Candy Lee
Members absent: Patty Fontes, Martha Rodriguez
Others present: Karen Bosch Cobb, Steve Nitta


1. Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Mike Wyrick, Chairman.
2. Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted with the addition of a discussion about the terms of office of the chairman position and members of the Panel.
3. Approval of Minutes of October 6, 2004: Minutes were approved as submitted.
4. Update on Measure B
 - a. Election Results - Members reviewed the Measure B 2004 Campaign report received from John Kallenberg, Measure B Committee Chairman. The total "yes" vote in 2004 was 71.35%, as compared to 70.4% in 1998. Also in 1998, in Fresno the total "yes" vote was 72.6% and 74.18% in 2004. In 1998, the "yes" vote in Clovis was 67%, and in 2004 it was 67.99%. The total "yes" vote was up everywhere except in Coalinga, Orange Cove, and Huron, Parlier, Reedley. Karen mentioned that the Coalinga Huron Librarian is gravely ill, and that might have affected the campaign to get out the vote.
 - i) Web Page for Measure B - Karen recommended that information about the Citizens Review Panel be added to the Measure B page. She suggested adding the names of the people on the committee, but not their personal information. If someone wants to contact the committee, the page can be set up so that information goes to Karen and then she can forward it to the committee.

There was discussion was the controversy regarding the Measure Z Board concerning whether to make their meetings open to the public. Panel members were in favor of posting approved minutes and meeting notices. They also want to have an open invitation to the public to attend the meetings. A note will be added that meeting dates are subject to change.
 - b. Long Term Budgeting
 - i) Charts - Library Business Manager, Steve Nitta, explained the Measure B budget and the three charts below.
 - (1) Revenue vs Actual - There was a question about what has been done with budget surpluses.
 - (2) Revenue and Expense Projections for Measure B 1998
 - (3) Revenue and Expense Projections for Measure B 2004

A priority in the 2005/06 budget is to increase the materials budget. The need to process more materials created problems with getting materials processed, but systems are in place to process new materials in a timely fashion.

The adjusted budget for 04/05 shows a negative number. There is a \$7,775,741 reserve. The County does not have a specific policy regarding the size of the reserve. 

Members reviewed the expenditure and revenue projections.

At the conclusion of the discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried  adopt the budget documents presented. Motion carried.

ii) Discussion

1) Salary

a) Benefits - Salaries are being impacted by the benefits packages. There have been some raises but benefits are most costly.

b) Fewer Vacancies - There are fewer vacancies now than at the beginning of Measure B, and progress has been made in filling librarian positions. The Library is considering creating a Librarian Associate classification that would require a Bachelor's degree. This position would be especially useful in the rural branches.

c) More people at higher steps in their salary range increases costs.

2) Increased Workload - Demand for service and an increase in library materials purchases has created a workload increase.


3) Efficiencies/Outsourcing - There was discussion about what the Library has been doing to increase efficiency. They contracted with a couple of vendors to catalog the books at Woodward when it was being prepared for opening, and that contract has been extended. Also, the Library has gone to online ordering. They are also setting up a security system and self check system at the Woodward and Clovis libraries that will increase efficiency.

4) Repair and Building Maintenance - Projects completed with Measure B funds to date are:

- Fig Garden Regional Library model with new carpeting and paint, reorganized and additional shelving, and separate teen area.
- Piedra Library moved into a larger facility.
- Sunnyside moved into a larger facility.
- Kingsburg moved to a larger facility.
- Sanger Library got new carpeting and tile.
- Central Library's exterior was painted and an ADA ramp was installed in the back of the library.
- The Doris Gates Room was painted and recarpeted and the Central Library Young Adult space created in the Central Library.
- Riverdale, Pinedale, Mendota, and San Joaquin were refurbished. San Joaquin included structural repair.
- Clovis was partially refurbished.
- Bear Mountain was recarpeted.
- Laton Branch was renovated.

Work is in progress or scheduled to upgrade the Parlier, Cedar Clinton, and Mosqueda libraries. Staff is working on opening the Senior Center on Dakota and Blackstone in the FMAAA building. There is now a Librarian for Senior Services, and he has been working on making sure

that the collection is in good shape. He is talking to agencies that provide services to seniors and about the services that the library provides. He is also working on getting a books by mail service for homebound library users; this is a service users have said they want.

- 5) There was a discussion about E-Books.
- 6) Equipment - Staff will be concentrating on reducing the equipment budget. Much of the equipment that was needed when Measure B first passed has already been updated. Also, some of the money for equipment is budgeted in the capital projects budget. 
- 7) Bond Act Projects - Mendota's Design Development plans are about ready to be sent to the State. Fresno County was the only library in the State to have three projects approved for funding. Funding was received in November. Fowler was not approved.

5. Central Library Update - The Library is still working on site selection, with three sites being considered, a commercial site, a cultural site, and a civic site. The locations are: the Longs Drugs Store location at the end of Fulton & Tuolumne; the cultural center between Calaveras & Fulton, and the current location. An architect has been selected. Karen explained that there are a lot of processes to go through before selecting a site. She also shared some of the highlights from the trip to see the new central libraries in Salt Lake City Library and the Seattle Library.

A series of workshops with the Board of Supervisors has been started to inform them about the new Central Library goals and progress. During this discussion, Karen mentioned that new central libraries have opened in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Karen said discussions have been held concerning funding and setting up a foundation. She mentioned involving people in Creative Fresno.

6. Chairman position/members - Member Midge Barrett suggested Bob Speechly as someone who might be interested in becoming a member of the Panel. He will contact Supervisor Anderson to let her know of his interest. Midge Barrett and Sallie Mook will complete application forms to submit to their supervisorial representative so that they can be reappointed. Candy Lee has not been attending meetings due to poor health. Members were not interested in holding elections, and Mike Wyrick agreed to continue serving as chairman.
7. Planning for Next Meeting:
Date: June 8, 2005
Time: 5:30 - Meet at Central to carpool to Caruthers
Place: Caruthers Library, 13882 S. Henderson, Caruthers
Topic: Measure B Update
8. Adjournment - There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.