



Measure B Citizens Review Panel Minutes

January 26, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Jim Poptanich, Debbie Ikeda, Rhoda Howell-Gonzales, Tammie Wenter, Deborah Janzen, Kathy Burrows, Shelly Orth, April Henry, Mary Leal, and Judith Pruess.

Staff Present: Karen Coletti.

Guests: None.

Regrets: Raman Bath

- 1) **Call to Order:** Jim Poptanich called meeting to order at 6:01 PM.
- 2) **Introductions:** None.
- 3) **Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to Adopt Agenda as is **Burrows; Second: Howell-Gonzales.**
- 4) **Approval of October 27, 2021, Minutes.** Motion to Approve Minutes as is **Ikeda; Second: Pruess.**
- 5) **Coalinga Librarian – Mary Leal.**
 - Library Services with Covid. All staff members have either been positive or exposed. Our branches are fully opened, and we have had no closures.
 - Our programming has had Take Home Crafts, Fall Festival September 2020, Storytime being held virtual, and they are in planning stage of Summer Reading.
 - Our financial audit for 2020 was approved. Measure B Funds, are being saved for future projects. Jeannie has provided in her handout Coalinga financials.
 - Community involvement includes the Lisa Project which helps with child abuse. Coalinga Chamber is having their dinner, we are sponsoring two tables and silent auction basket. Coalinga Chamber also partnering with the Mardi Gras Swamp Ride, and the Blood Bank will be at this event. We're having Coalinga Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd.
 - We received a \$20,000 grant from Chevron, we are using it for AWE Computers.
 - We received another grant from Chevron in the amount of \$1250 for Coding Club.
- 6) **County Librarian – Raman Bath – Written Report given by Karen Coletti.**
 - Clovis update, the County has received a document that is hundreds of pages long detailing the issues that exist at the site of the proposed Clovis Library. I have not received the report directly. From what I have gathered, it speaks to issues on the land itself where the library portion of the building and parking lot would be. As some of you are aware, the City of Clovis acknowledged the issues on the site and are prepared to take mitigation steps. However what steps are needed and the timeline to take care of the issues I am not versed on. Once the situation clears up, then we can begin at Clovis. I believe however even before then, the County team including Public Works will likely go to the Board of Supervisors for a status update before proceeding further with the building and completing it. I am unsure how this affects our timeline.

- Fig Garden update, this renovation continues to a work in progress. After further review with my facilities team, they have confirmed that the landlord/contractor is in line for final inspections and permitting. There were some plumbing issues still outstanding that needed to be cleared. It is hoped that these are resolved in a few weeks. There are IT upgrades that will need to happen, but these are not contingent on permitting inspections and should go smoother than the rest of the work. Our plan is to operate curbside service once we receive permission to occupy the building from the owner, and we have the opportunity to clean and prepare the building for staff. We will continue curbside service until the rest of the building is ready. I have not timeline for that.

I was also informed by the Friends that they have yet to be engaged in discussion as far as what they would like to see as part of the Fig Garden renovation. I have asked my facilities manager to coordinate a Zoom meeting with the Fig Garden Friends of the Library and the onsite supervisor to facilitate that discussion.

The interior designer/furniture supplier for the building is CORE Business Solutions. They will be the ones to create a plan for interior that attempts to incorporate comments from staff, FOL, and the needs of the community. Needless to say, designs are a work in progress. Also, shelving will be an issue as that could take months to obtain due to supply chain issues. The shelving configuration will ultimately also affect how an interior design will look and CORE will provide us a draft that we will share with Fig Garden FOL.

- Other buildings the facilities manager has provided me with a bulleted report detailing the physical needs at many branches. Some of these needs are basic in structure such as new paint, siding and stucco at some locations. In other cases, it speaks to extensive accessibility issues. All of this work will take time and a priority list is still being developed by the facilities team.
- Overdrive exceeded 850K checkouts last calendar year. By comparison, Woodward hovered around 300K. Even accounting for COVID, this is an extraordinary figure as worldwide only select libraries reach 1 million checkouts.
- Programming updates, you will start to notice that we will slowly be phasing out the WOW! branding at the library. The Without Walls concept was a good idea, but really speaks to work that all programming librarians should be doing inside and outside the libraries and in their communities. As such, we will be revisiting some of the expectations of librarians in the field. Naturally, this will take time as anything perceived as not within the scope of the employee becomes a discussion for the Union. That said, outreach should always be part of a librarian's scope, so I don't anticipate too much feedback. Regardless of the adjustment in workload, we will be recruiting for librarians soon as we are in need of employees and physical programming across the County. Online outreach such as literacy conversation circles and such are still expanding successfully as well as various story time schedules.
- Measure B Campaign update is I do not believe in dancing around the subject. Short of divine intervention, it isn't possible for us to successfully lobby for a Measure B renewal in 2024. I have yet to confer with my colleague Mary Leal on the subject and get her more experienced opinion, but there are issues at FCPL that would make it difficult if not impossible to pass the measure again in 2020. (I will elaborate in bullets below)

- In November 2019, Sally Gomez (Associate County Librarian) and I met with previous County Librarian and expert on Measure B, Karen Bosch Cobb regarding a renewal push for 2024. She stated that presidential election cycles are the best opportunity for us as that is when the most voters are out, and the odds are in favor of libraries in general receiving positive attention.
- She stressed it is usually a 1.5 to 2 year process to successfully lobby and pass a measure like ours. This would mean the current year is ideal to begin surveys and canvassing the public.
- This is unrealistic at this time. COVID and the general political atmosphere currently would make a meaningful push difficult.
- When Jean Rousseau became CAO approximately 7 years ago, he was told Clovis would be built soon. He has since retired. During his tenure, the Reedley Library also received approval for funding and a new location, The Highway City Branch (Teague Library) was also brought before the BOS. Unless Clovis and Reedley can both be built PRIOR to a campaign push and at least preliminary sketches can be made for a new Highway City Branch, the likelihood of passing another renewal is negligible. To go before taxpayers when two large capital projects and a smaller one are still pending only highlights the deficiency of the Library. It does not help our cause.
- Note that I have listed the obstacles, my current proposal based on conversations with my current admin team and the previous CAO are as follow;
 - Branding is a must. Somewhere along the line we stopped or greatly reduced the Measure B branding seen on all of our fliers and communications. That will resume immediately, and we will ratchet up the branding and ensure everything from the website, social media, print material and email communications include this branding to ensure it has visibility with the public.
 - Clovis and Reedley MUST be completed by 2024. By ensuring this happens, then it is feasible to attempt a campaign in 2026 or 2028. Alternative, one could be attempted in 2026 with the understanding that failing would mean going again in 2028. At the same time, additional environmental scans and renderings can be done for Highway City so that progress can be made on that project afterwards. No new buildings will be promised until successful renewal of Measure B.
 - Alternative programming will expand including digital content, but also the concept of having a librarian at every community conversation possible. This ensures visibility, but also adds to our experience as these discussions will provide new and better training opportunities.
 - Make every branch an experience. If you walk into Barnes and Noble, you would not think bookstores were dying. However, print always packed. That is because of everything from displays, the customer service, expertise, lightning-fast Wi-Fi and the overall atmosphere of the business. If the Library is to remain relevant, we need to do the same. Libraries are safe havens and community centers for people from all walks of life, but sometimes our buildings don't do that concept justice. Unfortunately, there are times when even the staff may forget that so customer service will need to once again be highlighted as part of the library and its experience.

- Lastly, if the desire of this committee is to see a Measure B campaign sooner, that can certainly be discussed. These are simply my thoughts based on observation, discussions and data mining (limited) in addition to a look at the history of Measure B. I will of course engage this group and my counterpart Mary Leal in discussions moving forward and I have yet to create a full detailed report to the new CAO, Mr. Paul Nerland. If he has a different opinion that will certainly affect the direction of Measure B as well.
- Jim gave a brief overall update for Raman at the meeting on the above listed.
 - Clovis has major issues and is waiting on Public Works
 - Fig Garden has issues, Facilities has not reached out to the Fig Friends. The temp location has a liquor license posted at the site, which means there will be change in occupancy soon.
 - Reedley reopening but still has smell but is safe.
 - Any furniture being bought, could have supply issues with delivery due to Covid.
 - All of the facilities are need of upgrades, but just to many and older buildings.
 - Overdrive is being hugely used.
 - Wow program phasing out.
 - Still recruiting librarians.
 - Literacy is busy and still having conversation circles.
 - FOL are working on recruiting and trying to get younger membership.

7) Budget – Jeannie Christiansen (Recap below from handout provided)
Fresno Countywide Financials

- Current Year Operational Budget: \$32.979 million Estimated Fund Balance Reserve increase by \$4.6 million due to sales tax increase. Please see Monthly tax proceeds report.
- Prior Year Financials FY 2020-2021, pending County Auditor’s Office finalizing the financials. We anticipate reports being issued in early 2022. Feel free to visit under Auditor-Controller/Treasurer to view year-end financial statements for the County of Fresno by fiscal year and County budget.
- Fund Balance (Measure B Savings) -planning and strategies continue for below.
 - Estimated Fund Balance 6-30-2021 (pending ACFR release).
\$56,100,000
 - Clovis Library Total Project \$19,200,000 (*Increase for inflation*)
 - Reedley Library Total Project \$9,900,000(*Increase for inflation*)
 - Capital Outlay Highway City Construction (*increase for inflation*)
 - Estimated Future 3-year Fund increases \$12,390,000.
 - Facilities Contingency Reserve – Major Repairs/upgrades (3 year thru 2024) \$3,500,000.
 - 10%of Operations Contingency \$3,100,000.
 - Fund Balance after above commitments Estimate \$26,400,000.
(This includes net after Clovis and Reedley Projects)

Projects Overview

Construction Timeline	
Clovis	2022
Firebaugh/West Hills Co-Located Library	2022
Reedley	2022
Highway City 99-year land lease with the option to build to suit 5,000 sq. ft.	TBD

Measure B Revenues-Fresno & Coalinga – Monthly Tax Proceeds

- Measure B expires March 2029.
- Covid-19 pandemic Impact: Measure B sales tax revenue increased in FY 20-21 by about \$4 million for Fresno and about \$54,000 for Coalinga. Revenue collections have grown rapidly. The current year is on track to receive surplus growth at 15%.

(There is a three-page report that was enclosed with packets. Listed below are key points).

- Currently Collection: The reports for Fresno, Coalinga and combined Sales Tax Proceeds.
 - FY 21-22 Fresno \$8,322,323
 - FY 21-22 Coalinga-Huron \$204,113
- Fresno:
 - Anticipate additional surplus this year \$3.5 million for total revenue \$26.5 million. Prior year collections at \$23,-59,913 revenue collected in FY 20-21, which is \$4,009,037 more than in FY 19-20, a 21% increase.
- Coalinga:
 - Anticipate additional surplus this year \$84,000 for total revenue \$649,000. Prior year collections at \$565,566 revenue collected in FY 20-21, which is \$53,921 more than in FY 19-20, a 10.5% increase.
- Combined Measure B Collected: The last page reflects the history of actual receipts since FY 2011-12:
 - Since FY 2011-12 (ten years, four months), the combined receipts are \$184.4 million.
 - Since 1998, the combined receipts are \$333.1 million.
 - Governor's Budget Upcoming Year – Prelim figures
 - i. Revenue estimates the State surplus growth close to 10% in upcoming budget. Estimate would be minor decrease for 2022-23 Fresno (\$2.6 million) and Coalinga (\$64,000) from current year averaging 15% growth.
- Jeannie gave a recap of library services and what Measure B helps with. Kathy inquired about how to promote it better. The library budget is half Measure B.
- Kathy inquired about the Big Read, Jeannie provided some information, and we will be doing it in some capacity, it is still in the planning phase.

8) Planning for next meeting.

Zoom for now with option to change to in person.
April 27th, 2022, at 6:00 PM.

9) Roster

Karen will update Roster now that Steve Rapada is officially removed. We have 2 openings one is for Member at Large and one is for District 4, Mendes.

10) Attendance

Everyone is in good attendance.

11) Adjourn. Motion to Adjourn at 6:34 PM Orth; Second: Burrows.