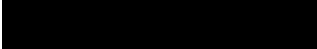


Lynn Zimmermann, Chair
Library Advisory Board

Ukiah, CA 95482

October 1, 2020

Dear Members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors,

Greetings from the members of the Library Advisory Board. On September 23rd, the LAB held its first formal meeting since January. The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention three recommendations that were unanimously approved by the LAB at that time.

1. Appoint a library staff person to act as liaison to the Library Advisory Board. Exhibit A of Ms. Horner's contract with the Board of Supervisors does not include this responsibility among her duties. We recommend that Nicole Bird, Acting Assistant County Librarian, be appointed to that role.
2. Approve the process to complete an MOU with the Laytonville Friends of the Library so that their work to develop a Laytonville Satellite Library may move forward. This project has been under discussion for approximately eight years.
3. Restore 100% of employee costs, for library staff re-assigned by the county to other tasks during the pandemic and fire crises, to the library budget.

The authority of the County to re-assign library staff to other tasks during public health and safety crises is without question. We also understand that FEMA reimburses the county at 75% of employee costs for library staff who are so re-assigned. We recommend that the full amount of FEMA reimbursement funds be restored to the library budget. In addition, we recommend that the remaining 25% of those employee costs be restored to the library budget through other funding sources.

A 100% reimbursement of these costs to the library budget demonstrates a commitment to the future of Mendocino County libraries. The first goal of the Library Strategic Plan is to develop a reserve fund dedicated to the long term capital improvement of all library facilities in Mendocino County. This goal cannot be sustained without a commitment to dedicated reserves

Measure A is a primary funding source for the library. Taxpayers approved Measure A funds for clear and explicit purposes. Employee costs for library staff re-directed to assignments related to public health and safety crises are not among them. It is imperative that those monies are used to maintain the services that the library provides to the community. Given its myriad responsibilities and limited resources, it is unlikely that the county will contribute funding to the library in the near future. It would be judicious and ethically sound to restore the costs incurred to the library budget.

Sincerely,

Lynn Zimmermann

Lynn Zimmermann, Chair
Mendocino County Library Advisory Board