CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

MEETING DATE:    Thursday, January 25, 2018
AGENDA ITEM #:   3.C.
ITEM:            BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR FY 2018/19

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
No action required.
Excerpt from the minutes of the November 16, 2017 Library Commission meeting

Library Budget: Chair Smith reminded everyone that at the meeting in August he had asked the commissioners to think about any changes, additions or modifications they might want to see included in the FY2018/19 budget since now was the time to provide input. Commissioner Wilson asked what the budget projections looked like for the next fiscal year. County Librarian Cervantes stated that an increase of 5% for property tax revenue is projected but that number doesn’t take into account the increased cost of operations.

- **Commissioner Wilson** then stated that instead of the Commission getting bogged down in the minutiae of the numbers that perhaps a better use of the time available would be to offer suggestions about where any increase in the budget could be directed. Going around the room, the responses were as follows:

- **Commissioner Wilson:** Realizing that the library was doing a fine job of upgrading facilities, he’d like to see that continue, as well as an emphasis on marketing the library and all it has to offer to the public, especially to the schools;

- **Commissioner Fischer:** One of the problems alluded to in the Annual Report was the library’s fixed percentage of annual property tax revenue. He wonders if lobbying for an increase was appropriate or simply a fool’s errand;

- **Commissioner Menichelli:** Piggybacking on Peter’s response, she would like to see more on how the library is becoming more relevant. Technology is changing things so rapidly that people might not realize that the library is capable of delivering things to them in a number of ways and they might not be aware;

- **Commissioner Smith** (Concord): Hours. Always hours. The more hours the library is open and accessible, the better. More people will be able to enjoy it the more it’s open;

- **Commissioner Kelly:** Accelerate the development of the library’s new website;

- **Commissioner Rennie:** She would like to see more community outreach for funding. She has a background in corporate marketing and said it’s all yours to use;

- **Commissioner Faye:** Thumb drives available for use by patrons;

- **Commissioner LaLanne:** Salaries. With the turnover the library is experiencing (such as Chad’s recent departure) she wonders if the people leaving are telling the truth about why. One way to stop the drainage might be to pay people better;

- **Commissioner Holsington:** Staffing Sunday hours. In Lafayette the manager there works many Sunday shifts because the library has a hard time staffing them. Some branches aren’t even open on Sundays;

- **Commissioner Valdez:** People. The library claims the employees are their biggest asset, and once again Commissioner Valdez wants to go on the record as saying they should be treated that way;

- **Commissioner Canciamilla:** Access to the electronic technology at the library is important, so increasing that technological effort by teaching folks how to access it is critical. As the library moves towards more technology, the library’s collections will become centralized via the cloud;
- **Commissioner McCormick**: Increased technology— if increased funding is not available through the budget then it could come from corporate outreach and sponsorship;

- **Commissioner Wilson**: Having access to the cloud is great, but making sure people have the knowledge and ability to access it is the critical component; Just having it there isn’t enough;

- **Commissioner Miller**: More LGBTQ outreach (Collection, materials) available. The library should be a place where folks can go to get their questions answered, including those questions they might have about themselves that are too difficult to ask at home;

- **Commissioner Pursley**: If a funding increase is not possible through negotiating an increase then perhaps initiate a series of meetings with the librarians, school and city officials and see if increased funding for more hours is possible that way;

- **Commissioner Fitzpatrick**: More hours, especially on Sundays and Mondays. The library in Oakley also serves the areas of Bethel island, Knightsen and Byron and with no hours on those days someone who needs access to a library is forced to drive all over the county to find one;