

The following is a Public Comment not read into the minutes for the Library Board of Trustee meeting dated 8.4.21 from library patron Joan Rincon:

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Though disappointed that I don't get to see you folks in person, the good news is that I have been going to the library frequently. Here are some observations from the past month.

Let me get the two negatives out of the way first.

We DO need to watch our signage and make sure all staff is paying attention to it. One Saturday afternoon, I approached the front doors, to find a sign saying the library was closed. Fortunately the doors opened, and it turned out no one had taken the sign down from Thursday and Friday. Another time, restrooms that had been closed for a water leak got repaired and reopened, but a sign continued to direct patrons to the upstairs bathrooms.

Speaking of bathrooms, it is clear that we are going to need some kind of mid-day sweep check of the restrooms once or twice a day. There will always be a few ill-behaved people who leave a gigantic mess of tissue, seat covers and trash all over the room. When it is a mess by noon, patrons should not have to wade through it for the next seven hours. I don't mean scrubbing or mopping, but a quick sweep-up is often needed.

The good news is, adult patronage of folks sitting and reading or doing other work is way up from pre-Covid levels, even beyond the levels I told you about last month.

Another good thing is that I had a chance to talk with Sweetwater High School principal Maribel Gavin on July 27. She mentioned that Joyce Ryan had reached out to her already, and that she looks forward to meeting with our library's leaders very soon about areas of mutual cooperation. We also talked about the needs of Sweetwater students, and she agreed that with National City's crowded home environments, having space in the library that is kept calm and quiet for study is very important.

Two quick things in closing. I am very hopeful that the Librarian's report may include a discussion of the photographs of Memo Cavada and the opportunities for doing an exhibit or permanent archive of some of them.

Also, I applaud Ms. Defazio for having the librarians go through our large Spanish-language book collection and set up theme displays to encourage reading.

-Joan Rincon