CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2026
6:00 PM

1025 Escobar St., Room 110
Martinez, CA

2229 Ptarmigan Dr. #1
Walnut Creek, CA

Zoom: https://zoom.us/j/99019817954?pwd=Ig6i65bDmwMeoIR8SsAS9lAaG9I1nH.1

Webinar ID: 990 1981 7954
Passcode: 228815

Library Commission

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Library Commissioners, please call Library Administration at (925) 608-7700 by 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 15th if you will NOT be at the meeting. A quorum must be established in-person before a meeting can be held. A record is maintained of Commissioners' attendance.

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Tommy Smith called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Nadia took roll to establish if a quorum was present. With 17 commissioners present, a quorum was established.

Present	Sarah Blumenfeld, Vannessa Cendejas, Wylendia Eastman, Michael Fischer, Robin Eckert, Arnold Fitzpatrick, Susan Hildreth, John Huh, Marina Hsieh, Anne Kingsley, Amenda Kung, Zelda LeFrak-Belleci, Tommy Smith, Bryan Thomas, Bethany Woods, Kevin Armonio, Nicole Gemmer, Robert Sanguedolce, Julia Dozier, Lorie Tinfow, Heather Lurvey, Amit Prayag, and Linda Sendig
Excused	Matt DeFraga, Sue Hamill, Lynn Mackey, Dennisha Marsh, Robert Mason, Erika Rosenberg, Rachel Rosekind, and Stuart Robinson
Absent	Jim Dexter, Stacie Hinton, Frederick Page, and Michael Swernoff

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

New members and visitors will have an opportunity to introduce themselves; self-introductions are voluntary.

New alternate Library Commissioner from the City of Oakley, Vannessa Cendejas, introduced herself.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers from the audience may address the Library Commission on any relevant issue that is not scheduled for the agenda. Public comments can be made on agenda items when the item is discussed. Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per speaker.

Member of the public Doug Novotny addressed the Commission regarding his concerns about what

he perceives as the politicization of Libraries.

4.

Attachments: LC-Minutes 2026-5-21 DRAFT

Commissioners will approve or amend the minutes from the May 21, 2026 meeting.

No corrections to the minutes were proposed.
With 16 "Aye" votes and one abstention, the motion to accept the May 21, 2026 meeting minutes was passed.
Motion: Nicole Gemmer
Second: Julia Dozier

This Consent Item was approved.

5. COUNTY LIBRARIAN REPORT – attachment 2

County Librarian Alison McKee will submit a written report on items of interest to Commissioners.

In Alison McKee's stead, Deputy County Librarian Amy Brunson gave the County Librarian report. She emphasized the upcoming groundbreaking ceremony for Orbisonia Heights, the location for the new Bay Point Library. More details on this event to come. She also reemphasized the upcoming temporary closures of the Kensington, Ygnacio Valley, and Antioch Libraries for deferred maintenance projects. Finally, due to budget cuts, the city of Pittsburg has decided not to fund any extra hours for the Pittsburg Library this fiscal year. Beginning August 1, Pittsburg hours will decrease to the county-funded base of 40 hours per week. In light of this, Amy reiterated the importance of the commissioners' advocacy for the Library in their respective cities and communities, and especially to their policymakers.

6. BYLAWS WORKING GROUP - attachment 3

Led by the Bylaws Working Group, commissioners will have a roundtable discussion about public comment and term limits.

Commissioner Eckert led this discussion about the ongoing update to the Bylaws, specifically about the wording around public comment and whether or not term limits should be imposed.There was also discussion about why the section in the founding Bylaws that defined the scope of the Commission's authority (slide 3 of the attached presentation) had been removed in subsequent Bylaws. A draft of the Bylaws will be sent to commissioners before the next meeting, when they will vote on them.

7.

Attachments: Collection Development Report_July 2026_Final
Collection Development Planner Areas
CCCLIB Collection Development Plan

The Library's Collection Development Manager Kara Sheetz will give a presentation about the Library's Collection Development Plan.

Kara Sheetz gave the attached presentation about the current state of Library Collection Development. Some of the topics covered include: how the Library has adapted after its

main vendor went out of business, how the Library distributes various subject areas between collection planners, the criteria behind selection decisions, circulation trends, collection diversity, and intellectual freedom.

8. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Legislative Chair Sue Hamill will report on legislative matters.

Commissioner Fischer gave the legislative report in Commissioner Hamill's stead. He reported on the outcome of the State's library budget, noting that while this was a challenging year for legislative funding requests, several library programs received continued or modestly increased support. The California Library Services Act received a funding increase, library literacy services were authorized to continue through alternative funding, and the Lunch at the Library program maintained its existing funding level. Commissioner Fischer also encouraged Commissioners, acting as private individuals rather than on behalf of the Commission, to thank legislators for their support of library funding.

9. ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH UPDATES

Commissioners will discuss advocacy and outreach efforts made on behalf of the Library between meetings.

Chair Smith emphasized the importance of keeping Commissioners' efforts outside of meetings focused on the Commission's responsibilities, including advancing the work plan and supporting efforts to increase library funding and service hours.

10. MEETING SUMMARY, ACTION SUMMARY, AND FUTURE AGENDAS

Commissioners will suggest topics related to the work plan for future meetings and identify action items to complete before the next meeting.

Chair Smith pointed out that while informational reports are valuable and can be shared with the community, they function in support of the Commission's core work as an advisory body. Suggested topics for meetings should align with the work plan and Library advocacy. With that in mind, the next meeting's topics will include: voting on the revised Bylaws and the formation of the Annual Report and Work Plan working group. Commissioners are expected to read the Bylaws draft before the next meeting as well as the current Work Plan to re-familiarize themselves with it.

Commissioner Prayag suggested a discussion about how AI is currently impacting the Library and how it can be used to advance the Commission's work.

11. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioners can use this time to share upcoming events, book sales, and any other library-related information.

Commissioner Fischer asked what happens to the meeting recordings. At this time, there are no official retention policies for the recordings, so they are not posted anywhere.

Commissioner Hildreth announced that the San Pablo Library is having a celebration of its children's area refresh on July 23. The refresh was made possible by grants through Sunlight Giving and San Pablo Community Foundation, and was organized and facilitated by the Library Foundation of

Contra Costa.

Commissioner Cendejas highlighted various past events at the Oakley Library including a Friends of the Library book sale and Summer Reading party, as well as a partnership with Hijas del Campo Back-to-School Drive.

Commissioner Blumenfeld announced that last fiscal year, the Friends of the Lafayette Library raised $101,000 for the Library, $68,000 of which went specifically towards collections (both the County's and Lafayette's).

Commissioner Hsieh promoted the free summer jazz concerts at the San Ramon Library.

12. ADJOURNMENT to the Thursday, September 17, 2026 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

ITEMS TO CALENDAR:

2026 Library Commission meeting schedule:
- Thursday, September 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 19, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

2026 Friends, Foundation and Commissioners Forum:
- **NEW DATE**: Saturday, October 17, 2026, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m