

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, March 19, 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](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, March 18th 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 6:03 p.m. Nadia Bagdasar Mills took roll and with 17 voting members present, a quorum was established.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Present | Sarah Blumenfeld, Julia Dozier, Tim Fares, Michael Fischer, Robin Eckert, Arnold Fitzpatrick, Sue Hamill, Susan Hildreth, John Huh, Marina Hsieh, Anne Kingsley, Amenda Kung, Zelda LeFrak-Belleci, Heather Lurvey, Amit Prayag, Donna Rennie, Rachel Rosekind, Robert Sanguedolce, Tommy Smith, Michael Swernoff, Bryan Thomas, Lorie Tinfow, Bethany Woods, and Stuart Robinson |
| Excused | Matt DeFraga, Shrikant Garde, Nicole Gemmer, Stacie Hinton, Lynn Mackey, Dennisha Marsh, Robert Mason, Richard Means, and Kevin Armonio |
| Absent | Jim Dexter, Vivian Faye, Frederick Page, George Pursley, and Linda Sendig |

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Visitors will have an opportunity to introduce themselves; self-introductions are voluntary.

There were no visitors and no self-introductions.

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

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

4.

Attachments: [LC-Minutes 2026-1-15 FINAL](#)

No corrections to the minutes were proposed.

With 15 "Aye" votes and two abstentions, the motion to accept the January 15, 2026 meeting minutes was passed.

Motion: Zelda LeFrak-Belleci

Second: Sue Hamill

5.

Attachments: [Co Librarian Report March 2026](#)

From her attached report, County Librarian Alison McKee highlighted the updates to Self-Service Sundays at Concord, specifically that the new orientation videos had just been posted to the website and that the Library added one extra hour of service. Self-Service Sundays is scheduled to launch at the Pittsburg and San Pablo Libraries on June 7th.

She also highlighted that in addition to the annual city letters, she will send letters to the County Administrator for Kensington and El Sobrante Libraries, which are the only full-service libraries in unincorporated areas. Alison then noted that the Kensington Library will be closed starting July 27th for upgrades instead of in the fall, and Clayton Library's upgrades will happen in the fall instead of the spring.

6. AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING and FUTURE TOPICS
Commissioners will suggest items for future meetings.

Chair Smith indicated that agenda topics have been loosely mapped out for the rest of the year, but that there was room for suggestions. A possible topic he suggested was updates from the commissioners about the advocacy they have been doing around the city letters.

Alison McKee then went through the mapped out future topics:

- May: update from commissioners regarding extra hours, a presentation on the Library's racial equity plan, the Library's budget, Self-Service Sundays expansion plans.
- July: update from the Library's Collection Development Manager, possible Library of Things "petting zoo."
- September: presentation from the Juvenile Hall Librarian, formation of the Nominating Committee, formation of the Triennial Review and Annual Report/Work Plan Task Teams.
- November: update on the Library's marketing plan, election of 2027 Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission, and final approval of the annual report and triennial review.

Commissioner Prayag requested having a centralized page on the Library's website listing all of the locations of its specialized equipment like 3D printers, makerspaces, etc. Alison McKee stated that it was a great time for such a recommendation since the Library may soon switch to a different website provider. Commissioner Smith suggested that the website refresh was a good future topic and something the commissioners could actively poll their communities about to gather input about what they'd like to see.

7. BYLAWS DISCUSSION

Commissioners will review current Commission Bylaws and discuss possible updates

The Commission's bylaws were last updated in 2019 and are due for a refresh. After some conversation and requests for clarification about the current bylaws, Commissioner Eckert

announced that she ran the bylaws through AI for analysis and it generated a list of recommended changes. Commissioner Smith suggested creating a working group to work on the new bylaws. This group includes Commissioners Eckert (chair), LeFrak-Belleci, Hildreth, and Robinson.

8. QUORUM DISCUSSION

Commissioners will brainstorm ideas to make reaching quorum easier.

Because of the challenges the Commission faces to meet quorum, the group discussed some of the barriers they have to make the meetings (time of night, traffic, location, length of meeting), but ultimately discussion centered on Commission vacancies and appointments. They suggested clarity around a commissioner's roles before appointment, along with emphasis on filling vacant alternate positions, of which there are many. Commissioners without alternates agreed to encourage recruitment for those positions to their appointing bodies. Commissioners with alternates agreed to reach out to them if those alternates were not active. Recruitment strategies were discussed.

9.

Attachments: [Tech Exchange Library Commission presentation](#)

Claudia Garcia, Director of Programs at Tech Exchange, gave the attached presentation about Tech Exchange's role in the Libraries.

10.

Attachments: [LCCC Legislative Committee report 3-19-26](#)

Chair of the Legislative Committee Sue Hamill gave the attached report.

11. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Commissioner Lurvey announced that she is in the process of visiting all library locations by the end of the year.
- Commissioner Kung went to the screening of the movie The Librarians at Walnut Creek and talked about how impactful it was. Commissioner Blumenfeld mentioned that it was also screened at the Lafayette Library.
- Commissioner Hsieh initiated discussion about when to mobilize to travel to Sacramento for advocacy.
- Commissioner Rosekind shared information about ALA's upcoming Social Responsibilities Roundtable Summit.
- Commissioner Fischer reported on the El Cerrito Library Ballot Measure C.
- Commissioner Kingsley talked about DVC's current exhibit for Women's History Month, as well as an art exhibit that the Richmond Arts Center helped with.
- Commissioner Smith announced that some Library Friends members started a Friends Google Group to compare notes, share information, and stay connected outside of the annual meeting.

13. ADJOURNMENT to the Thursday, May 21, 2026 LIBRARY COMMISSION

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

ITEMS TO CALENDAR:

2026 Library Commission meeting schedule:

- Thursday, May 21, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 16, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
- 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.

DRAFT