



AGENDA

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Library Commission

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=Ig6i65bDmwMeoIR8SsAS9IAaG9I
1nH.1](https://zoom.us/j/99019817954?pwd=Ig6i65bDmwMeoIR8SsAS9IAaG9I1nH.1)

Webinar ID: 990 1981 7954
Passcode: 228815

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- Hard copy agenda packets are available for viewing at each Contra Costa County Library
- The Library Commission will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend Library Commission meetings who contact Library Administration at least 72 hours before the meeting, at (925) 608-7700. After 72 hours prior, accommodations will be on a best-efforts basis.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the Contra Costa County Library Commission to a majority of members of the Library Commission less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at Contra Costa County Library Administration, 777 Arnold Drive, Suite 210, Martinez, CA 94553.

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

The Library Commission Chair will call the meeting to order. Nadia Bagdasar Mills will do a roll call to determine a quorum of attendees.

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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

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.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - attachment 1 [26-703](#)

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

Commissioners will approve or amend the minutes from the January 15, 2026 meeting.

5. COUNTY LIBRARIAN REPORT – attachment 2 [26-702](#)

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

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

6. AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING and FUTURE TOPICS

Commissioners will suggest items for future meetings.

7. BYLAWS DISCUSSION

Commissioners will review current Commission Bylaws and discuss possible updates

8. QUORUM DISCUSSION

Commissioners will brainstorm ideas to make reaching quorum easier.

9. TECH EXCHANGE PRESENTATION

Representatives from Tech Exchange will give an overview and explanation of the TechHub program currently running at the Pittsburg, San Pablo, and Walnut Creek Libraries.

10. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee Commissioners will report to the Commission on legislative matters.

11. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

12. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

Nadia Bagdasar Mills will summarize any action items assigned to Commissioners before the next meeting.

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

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:

- Saturday, October 3, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 26-703

Agenda Date: 3/19/2026

Agenda #: 4.

Advisory Board: Library Commission

Subject: Acceptance of November Meeting Minutes

Commissioners will approve or amend the minutes from the January 15, 2026 meeting.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, January 15, 2026

6:00 PM

1025 Escobar St., Room 110

Martinez

Zoom: [https://zoom.us/j/99019817954?
pwd=Ig6i65bDmwMeoIR8SsAS9lAaG9I1nH.1](https://zoom.us/j/99019817954?pwd=Ig6i65bDmwMeoIR8SsAS9lAaG9I1nH.1)

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Library Commission

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Library Commissioners, please call Library Administration at (925) 608-7700 by 5 p.m. Wednesday, January 14th 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 6:20 p.m. Nadia Bagdasar Mills took roll and with 13 voting members present, a quorum was established.

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

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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

There were two members of the public in the room who introduced themselves: 1. Joan and 2. Pam Smith. There was one Zoom attendee from the public who introduced herself: Allison.

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

Joan wished to advocate for the retention of the Needle Arts program at the Martinez Library, which was canceled last fall. She spoke to the under utilization of the community room at the Martinez Library and the strategic goals of the Library, and wished for the Commission to advocate on its

behalf.

Martinez resident Michelle McBee also advocated for the Needle Arts program, describing it as a place of community. She also wished for the Commission to advocate on the program's behalf.

Chair Smith clarified that the Commission does not determine or dictate Library operation, but is an advisory body.

4.

Attachments: [LC-Minutes 2025-11-20 FINAL](#)

Commissioners will approve or amend the minutes from the November 20, 2025 meeting.

Commissioner Hamill suggested a correction to Senator Grayson's name in November's minutes.

With 13 "Aye" votes, the motion to accept the November 20, 2025 meeting minutes as amended was passed.

Motion: Michael Fischer

Second: Marina Hsieh

5.

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

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

From her attached report, County Librarian Alison McKee highlighted the retirement of Executive Secretary Walter Beveridge and announced his replacement Nadia Bagdasar Mills. She also emphasized the upcoming 8-month closure of the Pinole Library for deferred maintenance and mentioned that the next closure will be the Antioch Library for approximately 7 months. The Ygnacio Valley Library will close in the fall for about the same length of time. Further down the line will be an extended closure of the Kensington Library for significant upgrades, followed by a shorter closure of the Clayton Library in the spring.

Commissioner Lurvey asked for comment on the Library's efforts on SB321, the new school engagement law that aims for every child to have a library card by third grade. County Librarian McKee said that library staff is prioritizing school engagement and attempting to put processes in place to make it easier for Library staff to get into schools.

6. **AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING and FUTURE TOPICS**

Commissioners will suggest items for future meetings.

Each commissioner had an opportunity to suggest future agenda topics. These included:

- Examining the Commission's efforts to make quorum.
- Governor's budget, perhaps for the May agenda.
- How commissioners can engage with their appointing authorities.
- Presentation about the new Oakley Library.

- Rotating where the body holds its meeting and have the respective City Managers present at them.
- What can commissioners do between meetings to further the Commission's mission.
- How can commissioners support or advocate for a Library mobile app.
- Use cases for AI in the Library. What is the Library doing around digital literacy in the age of AI.
- Presentation about the Library of Things.
- ADA updates
- Metrics and decision making around the Library's Digital Resources.
- Mentorship program for new commissioners.
- Study of the Commission bylaws.

7.

Attachments: [Library Hours Funded-one sheet](#)

Commissioners will discuss how to advocate for library extra hour funding

According to the standard lease agreement that the Library has with its city partners, the County Librarian is required to send the City Manager a letter by March 31st of every year that informs them how much the estimated cost for additional open hours will be for the next fiscal year. Funding received from property tax is enough so that the county can fund 40 base open hours at all of its full-service libraries. Any city that wants to fund 6, 12, or 16 additional open hours on a weekly basis can, and they can change that number on an annual basis. Cities are required to announce their intentions by May 31st.

The Commission split up into smaller groups to discuss how to advocate for extra-hour funding in their cities. Some of these ideas included: Forming relationships with city/town officials/legislators, sharing compelling stories from library users at public meetings, and talking to library staff about their day-to-day and how extra hours impact them and their communities.

Attached is the reference guide distributed to Commissioners to aid in their discussion.

8. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative Committee Commissioners will report to the Commission on legislative matters.

The new Legislative Committee Chair is Commissioner Hamill. She reported that the Governor's office has released a draft budget in which no increases to library programs was proposed. The only new library-related funding that was included in the budget is a proposal to provide \$6.8 million in ongoing funding for the popular California Parks Pass to create visibility for the program. The budget proposes that it would be more prudent to wait until California takes in revenue for the next few months and then create a spending plan in May.

Commissioner Hamill also reported that Superintendent of Schools Lynn Mackey will not be running again.

9. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Commissioner Tinfow reported on a special showing of the documentary *The Librarians* at the Walnut Creek Library on February 5th.

Commissioner Fischer spoke about the petition in El Cerrito to fund a new library. To make it on the ballot, the petition needed 10% of the city's registered voters to sign. The petition had almost 13%.

Commissioner Blumenfeld reported that Lafayette Library will also be showing *The Librarians* in March.

Commissioner Kingsley announced DVC's Black History Month Wikipedia edit-a-thon on February 25th, as well as the examination of historical photographs on loan from the Oakland Museum.

10. ADJOURNMENT to the Thursday, March 19, 2026 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

DRAFT



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 26-702

Agenda Date: 3/19/2026

Agenda #: 5.

Advisory Board: Library Commission

Subject: County Librarian Report

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

County Librarian's Report to the Library Commission

Thursday March 19, 2026

Self-Service Sundays Update

Online orientation for new sign-ups for Self Service Sundays will launch sometime in March. Patrons will be able to go to our [website](#) to watch a video that outlines how the program works and then print out the patron agreement and liability waiver. Patrons will bring the signed form into a branch and then staff will update the settings on the patron's card so they are allowed to access the building using the Self-Service Sundays pin pad. The video is currently being reviewed to ensure it meets accessibility standards and then we will add a Spanish language track.

Self-Service Sundays are on track to launch at the San Pablo and Pittsburg Libraries by June 30, 2026.

FY 26-27 Budget Submitted

The Library Department's FY26-27 proposed budget was submitted to the County Administrator's Office on Friday February 6th. The Library's total proposed FY2026-2027 budget is \$56,231,131. In comparison, the FY25-26 budget was \$45,693,217. This significant increase is because in previous years, certain ongoing annual costs were covered by fund balance rather than being included in the budget. This year's budget now incorporates all ongoing annual costs, which results in a structural gap of \$8,069,042. A portion of fund balance monies will be used to close the gap and remaining fund balance monies will cover one-time costs. This approach creates more transparency and gives a realistic view of the actual annual cost to operate the Library Department. The Board of Supervisors will consider all department's budgets during budget hearings on April 27th and 28th. The Library Department is scheduled to present its proposed budget in the afternoon of Monday 4/27.

Congratulations to Commissioner Dennisha Marsh!

Commissioner Marsh is the recipient of the Los Medanos Community College Visionary Leadership MLK Award. The LMC MLK awards recognize community civil rights and social justice champions, and students whose activism sets them apart as emerging leaders. Commissioner Marsh received the award for her work as the Executive Director

of [Parental African American Achievement Collaborative Team](#) (PAAACT), a nonprofit organization dedicated to aligning essential educational and economic resources with underserved families in Contra Costa County.

New Bay Point Library Updates: The developers (Pacific West) who are building the development that will house the new Bay Point Library received all their financing for the project in December 2025. They will break ground on the project by June of 2026 and the projected opening day for the new Library is June 30, 2029. Additionally, U.S. Representative John Garamendi has secured \$2 million for the library project as part of this year's appropriations package.

Deferred Maintenance Projects Updates

Over the next almost two years, the Library will be tackling some large-scale infrastructure projects at four county-owned library buildings. Due to the scope of work these significant upgrades will address, the libraries will be closed for extended periods of time.

Pinole Library

Closure length: March 1, 2026, for approximately 11 months

Scope of work: New roof, new all-electric HVAC, modernized electrical system, energy-efficient interior lighting and cleaner air technology, and a repaved parking lot with ADA improvements

Closure details: <https://ccclib.org/news/pinole-library-to-undergo-major-renovation-to-modernize-50-year-old-facility/>

Antioch Library

Closure length: September 2026 for approximately 4 months

Scope of work: Electrical and lighting upgrades, ADA improvements to parking lot

Closure details: Coming Summer of 2026

Ygnacio Valley Library

Closure length: Fall 2026 for approximately 8 – 10 months

Scope of work: New roof, new HVAC, lighting & electrical upgrades

Closure details: Coming Fall of 2026

Kensington Library

Closure length: Fall 2026 for at least one year

Scope of work: HVAC, electrical and lighting upgrades, ADA improvements and interior renovations and remodel

Closure details: Coming Fall of 2026

New Oakley Library Update

The new Oakley Library project is moving along at a brisk pace. Architects [Siegel and Strain](#) are working closely with both City of Oakley staff and Library staff on the design. You can find the latest news about the project on the City's [website](#). The City is aiming to have the new Library built and open to the public by the beginning of 2028.

Project Second Chance Move: The Project Second Chance office is moving in February! PSC will still be located in Salvio Pacheco Square but is moving to Suite 310, which provides more than double the space of the current suite. This move will allow PSC's growing staff, volunteer, and learner community to have the room they need, as the program has already outgrown its current location. The new space will include dedicated areas for tutor/learner pairs, a training room, and additional flexible space to support collaboration, learning, and future growth. While an exact move-in date has not yet been confirmed, we'll share updates as soon as details are finalized. Please note that the PSC office will likely be closed for approximately one week during the moving process, and those dates will be communicated in advance.

ANNUAL CITY LETTERS

Each year by March 31st, the Library provides a cost estimate for extra hours, technology and facility costs (if applicable) for the next fiscal year to each of our city partners. Extra hour options are for 6, 12, or 16 hours per week. If a City is going to change the number of extra hours they are funding in the next fiscal year, they must inform the Library by May 31st. Current extra hours are:

City	Branch Name	FY25-26	
		County Base	City Extra
Antioch	Antioch	40	0
Antioch	Prewett*	35	n/a
Brentwood	Brentwood	40	12
Clayton	Clayton	40	0
Concord	Concord	40	12
Danville	Danville	40	16
El Cerrito	El Cerrito**	40	6

Hercules	Hercules	40	6
Lafayette	Lafayette	40	16
Martinez	Martinez	40	0
Moraga	Moraga	40	0
Oakley	Oakley***	40	n/a
Orinda	Orinda	40	16
Pinole	Pinole	40	0
Pittsburg	Pittsburg	40	12
Pleasant Hill	Pleasant Hill	40	12
San Pablo	San Pablo	40	12
San Ramon	Dougherty Station	40	6
San Ramon	San Ramon	40	16
Walnut Creek	Walnut Creek	40	12
Walnut Creek	Ygnacio Valley	40	12
n/a	Bay Point*	35.5	n/a
n/a	Crockett*	18	6
n/a	EL Sobrante	40	n/a
n/a	Kensington	40	n/a
n/a	Rodeo*	18	6
TOTAL		986.5	178
TOTAL OPEN HOURS			1164.5

*outlets, not full-service libraries
**not eligible to fund more than 6 extra hours due to size limitations of facility
***not eligible to fund extra hours dues to size limitations of facility