

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

*1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 17, 2025

6:00 PM

**1025 Escobar St., Room 110
Martinez**

<https://zoom.us/j/99019817954?pwd=Ig6i65bDmwMeoIR8SsAS9IAaG9I1nH.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 16th 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 Commissioner's attendance.

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Nicole Gemmer called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Walt Beveridge took roll and with 13 voting members present, a quorum was established.

Present	Jim Dexter, Robin Eckert, Nicole Gemmer, Marina Hsieh, Heather Lurvey, Richard Means, Amit Prayag, Robert Sanguedolce, Linda Sendig, Tommy Smith, Bryan Thomas, and Bethany Woods
Excused	Julia Dozier, Sue Hamill, Zelda LeFrak-Belleci, Dennisha Marsh, Robert Mason, Frederick Page, and Rachel Rosekind
Absent	Matt DeFraga, Vivian Faye, Shrikant Garde, Stacie Hinton, Anne Kingsley, Amenda Kung, Lynn Mackey, Jo Ellen Marcotte, George Pursley, and Donna Rennie

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Gemmer introduced several new commissioners who each took a moment to say a few words about themselves.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

4.

Attachments: [LC Minutes May 2025 - Final](#)

With 13 "Aye" votes and one abstention, the motion to accept the 5-15-2025 meeting minutes as they were presented was passed.

Motion: Hsieh

Second: Prayag

5.

Attachments: [Co Librarian Report July 2025](#)

County Librarian Alison McKee highlighted several items in her written report to the commission then called for any questions. No one had any so the meeting continued.

6. COMMISSIONER WORK PLAN ACTION ITEMS (Report Out / Current Events)

Commissioner Fitzpatrick: In his previous role as a Oakley Commissioner, Arnold was involved in fundraising efforts for the Clayton Library. He also has been attending programs there to show support.

Commissioner Prayag: Amit had 3 items to report. 1. He attended a Clayton Foundation meeting to report on the May Commission meeting to the group; 2. Amit and his family participated in the Clayton 4th of July parade to show support; 3. Amit has joined the Clayton Foundation Communication Sub-Committee and they are now reviewing the Library Marketing Plan for both the Foundation and the Clayton Library.

7. AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING and FUTURE TOPICS

Commissioner Swernoff suggested an update on efforts regarding a new library for El Cerrito.

Alison stated that she thought that was more of a city function than an item for the full commission and suggest that Commissioner Swernoff might huddle with Commissioner Fischer from El Cerrito to speak about this topic.

8.

Attachments: [SSS Survey Results 2025](#)

Alison's PowerPoint slides are attached to these minutes.

Attachments: Self-service Sundays Pilot Results**9. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Lurvey provided the report this meeting due to Commissioner Dozier being absent:

Legislative Update
California

In June, Governor Newsom signed the 2025 State Budget Bill. California State Library Parks Pass program was funded through 2026-it had been subject to end in 2025 due to an \$6.75 million budget cut proposed in the legislature's budget plan earlier this year. The California State Parks Foundation obtained over 8,000 signatures supporting the program. The funds are appropriated for the State Parks & Rec Fund, not directly to the libraries. \$3.6 million was allocated to the Altadena Library District. The libraries in Altadena were damaged by the fires earlier this year. The Library District expects to receive reduced funding from property taxes for the next few years due to the widespread loss of homes and property damage. The governor stated the State of California would not be able to replace the funds IMLS had provided to California.

Federal

No library-related bills in Congress right now.

In *FCC v. Consumers' Research* and *SHLB v. Consumers' Research* decided in June, the Supreme Court held the Universal Service Fund, which encompasses the E-Rate program which subsidizes internet connectivity for libraries, is constitutional, overturning the Fifth Circuit. *ALA v. Sonderling* and *State of Rhode Island v. Trump*, two lawsuits challenging the administration's Executive Order 14238, are pending in federal courts.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Walter reported that the only correspondence since the previous meeting had to do with information relating to how an interested person could apply for an open spot on the commission. Walter referred the inquiry to the appropriate city clerk and the person asking was sent an application and a description of the process involved.

11. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Hsieh shared that the San Ramon Pedestrian Bridge over Highway 680 was opening on Saturday July 19th and there would be a pop-up book sale by the Friends along the path of the walk. She also mentioned that the Dougherty Station Library would shortly be celebrating its 20th anniversary and for a \$20 donation, yard signs celebrating the library were available to the public.

12. ADJOURNMENT to the Thursday, September 18, 2025, LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING.

Chair Gemmer adjourned the meetng at 7:33 pm.