

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION**

**AGENDA ATTACHMENT 1**

**MEETING DATE:** Thursday, March 21, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM #:** 4.

**ITEM:** ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Commissioners will vote to approve, with/without edits, the minutes of the January 18, 2024 meeting.



**MEETING OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**

DATE: Thursday, January 18, 2024

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Chair Nicole Gemmer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	TITLE	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Alaura	Claire	Library Commissioner	CCC District 3	x		
DeFraga	Matthew	Library Commissioner	City of Martinez			x
Dexter	Jim	Library Commissioner	City of Martinez (Alt)	x		
Dozier	Julia	Library Commissioner	City of Pleasant Hill	x		
Faye	Vivian	Library Commissioner	City or Brentwood (alternate)		x	
Ferree	Jacalyn	Library Commissioner	City of Clayton	x		
Fitzpatrick	Arnold	Library Commissioner	City of Oakley (Alternate)	x		
Fischer	Michael	Library Commissioner	City of El Cerrito			x
Garde	Shrikant	Library Commissioner	City of Orinda	xx		
Gemmer	Nicole	Library Commissioner	Town of Danville	x		
Hildreth	Susan	Library Commissioner	CCC District 2			x
Hinton	Stacie	Library Commissioner	Central Labor (alternate)			x
Hoisington	Mary Ann	Library Commissioner	City or Lafayette	x		
Huh	Dr. John M.	Library Commissioner	City of Antioch	x		
Koops	Barry	Library Commissioner	City of El Cerrito (alternate)	x		
LeFrak-Bellici	Zelda	Library Commissioner	City of Pittsburg	x		
Louie	Clifton	Library Commissioner	CCC District 3 (Alt)	x		
Lurvey	Heather	Library Commissioner	City of Walnut Creek (Alt)	x		
Masuda-Nash	Michel	Library Commissioner	City of San Ramon		x	
Kung	Amenda	Library Commissioner	Town of Moraga (Alternate)	x		
Marcotte	Jo Ellen	Library Commissioner	City of Hercules	x		
Rennie	Donna	Library Commissioner	City of San Ramon (HER)	x		
Means	Richard	Library Commissioner	City of Pleasant Hill (Alt)	x		
Medrano	Antonio	Library Commissioner	City of San Pablo	x		
Molinelli	Jasun	Library Commissioner	City of Walnut Creek		x	
Bergfeld	Emily	Library Commissioner	Town of Moraga		x	
VACANT		Library Commissioner	City or Oakley			
Pursley	George	Library Commissioner	City of Pinole	x		
VACANT		Library Commissioner	CCCCD			
Rosekind	Rachel	Library Commissioner	CCC District 1	x		
Mackey	Lynn	Library Commissioner	Office of Education		x	
Sanguedolce	Robert	Library Commissioner	Town of Danville (Alt)	x		
Sendig	Linda	Library Commissioner	City of Brentwood		x	
Hamill	Sue	Library Commissioner	CCC District 4	x		
Smith	Tommy	Library Commissioner	City of Concord	x		
Swernoff	Michael	Library Commissioner	CCC District 2 (Alt)	x		
Thomas	Bryan	Library Commissioner	Central Labor	x		
Walker	Dorothy	Library Commissioner	City of Lafayette (Alternate)		x	
Marsh	Dennisha	Library Commissioner	CCC District 5	x		
Eckert	Robin	Library Commissioner	CCC District 5 (alternate)	x		

With nineteen commissioners present, a quorum was established.

Total Commission positions: 24  
Commission positions filled: 23  
Commission positions vacant: 1  
Commission quorum: 13

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Nicole Gemmer announced the commissioners excused from this evening's meeting. Next the group went around the table and introduced themselves.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Two people from the city of El Cerrito introduced themselves and each proceeded to take their three minutes to discuss their dislike of the proposed location of the new El Cerrito library. They were informed that the City, not the Library Commission, is responsible for the decision of the location of the new library, not the Library Commission.

**4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES**

No edits/corrections were proposed when asked. Chair Nicole Gemmer called for a motion to accept the minutes from November 2023 as submitted. Antonio Medrano (SPL) made the motion and Zelda LeFrak Seconded that motion.

*The motion was approved by commission vote, nineteen Aye votes, no abstentions and zero No votes.*

**5. COUNTY LIBRARIAN REPORT –**

County Librarian Alison McKee shared the following highlights from her printed report:

- Public Works Department has received a federal grant for \$15 million to install electric vehicle charging stations at a number of library branches around the county. The finished project will take several years.
- The Community Engagement meetings for the new Bay Point Library are progressing. So far they have been well attended with a significant amount of input from the community.

**6. AGENDA SETTING FOR THE NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS –**

The following topics were either mentioned this evening or at prior meetings:

- Commissioner Hoisington suggested more on the Sunday Hours Pilot program.
- Commissioner Swernoff asked for more on book bans and FOIA rules.

**7. 2023 FORUM DEBRIEF AND NEXT STEPS –**

Chair Gemmer and Vice-Chair Smith began this portion of the meeting with a brief recap of the events at the 2023 Forum event back in December. Some time was devoted to the specific function of the Commission (advocacy vs. advisory) with a number of suggestions being floated about as to the real roll of the library commission. It was ultimately decided that an advocacy working group be formed to look into

ways library funding might be increased. The Commissioners who volunteered were Gemmer, Smith, Hammill, Sanguedolce, Louie, Hildreth and Rosekind. Walter will find a time for them to meet and the group will report out at commission meetings going forward.

**8.A. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORT: Legislative Group –**

**2024-2025 State Budget Released by Governor Newsom** The January Budget was released by the governor, which includes addressing a deficit of \$37.86 billion. And while the original deficit was almost twice that amount, any deficit of this size still presents a problem, and most economists do not believe that the state economy is going to get better. Notably contributing to the uncertainty is the postponement of collecting taxes (originally due April 2023).

1. Proposed budget impact on state library programs includes: Proposing pulling back \$131.3M of one-time General Fund support for **Local Library Infrastructure** initiated in the 2021 Budget Act, and forgoing the General Fund investments for the next 3 fiscal years. From the Cal. Library Assoc.'s comments about this portion of the budget: "...thanks to the advocacy of CLA and the support and assistance of the Senate President pro-tem Toni Atkins, then-Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon, Governor Newsom, and State Librarian Greg Lucas, the 2021-22 State Budget included an unprecedented \$439 million in library construction grant funding for public library projects. The 2022-23 Budget also contained \$50 million in additional funding for library construction grants. The grants were used for various library health and safety construction projects, renovations, or expansions at public libraries. Interest in the program has been substantial, with applications to the State Library program far exceeding the dollars appropriated by the state. In fact, several months ago, CLA sent a letter to Governor Newsom, encouraging him to include up to another \$300 million for more infrastructure library grants in his new Budget if state revenues had stabilized. As CLA members are aware, the Governor and First Partner have been strong supporters of public libraries and library initiatives, so this proposed cut seems to speak to the severe budget challenges facing the Governor and Legislature.

Of special concern is whether the \$10M that we received from the State for the new Bay Point Library is in jeopardy.

- a. Reducing **Statewide Library Broadband Services** from \$35M to expand broadband access to isolated and under-served communities to \$1M.
  - b. Next steps are that the Senate and Assembly budget committees hear budget bills and make recommendations for changes, the Governor will issue a May revision of the Budget.
2. **SB 321-Ashby (library cards for students)** Update: (Establish the Local Public Library Partnership Program, under the administration of the State Librarian, for purposes of ensuring that all pupils have access to a local public library by 3rd grade.) Approved by Governor Newsom in October 2023. However, due to the budget deficit, this may be put on pause due to lack of funding.
  3. **SB 544 – Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Teleconferencing)** (Regarding holding public meetings remotely) Update: bill was approved by the Senate, but companion bill **AB 817** just passed through the Assembly Committee on Local Government last week and is now in second reading.

**8.B. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS: LFCC -**

· In November a search began for a consultant to help create an actionable fundraising plan, provide a donor landscape analysis, and share expertise in strategic and campaign planning. An RFP was distributed to numerous local and national firms and bids were received from several qualified providers. A contract is

now being negotiated with one of them. The group is excited about taking this next step to build capacity, refine the strategic plan, and develop fundraising goals.

- In addition to other fundraising activities, we a grant was secured from the Gemmer Family Fund for \$25,000 to support programming and materials for the Juvenile Hall Library as well as to go toward the programming equity fund, which provides money to branches with less robust library support group infrastructure so they can present enriching programming opportunities to meet their patrons' needs and interests.

- Last, the LFCC would like to extend gratitude for the invitation to present at the December Friends and Foundation Forum.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE –**

No items received since previous meeting.

**10. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

**Commissioner Dexter:** Martinez library friends booksale coming up on Feb. 10. The MTZ Library now donates all used books pulled from the shelves to the Martinez bookstore to resale.

**Commissioner Medrano:** The San Pablo Library is now receiving one or two large book donations every week. Some of the donations are in Arabic, some are Chinese novellas and there are books in Hebrew.

**Commissioner Hoisington:** WOW Program continues. The 2/14 program is about the Cantor Art Center at Stanford and the next is presented by a docent from the de Young Museum.

**Commissioner Rosekind:** The Kensington Library is presenting on Black Urbanism on Feb 10 and on 2/14 there is a cinema chat sponsored by the local book club.

**Commissioner Lurvey:** The Concord Library is collecting prom dresses and suits so local children have access to appropriate clothing for their upcoming proms.

**11. ADJOURNMENT TO THE March 21, 2024 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING.**

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

