



MEETING OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION
Minutes

DATE: Thursday, March 21, 2024

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	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	x		
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 of 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 twenty-two commissioners present, a quorum was established.

Total Commission positions:	24
Commission positions filled:	24
Commission positions vacant:	0
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

No members of the public were in attendance.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES

No edits/corrections were proposed when asked. Chair Nicole Gemmer called for a motion to accept the minutes from January 2024 as submitted.

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:

- FY 24-25 Budget was submitted on time and balance in February. Hearings will take place April 23rd and 24th.
- The Library will provide cost estimates to each city partner for extra hours, technology, and facility costs (if applicable) for the next fiscal year by March 31, 2024.
- The Library's 2023 Annual Report is complete and has been posted on our website.
- The new BOS resolution related to surplus library materials.
- Updated information regarding the self-service Sunday open hours project at the Concord library.
- Updated Administration management staff changes.
- Status of the updated strategic plan.
- Applying for \$2.5 million in federal Community Project Funding (fka 'earmark' funds).
- \$15 million received from US Department of Transportation to install EV Chargers at 15 county library locations.

6. AGENDA SETTING FOR THE NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS

No commissioners offered any suggestions.

7. LIBRARY COMMISSION ADVOCACY BEST PRACTICES

Chair Gemmer introduced special guest speaker, Deborah Doyle: Deborah Doyle is a writer, editor, fundraiser, and performer. She worked in recruiting and research at the San Francisco offices of Booz, Allen and Heidrick & Struggles as well as in marketing and trademark protection at Dolby Laboratories. An active library advocate for many years, she is currently Chair of the Sonoma County Library Commission and is President-elect of United for Libraries, the division of the American Library Association that serves trustees, Friends, library foundations, vendors, publishers and more. Deborah holds a BA from the University of Virginia with high honors and an Executive Masters in Information Science from San Jose State University. She and her husband live in Sonoma County.

Deborah shared several best practices for advocacy with the Commission. At the end of the presentation, the Commission decided that they would like to unify around advocating for the county to fund 56 base open hours at all full-service library locations.

8.A. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORT: Legislative Group

Commissioner Hildreth gave the following update for the legislative group:

The Commission's Legislative Committee met on February 20. The item of most concern was the potential "claw back" of state funds for the construction of the new Bay Point Library. The Committee crafted a letter

Important news - The Senate Democrats' plan does not suggest adopting the Governor's proposal to claw back the \$131 million in library infrastructure grants – which would save the critical funding for Bay Point. They are proposing \$17 billion in solutions, which includes \$3.3 billion in actual cuts to programs. **One of those reductions is a proposal to cut \$29 million of the \$35 million "in the 2021 Budget Act to expand broadband access to isolated and under-served communities" under the State Library's budget.** These funds have been unspent to date so are very vulnerable. The Budget still contains \$5 million for joint projects between K-12 schools and libraries to extend broadband to isolated areas of the state.

The California Library Association Legislative Committee has determined 2 major priorities in light of the budget crisis:

- No cuts to the building forward infrastructure grants
- Funds to support the online homework help (\$3.2M/year)

Online homework help is one of the reductions proposed in the Governor's budget. This service was used by over 1.8 million students this year and critical to student success. A great 2-page fact sheet has been created to provide program information to review with legislators. The annual budget process is a long one and nothing is certain until it is all settled. Keep your ears and eyes peeled for more information on early actions which would impact the update we will receive in the Governor's May Revise – the next big budget report.

8.B. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS: LFCC

Commissioner Rosekind provided the following update on Foundation activities:

- Two new board members (Nancy Benavides from Brentwood and the commission's own Bob Sanguedolce from Danville). We still have one open seat and will be working to fill it later this year.
- Continued conversations with funders and collaboration with our fundraising counsel.
- Applications for the first round of programming equity funds closed on March 15. Library administration selected eleven branches that were eligible for the funds and invited managers to apply. Library administration will make all decisions regarding allocations. LFCC will provide the funds.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

No items received since previous meeting.

10. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner De Fraga (Martinez): The City of Martinez issued a proclamation recognizing National Library Week. The Martinez Friends purchased 4 new chairs for the Library. They will also have a booth at the farmer's market this summer and a book sale on May 11th.

Commissioner Walker (Lafayette): The Lafayette Library Foundation has a new foundation Executive Director, Carol Varney. She began in the position at the end of February. The Friends of the Lafayette Library is selling discarded library books in their store. Blake Garden is giving a presentation on May 10th, and an author program and discussion will happen at their next Sweet Thursday event.

Commissioner Kung (Moraga): Friends of the Moraga Library has a book sale coming up.

Commissioner Dexter (Martinez): The Friends of the Martinez Library is selling discarded library books in their store.

Commissioner Hildreth (Dist. 2): The Walnut Creek Library Foundation is having their annual gala fundraiser event on April 27th. The Friends of the Walnut Creek Library have purchased two additional Remote Lockers for Rossmoor.

Commissioner Rosekind (Dist. 1): announced several upcoming programs at the Kensington Library.

11. ADJOURNMENT TO THE May 21, 2024, LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

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

Submitted by Walter Beveridge, Executive Secretary, Contra Costa Library