

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

*1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 20, 2025

6:00 PM

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

**352 Shoreline Drive
Pittsburg, CA**

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

Meeting 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 19th 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

The Library Commission Chair will call the meeting to order.

Walt Beveridge will do a roll call to determine a quorum of attendees.

Present	Jim Dexter, Julia Dozier, Michael Fischer, Arnold Fitzpatrick, Nicole Gemmer, Susan Hildreth, Mary Ann Hoisington, Marina Hsieh, John Huh, Anne Kingsley, Amenda Kung, Zelda LeFrak-Belleci, Heather Lurvey, Lynn Mackey, Dennisha Marsh, Robert Mason, Frederick Page, Amit Prayag, Donna Rennie, Rachel Rosekind, Tommy Smith, Michael Swernoff, and Bethany Woods
Excused	Kevin Armonio, Matt DeFraga, Robin Eckert, Sue Hamill, Jo Ellen Marcotte, Richard Means, and Bryan Thomas
Absent	Vivian Faye, Shrikant Garde, Stacie Hinton, Antonio Medrano, George Pursley, Robert Sanguedolce, Linda Sendig, and Dorothy Walker

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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

No visitors wished to introduce themselves.

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 and speakers may text your comments/questions to 925-818-0049 prior to the meeting. Public comment on agenda items can also be e-mailed to the Library Commission at walter.beveridge@library.cccounty.us to be received one day prior to the Library Commission meeting.

Susan Hildreth wanted to speak on the record at this point in the meeting.

“On March 14, President issued executive order for several small agencies that required review of legally required functions and possible closure. IMLS has a new Acting Director from the Labor Department. They had DOGE visitors on March 20 but are still operating. Library community has provided strong support.”

4.

Attachments: [LC Jan 2025 Mins](#)

Motion: Fischer

Second: LeFrak-Belleci

Aye: Dexter, Dozier, Fitzpatrick, Gemmer, Hildreth, Ann Hoisington, Huh, Kingsley, Kung, LeFrak-Belleci, Lurvey, Marsh, Page, Prayag, Rennie, Rosekind, Smith, Swernoff, and Woods

Absent: Faye, Garde, Hinton, Medrano, Pursley, Sanguedolce, Sendig, and Walker

Abstain: Fischer, Hsieh, Mackey, and Mason

Result: Passed

5. **LIBRARY WELLNESS TEAM PRESENTATION - Vicki White and Andrea Melano (Contra Costa Health Services)**

Attachments: [4 Our Families Presentation - Revision April 2024 \(002\)](#)
[Library Wellness Team Presentation \(1\)](#)

6.

Attachments: [CO Librarian Report 3-20.2025](#)

[Alison McKee briefly reported on several items in her submitted report.](#)

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

[Commissioner Hsieh asked for an EveryLibrary advocacy presentation for the Commission.](#)

8. **LIBRARY MARKETING PLAN – Brooke Converse**
PIO Brooke Converse will update the Commission on the draft of the new Library Marketing Plan

Attachments: [CCCL Strategic Marketing Plan-Draft](#)

9. **COMMISSIONER WORK PLAN ACTION ITEMS (Report Out And Current Events)**
Commissioners will report on their 2025 work plan item progress and discuss current events

[Commissioner Smith](#) reported that he had attended a “Meet the Mayor” event at the Concord library and his conversation with the mayor was overheard by some of the other attendees which resulted in numerous opportunities to spread the Library gospel in one event.

Commissioner Hoisington sent letters to her representatives in the Assembly and Congress. She also wrote a letter to the editor of the East Bay Times newspaper.

Commissioner Fitzpatrick lobbied for new library funding and let the other commissioners know that if the Oakley Friends could generate \$1 million for their effort then many larger library friends groups should be able to do the same.

10. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Dozier will report to the Commission on legislative matters

Commissioner Dozier reported the following:

There have been a lot of policy issues going on at the federal level, and we are in the midst of hearings and meetings about the state budget for fiscal year 2026 (effective July 1st) prior to the May revise and ultimately the June 15th budget bill.

Items of note and for consideration for your personal response:

Federal

- Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) - executive order on Mar. 14, 2025, reducing the functions of the IMLS and eliminating many of its non-statutory programs. California receives the most funding (most populated state @ 14% of U.S.) in 2024.
- E-Rate - a federal initiative through the FCC's Universal Services Fund (USF) which helps K-12 schools and libraries throughout the country access affordable broadband, and is being heard by the Supreme Court and is at risk.
 - Discounts range from 20-90%, especially crucial for rural, and lower-income areas without universal access
 - In addition to libraries, K-12 schools are given affordable access, opening the world to all students (54 million+ in US)
 - Access to broadband has become critical in today's world, and as the American Library Association's President Hohl stated: "E-Rate and the other three USF programs are critical to fulfilling ALA's vision of broadband as a human right."

Commissioners are urged to voice their concern about this issue to their legislators as private citizens. Call or write to your representatives.

State (from the California Library Association's Legislative Priorities)

- Restoration of vital library funds which were cut in the previous budget cycle including Restoration of CLSA (California Library Services Act) funding to pre-2024-25 levels.
- Resource sharing amongst libraries, particularly in rural areas where funding challenges negatively impact library access for many patrons.
- Restoration of Lunch at the Library funding to pre-2024-25 levels. Lunch at the Library provides 300,000+ free and nutritious summer lunches, accompanied by literacy-enhanced wrap-around programming for hundreds of libraries each year.
- New funding requests to enhance literacy and learning opportunities for TK-12 grade students, including.
 - One-time funding to ensure library card access for California's school-aged children
 - Restoration of state-wide access to "BrainFuse" (online tutoring services). Over 600,000 tutoring sessions were utilized during the 2 years BrainFuse was previously available.

Again, Commissioners are urged to voice their concern about these issues by contacting their legislators as private citizens.

The CLA reaffirms their commitment to equitable access to critical library and information services for all. Core values include:

- Libraries as an ongoing community resource, including in times of disaster
- Broadband equity and digital literacy access for all
- The freedom to read and access to diverse material
- Providing a safe haven for all community members
- Promoting early literacy, school readiness, adult literacy, career development, vocational support, and assistance to vulnerable populations.
- Mandating and funding credentialed Teacher-Librarians in all California Public Schools
- Support for libraries to purchase digital content including eBooks and eAudiobooks at the same price as consumers
- Support for California's law libraries

CLA supports positive action in key areas, including, but not limited to Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism, Intellectual Freedom, Privacy and Net Neutrality.

11. CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioners will review commission correspondence.

Only one letter to the commission came in since the previous meeting. A patron was wholly against the Self-Service Sunday program now in place at the Concord Library. Since this is really a Library Policy question, Library Leadership chose to respond using several of the talking points given to library employees to use when speaking with the public on this topic.

12. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Commissioner Hoisington, rather than list a slew of events happening at the Lafayette Library, suggested that the commissioners go to the website LLLCF.org where they can find a complete list of events at the library. She also mentioned the annual bookmark event there, which has been quite a draw in previous years. The patrons there really come out for this one which is usually a lot of fun for all.

Commissioner Hsieh: Announced the San Ramon Library Foundation was hosting their first annual (hopefully) gala celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Dougherty Station Library as well as the 10th anniversary of the Foundation itself.

Commissioner Prayag: Clayton is holding their next big book sale on May 17th and 18th.

13. ADJOURNMENT to the Thursday, May 15, 2025, LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING.

ITEMS TO CALENDAR

- Thursday, May 15, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, July 17, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, September 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, October 4, 2025, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. @ Walnut Creek Library
- Thursday, November 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm.