



AGENDA

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Library Commission

Thursday, January 15, 2026

6:00 PM

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

**Zoom: [https://zoom.us/j/99019817954?
pwd=Ig6i65bDmwMeoIR8SsAS9lAaG9I
1nH.1](https://zoom.us/j/99019817954?pwd=Ig6i65bDmwMeoIR8SsAS9lAaG9I1nH.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, 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

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 [25-5442](#)

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

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

5. COUNTY LIBRARIAN REPORT – attachment 2 [26-06](#)

Attachments: [Co Librarian Report Jan 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. CITY FUNDED EXTRA HOURS PREPARATION

Commissioners will discuss how to advocate for library extra hour funding.

8. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

9. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-5442

Agenda Date: 1/15/2026

Agenda #: 4.

Advisory Board: Library Commission

Subject: Acceptance of November Meeting Minutes

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

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2025

6:00 PM

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

**2229 Ptarmigan Dr. #1
Walnut Creek, CA**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99019817954?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99019817954?pwd=Ig6i65bDmwMeoIR8SsAS9lAaG9I1nH.1)
[pwd=Ig6i65bDmwMeoIR8SsAS9lAaG9I1nH.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/99019817954?pwd=Ig6i65bDmwMeoIR8SsAS9lAaG9I1nH.1)**

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Library Commission

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1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chair Nicole Gemmer called the meeting to order at. Amy Brunson took roll and with 18 voting members present, a quorum was established.

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

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

There were no visitors and no self-introductions.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

4.

Attachments: [July 2025 Minutes](#)

With 13 "Aye" votes and one abstention, the motion to accept the July 17, 2025 meeting minutes as they were presented was passed.

Motion: Marina Hsieh

Second: Donna Rennie

Abstentions: Julia Dozier, Linda Sendig, Matt DeFraga, Michael Fischer, Stuart

Robinson

5.

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

From her attached report, County Librarian Alison McKee highlighted Read Contra Costa event with Percival Everett. Over 800 people attended both in person and online. She also spoke about attending a fundraiser for the new Oakley Library in which Commissioner Fitzpatrick was honored with a certificate of appreciation by the Friends of the Library for his many years of service and support.

6.

Attachments: [LC-CCCLC Annual Report 2025](#)

Commissioner Smith highlighted the four goals of the 2026 work plan, which is attached to these minutes. He also stated that the main challenge going forward is maintaining the momentum of advocacy and fundraising now that the advocacy ad hoc committee has sunsetted.

Commissioner Tinfow asked how the working group (which consisted of Tommy Smith, Anne Kingsley, and Tim Fares) would characterize the changes they made to the goals from 2025 to 2026. Answer: The group tightened up the language so that it wasn't so broad.

Commissioner Hsieh asked to add page numbers to the report, which is reflected in the attachment to these minutes.

Michael Swernoff made a motion to accept the 2025 Annual Report and 2026 work Plan. Michael Fischer seconded the motion.

The Library Commission voted unanimously to accept the 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Work Plan.

7. **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF 2026 LIBRARY COMMISSION**

Committee Chair Kevin Armonio explained the Nominating Committee's process for selecting the candidates for the Library Commission Chair & Vice-Chair.

The slate presented was Tommy Smith for Chair and Heather Lurvey for Vice-Chair.

The floor was opened for additional nominations. No additional nominations were made.

Motion: Julia Dozier
Second: Linda Sendig

The Library Commission voted unanimously to accept Tommy as Chair and Heather as Vice-Chair of the Library Commission for 2026.

Motion to dissolve committee: Kevin Armonio

Second: Matt DeFraga

The Library Commission voted unanimously to dissolve the Nominating Committee.

8. AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING and FUTURE TOPICS

Rachel Rosekind: Provide commissioners with overview of innovative and impactful programming services and partnerships that the County Library has spearheaded, and even maybe some of the partnerships and services, too.

Zelda LeFrak-Belleci: Presentation about the Library's intellectual freedom.

Tommy Smith: Twice a year update on the Sunday Self-service hours

Amit Prayag: For later in 2026, any updates on strategic marketing plan

Anne Kingsley: What are libraries doing for technology access and digital literacy

9.

Attachments: 2025 Facility Projects November 2025 Commission

The presentation slides are attached to these minutes. Q&A was as follows:

Michael Swernoff asked about backup generators and earthquake retrofit in the new projects. For the deferred maintenance projects, there will be no earthquake retrofits. For the new builds, and at this point only speaking for the Bay Point Library, the plan is to have a backup generator there. The idea is for that library to be used as a resilience center, for periods of extreme weather and smoke.

Michael Swernoff also asked about the possibility of relocating staff during the projects to another location that could open Sundays. Alison responded by saying the Library can't add an additional day of service. The three options laid out in the MOU are: 1. Relocate to another location during its regular operational hours 2. Use accruals 3. Opt for absence without pay.

Nicole Gemmer asked if the Library has ever had so many closures at the same time. The answer is no. There will be processes in place for messaging to the public, as well as accounting for any fluctuation in statistics when it's time for the strategic plan progress report.

Julia Dozier asked if there are temp spaces to open during the closures. The answer is no, temp spaces are only for very extended closures. Julia also asked if any of the projects included getting solar panels. The answer is no due to lack of funding.

10. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kevin Armonio met with assemblymember Lori Wilson to discuss an increase in funding for CLSA. She was immediately on board and suggested asking for \$10 million. She offered to circulate a coalition letter to increase CLSA funding among her colleagues in the assembly, and the California Library Association provided her with a template, which she's currently circulating.

Nicole Gemmer and Dennisha Marsh met with Senator Gray who suggested a joint legislative coalition letter. They also advocated for additional funding for the ESL program and for the Lunch in the Library program.

Heather Lurvey met with Assemblymember Farias who said she would also sign on to Wilson's letter. She may also be willing to introduce a bill about at least one of the funding requests.

Michael Fischer asked how the Library's process for funding requests has changed. Alison McKee said that the change is mainly in the timing, that waiting for the release of the Governor's annual budget is too late. Legislators recommended talking to them in the fall for a better chance to get something included in the budget.

11.

Attachments: Proposed Dates for 2026 Library Commission Meetings

There was a quick discussion about changing the start time of the meetings in 2026 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., but there were no proposals for a change.

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Thursday, March 19, 2026

Thursday, May 21, 2026

Thursday, July 16, 2026

Thursday, September 17, 2026

Thursday, November 19, 2026

Marina Hsieh made a motion to accept the above dates as the official meeting dates for 2026. Julia Dozier seconded the motion.

The Library Commission voted unanimously to accept the 2026 Library Commission meeting dates.

12. **CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was received.

13. **COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Michael Fischer spoke about the citizens initiative to get funding for new library in El Cerrito. They need 1,770 valid signatures from registered voters, and they submitted 2,471 signatures (unclear how many of those were valid). They are hoping for an item on the June 2026 ballot.

Kevin Armonio reported on the progress of the new Oakley Library planning. He met with some of the architects who asked if there were interesting or unique features he would like to see in the new library. Kevin polled the groups and some of the suggestions included: cafe, bookshop, 3d printing station, cross ventilation to cut down on HVAC, event space that can serve different purposes, e. g. a lounge or community center, and low furniture on castors for children.

Linda Sendig reported that Brentwood mayor Susannah Meyer is making a proclamation for a Friends of the Library Week at the December 9 City Council meeting.

Stuart Robinson reported that Lafayette Library had 120 people in attendance for the Fratello marionettes program. The Lafayette Library and Learning Center Foundation staff hosted a table at the annual Lafayette Trick or Treat Shoot event, and there were over a thousand pieces of candy handed out. There's also been an influx of food bank donations due to potential lapse in SNAP benefits.

Rachel Rosekind reported that Kensington Library is having a program on January 20 titled In Depth on County Sustainability. County staff will present on the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. She also thanked the County Library for its donation of bilingual and Spanish books that she was able to hand out at a fundraiser for the Immigrant Resource Fund for Monument Impact in Concord.

Amit Prayag reported that the Clayton Community Foundation had its biennial book sale on October 17 and sold about \$6,600 worth of books.

Matt DeFraga reported on the spruced up community room at Martinez Library, located outside of the Friends Bookstore. They added a wood railing around the wall to prevent scuff marks from chairs. He also mentioned that the Martinez Friends have a new president who has been getting a lot done, including discovering archival documents in the storage room.

Anne Kingsley reported on the ribbon cutting for a new student lounge area at DVC, which also included the unveiling of commissioned portraits of active library users.

Bob Sanguedolce asked about the recent Carnegie Library Foundation grants. The County Library has three former Carnegie Library buildings (the original Antioch, Concord, and Walnut Creek Libraries) that were built from funds from Andrew Carnegie in the early 20th century.

14. ADJOURNMENT to the Thursday, January 15, 2026 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING.



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 26-06

Agenda Date: 1/15/2026

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, January 15, 2026

Congratulations to Walt Beveridge

Executive Secretary Walt Beveridge retired from the County on Friday December 19th. Walt served as the Library's Executive Secretary since 2016, when he was appointed by former County Librarian Melinda Cervantes. He was particularly proud of the work he did supporting the Library Commission. Walt's permanent successor is Nadia Bagdasar.

Pinole Library Closure

The Pinole Library is scheduled to close on March 1, 2026, for deferred maintenance including lighting, electrical, HVAC, and roof upgrades, as well as ADA improvements to the parking lot. The library is anticipated to reopen in January 2027. Board of Supervisors approval for the closure is still pending; public messaging will be shared following Board approval.

NEW VENDORS FOR MATERIALS IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)

During calendar year 2025, the library added three new language vendors that will allow the department to enhance, update, and maintain its collections of materials in Farsi, Vietnamese, Korean, and Russian. The new vendors enabled the department to launch its first Children's Farsi collection and refresh its existing Farsi materials for adults, expand the Vietnamese collection and establish a Korean collection, and refresh the Russian collection.

Share Your Stories

The Library's Marketing team is creating short stories and videos that will feature our library users. They are looking for first-time library cardholders, nostalgic library memories, stories about how the library has helped someone, and testimonials from library super fans. If you would like to participate or know someone who would, please email Nadia.

Results of School Engagement Efforts

5,000 more public school students have library cards than did in August of 2024. That is a 2.45% increase. Library staff have been focusing on school engagement in order to comply with SB321 which aims for every student in public schools to have a library card by third grade.

\$30,000 Gift From Carnegie Corporation

The Carnegie Corporation of New York is awarding a \$10,000 gift to all Carnegie Libraries nationwide in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Although CCCL does not have any existing Carnegie buildings, the original [Antioch](#), [Concord](#) and [Walnut Creek](#) libraries were Carnegie buildings and therefore qualified for the gift. We have not yet determined how the funds will be spent, but it appears there are no restrictions other than the funds being spent for the benefit of each of the respective existing libraries.

Workforce Development Services in Libraries

Every four years the Workforce Development Board (WDB) issues a Request for Proposals (RFP) related to providing job services to the community. The WDB has agreed to include a stipulation in their upcoming RFP that respondents must provide services in at least one of the libraries that are listed in the RFP. The services that would be provided are part of the America's Job Center of California program, which includes free career counseling, training referrals, job listings and searches and other employment related services for everyone. The libraries listed in the RFP are Bay Point, Brentwood, Concord, El Sobrante, Hercules, Pittsburg, and San Pablo.