

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 15, 2026

6:00 PM

1025 Escobar St., Room 110

Martinez

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

Chair Tommy Smith called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. Nadia Bagdasar Mills took roll and with 13 voting members present, a quorum was established.

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

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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

There were two members of the public in the room who introduced themselves: 1. Joan and 2. Pam Smith. There was one Zoom attendee from the public who introduced herself: Allison.

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

Joan wished to advocate for the retention of the Needle Arts program at the Martinez Library, which was canceled last fall. She spoke to the under utilization of the community room at the Martinez Library and the strategic goals of the Library, and wished for the Commission to advocate on its

behalf.

Martinez resident Michelle McBee also advocated for the Needle Arts program, describing it as a place of community. She also wished for the Commission to advocate on the program's behalf.

Chair Smith clarified that the Commission does not determine or dictate Library operation, but is an advisory body.

4.

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

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

Commissioner Hamill suggested a correction to Senator Grayson's name in November's minutes.

With 13 "Aye" votes, the motion to accept the November 20, 2025 meeting minutes as amended was passed.

Motion: Michael Fischer

Second: Marina Hsieh

5.

Attachments: [Co Librarian Report Jan 2026](#)

County Librarian Alison McKee will submit a written report on items of interest to Commissioners.

From her attached report, County Librarian Alison McKee highlighted the retirement of Executive Secretary Walter Beveridge and announced his replacement Nadia Bagdasar Mills. She also emphasized the upcoming 8-month closure of the Pinole Library for deferred maintenance and mentioned that the next closure will be the Antioch Library for approximately 7 months. The Ygnacio Valley Library will close in the fall for about the same length of time. Further down the line will be an extended closure of the Kensington Library for significant upgrades, followed by a shorter closure of the Clayton Library in the spring.

Commissioner Lurvey asked for comment on the Library's efforts on SB321, the new school engagement law that aims for every child to have a library card by third grade. County Librarian McKee said that library staff is prioritizing school engagement and attempting to put processes in place to make it easier for Library staff to get into schools.

6. **AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING and FUTURE TOPICS**

Commissioners will suggest items for future meetings.

Each commissioner had an opportunity to suggest future agenda topics. These included:

- Examining the Commission's efforts to make quorum.
- Governor's budget, perhaps for the May agenda.
- How commissioners can engage with their appointing authorities.
- Presentation about the new Oakley Library.

- Rotating where the body holds its meeting and have the respective City Managers present at them.
- What can commissioners do between meetings to further the Commission's mission.
- How can commissioners support or advocate for a Library mobile app.
- Use cases for AI in the Library. What is the Library doing around digital literacy in the age of AI.
- Presentation about the Library of Things.
- ADA updates
- Metrics and decision making around the Library's Digital Resources.
- Mentorship program for new commissioners.
- Study of the Commission bylaws.

7.

Attachments: [Library Hours Funded-one sheet](#)

Commissioners will discuss how to advocate for library extra hour funding

According to the standard lease agreement that the Library has with its city partners, the County Librarian is required to send the City Manager a letter by March 31st of every year that informs them how much the estimated cost for additional open hours will be for the next fiscal year. Funding received from property tax is enough so that the county can fund 40 base open hours at all of its full-service libraries. Any city that wants to fund 6, 12, or 16 additional open hours on a weekly basis can, and they can change that number on an annual basis. Cities are required to announce their intentions by May 31st.

The Commission split up into smaller groups to discuss how to advocate for extra-hour funding in their cities. Some of these ideas included: Forming relationships with city/town officials/legislators, sharing compelling stories from library users at public meetings, and talking to library staff about their day-to-day and how extra hours impact them and their communities.

Attached is the reference guide distributed to Commissioners to aid in their discussion.

8. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

The new Legislative Committee Chair is Commissioner Hamill. She reported that the Governor's office has released a draft budget in which no increases to library programs was proposed. The only new library-related funding that was included in the budget is a proposal to provide \$6.8 million in ongoing funding for the popular California Parks Pass to create visibility for the program. The budget proposes that it would be more prudent to wait until California takes in revenue for the next few months and then create a spending plan in May.

Commissioner Hamill also reported that Superintendent of Schools Lynn Mackey will not be running again.

9. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Commissioner Tinfow reported on a special showing of the documentary *The Librarians* at the Walnut Creek Library on February 5th.

Commissioner Fischer spoke about the petition in El Cerrito to fund a new library. To make it on the ballot, the petition needed 10% of the city's registered voters to sign. The petition had almost 13%.

Commissioner Blumenfeld reported that Lafayette Library will also be showing *The Librarians* in March.

Commissioner Kingsley announced DVC's Black History Month Wikipedia edit-a-thon on February 25th, as well as the examination of historical photographs on loan from the Oakland Museum.

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

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