

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

*1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2026

6:00 PM

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

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

**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, May 20th 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 6:04 pm. Alison McKee took roll, and with 20 voting members present, a quorum was established.

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

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

New commissioners Wylendia Eastman and Erika Rosenberg introduced themselves. Wylendia is the new alternate commissioner for the city of Hercules and Erika is the new primary commissioner for the city of Orinda.

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.

No members of the public were present at this meeting.

4.

Attachments: [LC-Minutes 2026-3-19 FINAL](#)

Commissioners will approve or amend the minutes from the March 19, 2026 meeting.

No corrections to the minutes were proposed.

With 18 "Aye" votes and two abstentions, the motion to accept the March 19, 2026 meeting minutes was passed.

Motion: Michael Swernoff

Second: Zelda LeFrak-Belleci

5.

Attachments: [County Librarian's Report to Commission May 2026](#)

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

County Librarian Alison McKee introduced new Library Services Manager Jen Burton (in attendance) to the Commission. Jen will be overseeing both the Virtual Library and Circulation Services teams.

From her attached report, County Librarian McKee also highlighted that Self-Service Sundays will launch at the San Pablo and Pittsburg Libraries on June 7th.

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

Commissioner Eckert requested that the Bylaws Working Group have space on the agenda for the rest of the year.

County Librarian McKee reviewed the agenda for July, which includes a collection development update, the Bylaws Working Group, and the Library of Things petting zoo.

7. EXTRA HOURS ADVOCACY UPDATE

Commissioners will provide updates about any extra hours advocacy performed on behalf of the Library with regard to the City Letters.

Commissioners Tinfow and Lurvey advocated to the Walnut Creek City Manager for extra hours at the downtown branch while the Ygnacio Valley branch is closed for renovations. The City Manager put the matter before the city council and the council took action to grant that request, so the branch hours will increase from 52 to 56 during that time.

Commissioners then made suggestions on how to approach local city leaders in the role of library advocate.

8.

Attachments: [FY26-27 Budget for Library Commission](#)

County Librarian Alison McKee will present the proposed library budget for FY26/27 to the Commission.

County Librarian McKee and the Library's Chief of Administrative Services Samantha Fithian gave the attached presentation about the Library's FY26-27 budget.

9.

Attachments: [Library Commission BEACON Presentation](#)

Library Services Manager Mahasin Aleem will give an update about BEACON, the Library's Racial Equity Action Plan.

County Librarian Mckee and the Library Services Manager Mahasin Aleem gave the attached presentation about the Library's BEACON plan. They pointed out that the plan is still in draft form, as they presented it to all Library Staff and it is still open to comments and feedback.

10.

Attachments: [LCCC Legislative Working Group report 52126](#)

- **Legislative Chair Sue Hamill will report on legislative matters.**
- **Bylaws Chair Robin Eckert will report on the group's progress.**

Commissioner Eckert gave an overview of the initial steps of revising the bylaws, which included a comparative AI analysis of existing bylaws in other library systems. The recommendations were compiled into a redline version, which the group then reviewed for consensus. They will also run a comparison of this against the 1991 resolution that created the Commission.

The group would like to have a roundtable discussion about public comment and term limits at the July meeting and will have a draft version ready for the September meeting for all to review. The final draft will be sent to County Counsel and once approved will be sent to the Board of Supervisors as a consent item.

Commissioner Fischer gave the Legislative Working Group report, which is attached.

11. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Commissioner Sendig announced that the Brentwood Friends of the Library are hosting an author talk fundraiser on May 31, featuring authors Alka Joshi, Meg Donohue, and Audrey Lee. She also promoted the Historical Society Book Club, which organizes local field trips to the locations featured in the books they read.
- Commissioner Fischer reminded the group that on June 2, El Cerrito will vote on Ballot Measure C, which if passed will approve funding for the planning and construction of a new library in El Cerrito.

12. ADJOURNMENT to the Thursday, July 16, 2026 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

ITEMS TO CALENDAR:

2026 Library Commission meeting schedule:

- Thursday, July 16, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, September 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 19, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

2026 Friends, Foundation and Commissioners Forum:

- **NEW DATE:** Saturday, October 17, 2026, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m