

**MEETING OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION**  
**Minutes**

DATE: Thursday, September 19, 2019

**1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Vice-Chair Peter Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	TITLE	REPRESENTING	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
		VACANT	City of San Pablo			
		VACANT	CCC District 1			
		VACANT	City of Lafayette (Alternate)			
		VACANT	City of Martinez (Alternate)			
		VACANT	CCC District 4 (Alternate)			
Bracken	Katherine	Library Commissioner	City of Pleasant Hill	X		
Chong	Adriana	Library Commissioner	Town of Danville	x		
Chong	William	Library Commissioner	District II	x		
DaoJensen	Dr. Thuy	Library Commissioner	City of Brentwood	x		
Dozier	Julia	Library Commissioner	City of Martinez			x
Faye	Vivian	Library Commissioner	City of 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		
Gilcrest	Kathy	Library Commissioner	City of San Ramon	x		
Herrick	Leanne	Library Commissioner	City of Pittsburg (Alternate)		x	
Hoisington	Mary Ann	Library Commissioner	City of Lafayette	x		
Huh	Dr. John M.	Library Commissioner	City of Antioch	x		
Kelly	Juan	Library Commissioner	City of Orinda	x		
Knoll	Carolyn	Library Commissioner	District II (Alternate)	x		
Koops	J. Barry	Library Commissioner	City of El Cerrito (Alternate)	x		
LaLanne	Yvonne	Library Commissioner	City of Walnut Creek	x		
Ma	Shudong	Library Commissioner	City of San Ramon (Alt)			x
Maher	Janette	Library Commissioner	Town of Moraga (Alternate)	x		
McCormick	Don	Library Commissioner	CCC District 3			x
Merchant	Kathy	Library Commissioner	City of Orinda (Alternate)			x
Molinelli	Jasun	Library Commissioner	City of Walnut Creek (Alt)		x	
Pena-Mendrek	Yolanda	Library Commissioner	City of Oakley	x		
Pursley	George	Library Commissioner	City of Pinole	x		
Robinson	Rich	Library Commissioner	CCCCD		x	
Mackey	Lynn	Library Commissioner	Office of Education			x
Smith	Alan B.	Library Commissioner	CCC District 4	x		
Smith	Tommy	Library Commissioner	City of Concord	x		
Valdez	Margie	Library Commissioner	Central Labor Council	x		
Ward-Jackson	Dr. Evangelia	Library Commissioner	City of Hercules		x	x
Wernet	Patty	Library Commissioner	Town of Moraga			x
Wilson	Peter	Library Commissioner	CCC District 5	x		

Total Commission positions: 24

Commission positions filled: 22

Commission positions vacant: 2

Commission quorum: 13

With sixteen commissioners present, a quorum was established.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair requested everyone introduce themselves and explained to any members of the public that this was not required. No visiting audience members came forward.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public came forward to comment.

**4. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Commissioner Gilcrest:** Recently was able to tour the Boston Public Library. There is an impressive art collection there as well as statuary throughout the building. In contrast to other libraries she has visited, this one was extremely quiet.

**Commissioner Fischer:** Attended a meeting in El Cerrito three weeks ago about a new library. This was a very early-stage meeting where the discussion centered around what people would like to see in a new library as well as some preliminary discussion of possible locations. One such location was the El Cerrito Plaza BART Station which is being renovated to include more parking and some retail space. The local BART director recently moved from Oakland to El Cerrito so anything is possible.

**Commissioner Lalanne:** Nothing to report personally but she did bring in a New York Times article about libraries as destination places that she will pass around the table for everyone to see.

**Commissioner Knoll:** Had the opportunity to travel recently to Montana and was able to visit some very impressive libraries there. Also, she often refers folks to the library to find movies they want to see or books they'd like to find. Friends have commented to her that "You always say that!" Well, she has started to say it more often, to the point that her son now spends all of his free time at the Walnut Creek Library.

**Commissioner Pursley:** For years Pinole had the largest library with the least amount of open hours in the system. After a ten year battle to get the city to contribute enough to get to the baseline number of open hours per week (35), the battle was finally won in a 3 to 2 city council vote last December. Now there is a lot of making up for lost time to get people to return to the library. The Pinole Friends (there is no foundation) have donated enough book sale proceeds to print 500 copies of a flyer and another \$1800 to make the sign on the building that says Pinole Library five times larger than it is now. The library is open 5 days a week now and the community needs to know this. Also, in case you think no one ever watches the city council meeting videos that are on most city's websites, George has been approached more than once at the grocery store and while out and about and asked "Hey, aren't you the library guy?" So, if you think people aren't watching, guess again!

**Commissioner Kelly:** Orinda held their annual classic car show on Saturday September 7<sup>th</sup>. They close down all of Orinda village and bring in about 250 classic cars. It's a very popular event and there was quite a bit of spillover into the Library, just like on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Commissioner LeFrak:** Zelda learned of a new library service from her neighbor, the president of the Pittsburg Friends, and was intrigued enough to forward it to Peter. It's called Discover Books and Chris Anderson is the Northern California regional director. He is the one that sent the information to the friends group along with some photos. Discover Books (formerly TRM) is a for-profit organization with a socially-minded mission to divert books from landfills, help fund library sustainability and provide meaningful solutions to the global problem of illiteracy. The company collects used books from thrift

stores, library giveaways, residential pick-ups and collection boxes in ten cities across North America. The company sells, donates and responsibly recycles used books. To date the company has donated over 11 million used books to those in need and diverted over 700 million pounds of books away from landfills. Zelda thought this was a program the county should be aware of if they are not already. Next Zelda expanded on a program she mentioned at the last meeting where she is attempting to set up transport for seniors at two local senior living centers to the library. She visited both facilities and discovered that each has a small library but they are both small and contain the same stale old materials they've had for years. Once in a while a high-schooler who needs some community service credit will come in and organize the libraries in some way, but the limited and aged selections there really put people off. Zelda has been working with the activity directors at both facilities to have Library Manager Ginny Golden come to each facility during their village meeting and describe the program. The plan is to have a monthly (Zelda wants it to be weekly) bus trip to the library where the Librarian will have a short, library-related presentation for things like getting a library card or how to search for a novel in a different language, then after the 5 or 10 minute talk they would be free to explore the library until the bus returns to take them back. The Pittsburg Friends have agreed to provide light refreshments every month when the seniors are coming. The first trip to a village meeting is tomorrow and Zelda hopes to collect a nucleus of folks there who will go then come back and spread the word that they met the librarian, had cookies and coffee and had a nice outing. Hopefully the program will grow from there.

**Commissioner Bracken:** Pleasant Hill recently held their "Night of a Thousand Inventions" program, which is an annual event that has expanded to the Pleasant Hill Park and now involves the Park & Recreation department. The library's third annual Tinkers & Thinkers Faire was last Saturday and was a smashing success. Katherine passed around a brochure for the free event for everyone to see. Library Manager Patrick Remer has partnered with all sorts of people from small businesses, young entrepreneurs, and so forth to put on a spectacular program. Next, Katherine has attended a number of city council meetings about the Pleasant Hill Library to keep abreast of developments there, and has been in meetings with BCJ regarding the Friends space in the new library since she has been involved in a number of the book sales and other friend's activities over the years. Katherine also attended the annual general meeting in May which was particularly lively this year with two city council members, the library task force and Supervisor Karen Mitchoff in attendance.

**Commissioner Pena-Mendrek:** Attended the Brentwood National Night Out event which included the police with their police dogs and a whole slate of events including tours of the library.

**Commissioner Maher:** Moraga will be having their big book sale on October 19<sup>th</sup> this year. Fiona, the president of the Friends has resigned due to a job relocation and so Jane Low is now the president.

**Commissioner DaoJensen:** She also attended the Brentwood Night Out, which she explained is a meet & greet opportunity for the public and the local police to come together, this time at the library. There was lots of traffic in the patio area with kids, police officers and any number of citizens all checking things out. Next, Thuy checked out the brand new Hayward Library this past Saturday and was very impressed. The glass walls of the media center were covered in digital ones and zeroes that, according to the tour guide, were spelling out the declaration of independence. This summer she also had the opportunity to tour the Library of Congress. While there she noticed a book bag emblazoned with "Librarians: The Original Search Engines!"

**Commissioner Faye:** Spent some time in the Lake Tahoe area where she was able to visit libraries in Truckee, Tahoe City, Incline Village as well as one in Auburn. She got to see a clock made out of bicycle frames done as an art piece and marveled at this and many other displays she has seen where the arts come together and end up benefiting the library in some way.

**Commissioner Valdez:** Regularly reports back to the labor groups that appointed her to the commission and reporting on going fine-free at the library has been a big topic. Everyone wants to know how that is going and whether things have been turning out the way they were anticipated. She has also answered a number of questions regarding the summer Lunch in the Library program.

**Commissioner A. Chong:** Also had the opportunity to visit the Library of Congress this summer and was equally impressed. The architecture and the sheer volume of books was amazing. In Danville, the Friends had a fund raiser which netted over \$5,000. Their next event is in October.

**Commissioner Fitzpatrick:** Spends a fair amount of time at the Oakley Library as he goes there to use Bill Pay and he is quite impressed by one of the librarians there, Mr. Doug Thomas, who is very creative. He had a group from Chabot come in with their telescopes and do a program. Arnold was at the library again last night and observed a Shakespeare Players group come in and do some routines.

**Commissioner W. Chong:** Held his first public forum meeting on the last Saturday in July. It was publicized by Supervisor Andersen's office in her recent newsletter. The forum was pretty well attended for a two hour event and William answered questions about the no fines initiative, including emphasizing that "No Fines" doesn't mean No Consequences if you never bring your materials back! He was able to explain a few times that fines actually work against getting materials returned and affect those who can least afford it. He asked a number of folks for any ideas for improvement, etc. and the general opinion was that the library was doing a great job. Some patrons from Danville as well as other libraries were asking about ways they could contribute to their libraries and William hooked them up with friends and foundation members from their area to explore those possibilities.

**Commissioner Hoisington:** The Lafayette Friends sponsor a number of programs with the funds they raise but there are only two which they initiate; one is Sweet Thursdays where once a month they pay an author to come in and talk about their work, and the other is their monthly WOW (Wonders of the World) program which is in the afternoon and regularly draws 90 to 100 people. Docents from local museums come and talk and due to the size crowds they are able to provide they usually get really great docents to come and present. Also in Lafayette, the Fall season of the Bernard Osher OLLI Series is just beginning. The introductory meeting has already happened and the first program starts next week. These are the UC Berkeley life-long learning courses presented through the library and the first of five takes place next week. MaryAnn brought some flyers with the information in case anyone wanted to sign up. Finally, MaryAnn spoke up at a recent city council meeting about the e-book embargo that was sent to all members of the commission and she took Commissioner Pursley's advice and did so during the public comment portion so not only the council heard her, but so did the audience and it was also recorded.

**Commissioner Ford:** Attended the Bubble Man event at the Pleasant Hill library with his 3 year old son and they were both blown away. It was a very interesting program where the person, using only their hands, did some amazing things with bubbles. Part of the evening included a drawing for Giants and A's tickets and he ended up winning a pair, so his son's first trip to a major league sporting event was made possible by the library! Also, the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library are having a huge book sale this weekend at Fort Mason from ten am until six pm for several days. This is an event to check out. The space at Fort Mason is very large and they need every inch of it.

**Commissioner Koops:** Mentioned that he and Commissioner Fischer have been taking every opportunity available to mention and generate support for a new library in El Cerrito, which has the support of the city council. In so doing, he has been asking people what, if anything, they might know about the library in El Cerrito, even if it's just the location, and he has discovered that those folks with children were the ones able to answer in any way.

**Commissioner T. Smith:** Concord Friends are having their book sale this coming weekend like so many other libraries seem to be doing.

**5. CCCLC LEGISLATIVE GUIDE**

Vice Chair Wilson informed the commissioners that the intention of this Legislative Guide is that it be included in the new commissioner binders that each commissioner receives when they are appointed to the commission. The guide will provide some history of what the commission has supported over the years and will also serve to bring new members up to speed on current issues of concern. Chair Don McCormick did a lot of the work getting it down on paper then asked Alan for his input. This is by no means complete, so the purpose tonight is to review the guide and suggest any changes or additions to it and once they've been incorporated the guide will become part of the welcome materials for new commissioners.

Peter then asked for any opening comments. Alan suggested an introductory paragraph would be helpful and also thought there were some additional items in the overall timeline that should probably be added to make it more complete. Alan's other comment was that keeping this document current will be an ongoing process. Peter agreed, explaining that this is intended to aid the new members in getting a sense of what the commission does and what issues they consider important. He invited the commissioners present to look over the guide and to send any feedback they had regarding content or accuracy to Walter so he can compile it and send it to Chair McCormick.

**6. LYNDA.COM AND LINKEDIN LEARNING**

County Librarian Melinda Cervantes explained to the commission that these are services the library has subscribed to for some time now. Lynda.com is a wonderful skill-building platform that was recently purchased by Linked-In (which is owned by Microsoft) and as part of that purchase, one of the changes that was required was that users would have to allow access to some of their private information, which, in turn, could be made available to third party vendors. Melinda stated that she was proud of the State Librarian, as California has some of the strictest rules around privacy concerns and so we are not allowed to be a gateway for this sort of dissemination of private information. The State Librarian's letter has been included in the meeting packet, and CCCL has taken the action of cancelling the library's subscription to Lynda.com, removing it from the website and creating a list of talking points for staff when they are questioned, which they certainly will be as this is (was) a very popular service we offered.

What the State Librarian did by putting out his communication was to create a ripple effect up and down the state and all across the country. Libraries are all dealing with this in different ways. There is a letter from LinkedIn Learning (the new name of Lynda.com) that was shared by a library director in Nashville that reads: "Thank you for being a valuable customer. We're excited about LinkedIn Learning...We have decided to pause your transition. While we have worked with many of our public library customers on this transition, we've recognized there are ongoing concerns about some of the changes we are making. This pause will give us the opportunity to continue our discussions with the library community to understand if we can build an online learning solution that would meet the needs of public libraries and library patrons." Melinda explained the point of this is to show that the library community is a force to be reckoned with. Their ability to get the word out quickly and drop their subscriptions has caused enough pain to LinkedIn Learning that they are taking a step back to re-evaluate their plan.

Next, Melinda opened the floor for questions and comments. Commissioner Fitzpatrick recalled issues with LinkedIn going back to 2009. He had deleted content from his account there, then left the platform for a time and when he returned he discovered that all of the items he thought had been deleted had instead been restored and were all present again on the website. Apparently there is some history of shenanigans there. Commissioner Fischer reported that he had brought this issue to the attention of the El Cerrito city council. Commissioner Kelly had two questions; First, what percentage of the patrons of the library used Lynda.com within the previous 5 years and second, is there any correlation between the users of LinkedIn and those of LinkedIn Learning? Melinda explained that while total use data was probably available it would be difficult to determine the number of unique users. Juan said that what he was getting at was the simple solution from Microsoft's point of view that if everyone had a LinkedIn account, no problem. Melinda replied that the library couldn't be the gateway for this and that people would need to find a way to access the service independent of the library. Alison explained that this was a forced migration to another platform...libraries were given no choice but to go along. Melinda further explained that when issues of this magnitude come up she is quick to include the commission so they have the facts in front of them and are informed of the many ways they can speak out. The library is bound by state law to protect the privacy of patrons so we can't be putting people in harm's way via our IP address.

**7. MACMILLAN PUBLISHING EIGHTWEEK/ONE COPY EMBARGO ON EBOOKS FOR LIBRARIES**

County Librarian Cervantes began by informing the commissioners that six or seven years ago there were 6 major publishers of e-books and other downloadable audio and each had their own plan for how they were going to make their money by selling to libraries, for example once an item circulates 26 times, then the library has to buy it again. This is sort of a print model they're using where print books wear out and need to be replaced and the publishers are not wanting to lose that revenue as e-books don't wear out. There were 2 years worth of meetings between the publishers and all of the major library organizations and eventually things were worked out but not without some caveats. The library might have to pay \$80 for an ebook that you could purchase for \$14.99. The library also purchases books in a number of different formats, so it gets pretty expensive. What Macmillan is doing is saying the libraries can have one copy, whether you are a library with one branch or 26, then after a period of time they can purchase more copies at double the price. Libraries, book clubs and a number of organizations have attempted to deal with Macmillan but so far they are showing no signs of backing down. Commissioner Hoisington asked what the bottom line is for the library. Melinda responded that unlike the situation with Lynda.com, in this case the library either buys the one copy or doesn't buy it at all. If they do buy the one, there will likely be hundreds of patrons placing holds on a single copy of an item and the library will bear the brunt of the policy, as complaints will go to the library instead of the publisher where they should be going. The embargo is set to begin in November, although they are feeling a bit of heat from all sides. Overdrive, our major provider of e-materials is keeping the pressure on as this is their business and will affect them, too. As a reminder, we will still be able to purchase all of the hard copies of an item that we want. This only affects the e-resources that we offer. Commissioner Kelly asked if additional purchases of hard copy books would be made to cater to the demand to which Melinda replied that it was being looked into however she wasn't sure it *would* take care of the demand as there are quite a number of patrons who use the e-resources as their only means of using the materials. She knew it was something the library was looking into and asked Deputy County Librarian Gail McPartland if she had any information to share. Gail mentioned that the library likes to keep the ratio of holds to hardcopies at 5 to 1. For our ebook materials the ratio is higher as that collection is much smaller. The plan is to add to it significantly in FY19/20 in

order to meet the demand but right now it's like trying to hit a moving target. A question was raised about how a patron would know which items were available electronically. Melinda mentioned going to the Libby app through Overdrive would be one way. Vice Chair Wilson also answered that it's possible to do a search and each format available will pop up in the search and it will tell you how many holds are in place for the item. Melinda then asked if the commission had any interest in a demo of the library's e-resources and how to access them as a possible topic for a future commission meeting. The idea was greeted with some enthusiasm.

**8.A. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS/Legislative Working Committee**

Alan began by informing the commissioners that ACA-1 (55% voter threshold for bond measure passage) went down in flames on the assembly floor. As a bit of background, the only successful change to Prop 13 did not come from the legislature but through a citizen's initiative back in 2000, which is how education got down to 55%. The library community has now tried three times to pass similar measures (in 2015, 2017 and 2019) to no avail, and looking forward at the legislative calendar Alan doesn't expect to see another try until 2022, what with competing measures to alter Prop 13 plus a 40 year, 1 cent sales tax cropping up in the near term. Commissioner Gilcrest asked if these measures going forward were the reason for the defeat of ACA-1 this year. Alan responded that Prop 13 has been a third-rail issue for 40 years now and some legislators are likely scared of the voter response if they voted for it. A democrat in Orange County that voted in favor of a gas tax was recalled for that vote.

**8.B. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS/Work Plan and Annual Report Working Committee**

Peter began by informing the commissioners that what was included in the meeting packet is a second draft of the work plan, taking into account previous comments plus the items called out by commissioners at the previous meeting. This version, along with the annual report plus any comments tonight and the addition of commissioner items, will be what goes before the Board of Supervisors once the commission has voted on it at the November meeting. Between the previous meeting and tonight only two responses were received after making a request for input. This will be the commission's last chance to modify the work plan prior to submitting it. Peter then called for discussion.

Commissioner Hoisington thought the opening bullet point belonged further down on the list, as an option in case the commissioners were unable to do the other items on that list. Commissioner Gilcrest opined that perhaps that bullet could be reworded a bit to make it less frightening to any friends or foundation members that might take issue with it the way it is worded now. It was originally referred to as a centralized fundraising program for the benefit of all libraries, which she thought seemed less pushy and would be less likely to offend. Peter had no qualms about moving the bullet to another location on the list and he expressed the thought that since Kathy recalled the wording of that bullet from previous discussions that she might be the best person to wordsmith it a bit and bring it back to the commission in November. Kathy agreed to do so. Next, Commissioner Kelly took a few minutes to explain to the group some of the thought process behind the committee's work and why things ended up the way they did. Commissioner T. Smith (the other member of the committee) offered up more of the same. There ensued some discussion of how the various goals and sub-goals may eventually be parceled out amongst the members of the commission and being sensitive to the existing friends and foundation groups was mentioned more than once. Finally, Peter suggested that one more round of comments was required and suggested that everyone send their ideas to Walter by November 1<sup>st</sup> and the committee will take those comments into account along with the discussion this evening when putting together the final versions of the work plan and annual report.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**9. FORMATION OF A NOMINATING WORKING COMMITTEE**

Vice Chair Wilson and County Librarian Cervantes took a few minutes to explain to the commissioners what the purpose of the nominating committee was (making a recommendation to the commission for a chair and vice-chair for 2020) and what sort of time commitment was required (minimal). It was also explained that as a member of the committee you were ineligible to be nominated for one of the officer positions. Peter then called for volunteers. Commissioners A. Smith and Valdez volunteered for two of the three positions. Peter asked the rest of the commissioners to think about participating and the group would seek a third member before proceeding.

**10. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

By consensus of the commission, the minutes of the July 18, 2019 Library Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.

**11. COUNTY LIBRARIAN REPORT**

Melinda submitted her report in writing as part of the meeting packet. She began by pointing out the sneak preview of the El Sobrante Library. The report contains some photos of the space and the library is expected to reopen in November (date TBA). She then gave the floor over to Deputy County Librarian Alison McKee to update the commissioners on the migration to the new website (BiblioCommons). Alison let the commission know that the staff preview of the new website began today with training for approximately 80 staff members with another class for 80 more tomorrow. The catalogue works great and has been well received by staff so far. The public preview begins on November 19<sup>th</sup> and for a month or so both the old and new websites will co-exist side by side. The full launch of the website will happen on December 16<sup>th</sup>, at which point the old site retires and goes away, leaving just the new site in its place. Elsewhere in her report, Melinda has a chart that shows (at Commissioner Hoisington's suggestion) the contributions of the various friends and foundations groups. Melinda had two additions to report: The Moraga Friends contributed over \$10,000 this year and San Ramon contributed over \$31,000. This information will be kept current and available to any commissioner who would like to see it. Finally, Melinda asked Shannon to stand up and show off her new library card. Several of the commissioners had gotten new cards and Melinda suggested taking photos and putting them up on social media to advertise the fact. Commissioner Bracken asked how the book giveaway had gone this summer. According to Melinda it went very well and books are already accumulating for next year. There were 2400 boxes of books remaining after the sale this year. She also mentioned the library is working with an organization much like the one mentioned earlier in the meeting by Commissioner LeFrak that takes outdated/unwanted books and uses them for literacy purposes across the globe.

**12. AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS**

No items were proposed for the next meeting. Commissioners were invited to send any suggestions to Walter at Library Administration.



**13. ADJOURNMENT TO THE NOVEMBER 21, 2019 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING AT LIBRARY  
ADMINISTRATION.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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Submitted by Walter Beveridge  
Administrative Aide, Contra Costa County Library