MEETING OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION

AGENDA

DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2021
TIME: 7:00 p.m. LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING
LOCATION: The Meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. You may click on the link below or copy/paste it into your browser. The meeting password is 164115 You may also dial in using this number: 1(669) 900-9128 Meeting I.D.: 919 3264 6639 Link: https://zoom.us/j/91932646639?pwd=VDFiVzgwqUR4eXByXdoK3hVZStvQT09

- Electronic agenda packet viewing is available at: https://ccclib.org/commission/
- Hard copy agenda packets are available for viewing at each Contra Costa County Library
- The meeting will be recorded for record keeping purposes

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) 608-7730. After 72 hours prior, accommodations will be on a best-efforts basis.

To slow the spread of COVID-19, the Health Officer’s Shelter Order of June 16, 2020, prevents public gatherings (Health Officer Order). In lieu of a public gathering, the Library Commission meeting will be accessible via Zoom to all members of the public as permitted by the Governor’s Executive Order N29-20.

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, March 17, 2021 if you will NOT be at the meeting. A quorum must be established before a meeting can be held. A record is maintained of Commissioner’s attendance.

1. 7:00 p.m. (5 mins.) CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER / ROLL CALL
   The Library Commission Chair will call the meeting to order. Walter will do a roll call to determine a quorum of attendees.

2. 7:05 p.m. (5 mins.) WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
   Visitors will have an opportunity to introduce themselves; self-introductions are voluntary.

3. 7:10 p.m. (5 mins.) PUBLIC COMMENT –
   Speakers from the audience may address the Library Commission on any relevant issue that is not scheduled for the agenda. Public comment 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 during 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.

4. 7:15 p.m. Action
   (5 mins.)
   ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – Attachment 1
   Commissioners will approve or amend the minutes from the January 2021 meeting.

5. 7:20 p.m. Information
   (20 mins.)
   ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
   Commissioners or library staff may make announcements regarding the Library Commission and Library or Friends group activities of interest to other Library Commission members.
PRESENTATIONS

6. 7:40 p.m.  
    Information (15 mins.)  
    REOPENING THE LIBRARIES –  
    County Librarian Alison McKee and Acting County Deputy Librarian Lynne Noone will update the Commission on a timeline for reopening the libraries to the public and the steps being taken to make this happen safely.

7. 7:55 p.m.  
    Information (20 mins.)  
    TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL ACCESS INITIATIVES -  
    Senior Business Systems Analyst Stacie Deng will update the Commission on new technology issues and systems being put in place at the Library in 2021.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

8. 8:15 p.m.  
    Action (25 mins.)  
    WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS –  Attachment 2  
    A. Commissioner A. Smith will report to the Commission on the recent meeting of the Legislative working group and discuss ways to advocate for the library during the current environment. (15 minutes)  
    B. Vice-Chair Fischer will discuss the collecting of information for the 2021 Annual Report. (5 minutes)  
    C. Commissioner Don McCormick will update the commission on Countywide Foundation efforts. (5 minutes)

OTHER BUSINESS

9. 8:40 p.m.  
    Action (5 mins.)  
    CHANGE SEPTEMBER MEETING DATE -  
    As the scheduled September 16 Commission meeting is the last day of Yom Kippur, the Commission will discuss changing the date for reasons of cultural sensitivity and vote on an alternative date for the meeting.

10. 8:45 p.m.  
    Information (10 mins.)  
    COUNTY LIBRARIAN REPORT -  Attachment 3  
    Interim County Librarian Allison McKee will submit a written report on items of interest to Commissioners.

11. 8:55 p.m.  
    (5 mins.)  
    AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING and FUTURE TOPICS  
    Commissioners will suggest items for future meetings.

12. 9:00 p.m.  
    ADJOURNMENT to the May 20, 2021 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING.

ITEMS TO CALENDAR

1. Library Commission Meeting / 5-20-21  
2. Library Commission Meeting / 7-15-21  
3. Library Commission Meeting / 9-16-21/TBD
4. Library Commission Meeting / 11-18-21
5. 2020/21 Library Friends, Foundations and Commission Forum / April 24th, 2021 — To Be Rescheduled
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

AGENDA ATTACHMENT 1

MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2021
AGENDA ITEM #: 4.
ITEM: ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
The Commission will vote to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting with or without edits.
MEETING OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes

DATE: Thursday, January 21, 2021

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER / ROLL CALL
Chair Peter Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

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Total Commission positions: 24
Commission positions filled: 19
Commission positions vacant: 5
Commission quorum: 13
With eighteen commissioners present, a quorum was established.

2. **INTRODUCTIONS**
   Chair Peter Wilson introduced several new commission members to the group.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   No Public comment.

4. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES** No changes were suggested. Commissioner Fischer made a motion to accept the minutes from November 2020 as presented. Commissioner Mendrek seconded the motion. By consensus vote of the commission the minutes from November 2020 were approved.

5. **ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS –**

   **Commissioner Holsington:** Monthly Friends meetings continue via Zoom. The Bookstore is closed but online sales continue. The WOW events (2nd Wed. monthly @ 2pm) and Sweet Thursday author events both continue and details can be found on the Lafayette Learning Center website.

   **Commissioner Campbell-Miller:** Hercules Library sponsored a MLK Day event via Zoom. It can now be viewed on the County website and the Hercules Library Facebook page. Hercules employee Rashida Skaar has worked with the junior High school youth on several events: one was a spoken word performance and the other was a yoga/mindfulness event.

   **Commissioner Ferree:** Friends group met for the first time since March 2020 last evening. Will become more active as conditions loosen up. They will have their annual meeting with the city council in March 2021. Book sales continue outside the library as usual.

   **Vice Chair Fischer:** Michael put together some documents for the two recent additions to the El Cerrito city council and met with them in person (Zoom) to go over the docs as well. BART has selected a developer for the El Cerrito Plaza development project that includes space for a library. Next up will be planning for a bond measure.

   **Alison McKee:** Juvenile Hall is looking for gently used soft-cover books for the youth there. They are unable to borrow from the Library now so the library is looking for donations to fill the gap.

   **Commissioner Bracken:** Work on the new PH Library is on target. The developer is hitting all the timing milestones, so everything is going well.

6. **MARKETING & COMMUNICATION UPDATE** -
   PIO Brooke Converse’s PowerPoint slides are attached to these minutes.

   At the end of her presentation, she invited the commissioners to be the first social media ambassadors for the library. Walter will follow up with everyone over the next few days. Commissioner Campbell-Miller inquired if TikTok had been considered as another social media outlet to use. Brooke said it is on the library’s radar but there isn’t sufficient bandwidth to employ each platform available.
7. **2020 BROWN ACT UPDATE** - Management Analyst Lauren Hull’s PowerPoint is attached to these minutes.

Once the presentation concluded and the floor was opened for questions, Chair Wilson described a situation in which he posts an opinion on a topic that the Library Commission is considering and another commissioner gives that comment a “thumbs up”...is this a violation of the rules just described? The answer is “yes”, that would be an incorrect use of social media and would be considered a violation.

Commissioner Kelly asked for a 25 words or less statement of best practices for commissioners about what to do (or not do) in this area. Lauren stated that if you see another commissioner’s post online and it has anything even remotely to do with commission business, do not interact with it.

Several other commissioners described various scenarios, the bottom line of which is that social media can be used to express your views as a commissioner but otherwise the hands-off idea of not interacting with other commissioner’s posts is the wisest strategy to remain in compliance with the revised Brown Act rules.

8.A. **Legislative Working Group** – Chair Wilson shared with the commissioners a conversation he had with Commissioner A. Smith. Alan has been a one-man advocacy committee for years now and Peter felt it would be helpful to the commission to expand the membership of this group to lift some of the burden off of Alan and also to create some depth for this committee. Peter had already spoken with new commissioner Susan Hildreth (former California State Librarian and Director of the IMLS) if she would have interest in being a member of this group and she said she would. Peter then asked the commissioners if any others would like to be part of this expanding group. Commissioners Dozier and Gemmer both volunteered to participate along with Susan and Alan.

8.B. **Annual Report Working Group** – Vice Chair Fischer described the role of this group for the new commissioner’s benefit, then suggested that in 2021 the group not wait until near year end to begin to put the work plan and annual report together but do so as the year goes along. By doing so, the report in progress becomes a living document which commissioners can view and decide if the things other commissioners are doing would be something they could do as well.

Michael asked Walter if he would be willing to keep the list of actions by the commission. He said yes, and suggested that if the commissioners would reference which part of the work plan their action pertains to when they send their submissions to him it would be a big help.

8.C. **Countywide Library Foundation** – Chair Wilson asked Commissioner McCormick if he would be willing to share an update on the effort to establish a countywide library foundation. Don shared a brief history of the idea of a countywide foundation, beginning as an east county idea initially and becoming a full county effort over time. Recent efforts to obtain funding necessary to become a 501-(c)-3 organization have been hampered due to Covid needs for funds but this year Don’s sponsor, Supervisor Diane Burgis, is the chair of the Board of Supervisors so he is hopeful she might be able to help find the necessary investment to get the effort up and running. At a recent meeting with new CAO Monica Nino, Don brought up the need for funding to her also.

9. **County Librarian Search** – Chair Wilson had asked Commissioner McCormick if he would be willing to share an update on the County’s search for a new County Librarian. Don, as previous commission chair, volunteered to participate in the search if there was a part for him to play. His PowerPoint slides are appended to these minutes.

10. **COUNTY LIBRARIAN REPORT** - Interim County Librarian Alison McKee began by welcoming the new members of the commission. Next she stated that there was nothing new to add to her report but there was one correction. One of the grants mentioned in the report was shown as coming from Calix rather than being correctly identified as coming from the California State Library.
Alison then called attention to the recent passage of Measure X, a half-cent sales tax. A citizen’s advisory board will be put in place to determine how the proceeds of the measure will be distributed around the county. Vice Chair Fischer asked if the library might be able to write up a proposal to possibly get in line for some of the funds available. Alison said she would have to look into whether or not this was appropriate. The library is not a general fund participant that has to fight for funds annually. Instead the library has a dedicated revenue stream from property tax collections. Commissioner LaLanne asked if the commissioners would be offered the opportunity to take the Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity training that library staff were involved in. Alison thought that was a good suggestion and agreed to look into it.

Alison ended her presentation with a bit of sad news; Deputy County Librarian Nancy Kreiser has announced her retirement and her last day will be January 29th. Nancy was the lead staff person of the “Good-Bye to Fines” initiative and was a leading voice behind the scenes for establishing a Lucky Day collection. Alison described her as a force for good and said she would be missed by many.

11. **AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS**
   Commissioner Faye asked about a presentation about reopening the library.

12. **ADJOURNMENT TO THE March 18, 2021, 2021 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING.**

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

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Submitted by Walter Beveridge
Executive Secretary, Contra Costa County Library
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION

AGENDA ATTACHMENT 2

MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2021
AGENDA ITEM #: 8.A.
ITEM: WORKING GROUP REPORTS – Legislative Group

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Commission will vote to approve legislative items to support with letter writing and other steps as appropriate.
MEETING OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION LEGISLATIVE WORKING GROUP
Minutes

DATE: Friday, February 19, 2021

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER / ROLL CALL
County Librarian Alison McKee called the meeting to order at 10:00 am

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Total Committee positions: 5
Committee positions filled: 5
Committee positions vacant: 0
Committee quorum: 3

With five commissioners present, a quorum was established.

2. INTRODUCTIONS
County Librarian Alison McKee introduced herself and invited the rest of the attendees to do the same.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT
No Public comment.

4. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES As this is the first meeting of this expanded membership working group there are no minutes to approve. There will be minutes taken and presented at the next meeting.

5. A BRIEF HISTORY OF COMMISSION ADVOCACY –

The commission has been active for over twenty years, beginning with Measure L in 2000 (one-eighth cent sales tax for library construction), a measure which lost by the equivalent of one vote per precinct. The commission was also involved in the 2006 Measure L which passed in the county but due to poor voter turnout in June (approx.. 29%) the statewide vote wasn’t enough to pass the measure.

Other advocacy efforts include letter writing campaign for the PLF (Public Library Fund) and the annual Day in the District effort to go visit with legislators to advocate for literacy funding and other library related pursuits. The commission has also supported the efforts (several times) to lower the passage of construction bonds from two-thirds down to 55%.

The commission was advised that writing letters individually was not advised, especially after other commissions had advocated for positions that were not in line with those of the Board of Supervisors. At that point the focus shifted to crafting letters for the supervisors to sign as long as they were in line with their legislative platform.
6. LETTER GUIDELINES –
A discussion of letter writing made it clear that writing letters as a member of the commission was not allowed, but anyone is able to write letters as an individual expressing their own opinion. An example of a letter written for the BOS was included in the packet. At this point Lara Delaney volunteered that it is possible to have an issue added to the supervisor’s platform and she would be happy to advise on this process if there was something the commission felt strongly about. The process involves taking the issue to the Legislative Committee who then makes a recommendation to the full Board.

Writing Thank you letters in the past has been discouraged when no increase in funding is asked for. Only for an increase. Lara stated that the BOS has approval for ACA-1 on their platform so to her knowledge a thank you to legislators would not be discouraged. Alan clarified that the full commission would have to endorse the measure at their March meeting then a letter could be drafted for the supervisors to sign.

7. STATE ISSUES –
   - **Aca-1:** Assembly Constitutional Amendment One would create an exception to the 2/3 vote required to pass a 1% ad valorem tax on real property for affordable housing and public infrastructure (libraries) by lowering the threshold for passage down to 55%. Members present agreed that this is an issue to be on the commission’s slate for endorsement.
   - **Literacy:** The group would need to know what the state’s plans are for the budget as far as literacy funding is concerned. Susan pointed out that so far she had not seen anything relating to an increase, so if the funding level is unchanged from last year’s budget then maybe this one gets left alone.
   - **Lunch at the Library:** Alan suggested that since this item is only an $800,000 line item in the budget that perhaps saving the group’s effort for something with a bigger payout might be reasonable. Alison stated that the funding we usually receive only pays a portion of the costs of the Lunch in the Library program. The actual lunches are paid for by the school districts the library partners with. The fund received often goes to support activities that go along with the lunch, such as books to give away or grab bag activities, sometimes additional programming. Susan took an alternative viewpoint based on the fact that the $800,000 is not a one-time addition but is ongoing so might then be worth the effort.
   - **CLSA / Reinstate 50% cut:** The California Library services Act is a program that has been funded for many years and it primarily supports regional resource sharing. For example, the library belongs to the PLP (Pacific Library Partnership) and that group is funded by the CLSA. Last year the group’s funding was reduced by 50% and so far that lost funding has not reappeared in the current proposed budget. The CLA has taken this on as an issue. Nicole asked if the previous reduction ($1.8mm) was felt by the library and Alison said it was not because the PLP had set aside some reserves that made up the difference last year so it was not felt at all. Not all of the 9 districts in California were able to weather the reduced funding as well as the bay area due to the reserve but not restoring the cut funds from last year will begin to make budgets tight throughout the state. Alison agreed that even though this funding might not be critical for Contra Costa County, it is for the smaller, more rural libraries in the state.
   - **CENC/Broadband for Libraries:** CCC Library is one of the last large libraries in California to switch over to Cenic. The performance of their network will increase broadband speeds by about 10 times and do so at a fraction of the cost. There is no current threat of reduced funding so this issue could be placed on the back burner for now.
   - **OTHER:** Lara posted the following in chat: “The Governor’s Proposed FY 21-22 Budget does include "Childhood Reading Augmentation—$5 million one-time General Fund for the Department of Public Health to provide books to low-income children to improve child development and literacy."
8. **FEDERAL ISSUES**
   - **S127 $5 billion Library Construction:** This bill represents the first time the Feds have proposed funding for library construction. This one is an obvious choice for support. Clayton and Bay Point are both looking to replace their libraries. El Cerrito is also, but the intent of this funding is to support those areas that are economically disadvantaged.
   - **CARES Act:** The library is receiving some funds from the CARES act. It is mostly going to pay for those employees doing disaster relief work for the county. Back in the beginning of covid there was some opportunity to apply for CARES Act funds from the IMLS but the CCC library was not able to do so as we were still in the throes of the cyber-attack and most did not have any access to email.
   - **Relief Funding in $1.9 trillion bill:** There have been funds coming to the county from Covid relief but so far they have mostly been allocated to the health department and their covid response. The funds available in the latest bill for relief does include money for local governments and it is substantial. $350 billion for local governments and the estimate of CCC’s share is $225 million. Congress is trying to move this along to beat the March 14 deadline when unemployment funding runs out so expect votes to happen next week. If the vote on this funding goes through without any reductions, there are very few restrictions on how the funds can be used.
   - **IMLS:** Another obvious choice of something to support.

9. **State & Federal Issues to take to the full commission for support:**
   1. ACA-1
   2. Lunch at the Library
   3. CLSA – Reinstate 50% cut
   4. SB127
   5. IMLS

10. **DAY IN THE DISTRICT**
    Alan began with a short history of Commission involvement in Day in the District meetings. Due to the pandemic, these will need to be held via zoom this year. After a discussion of working geographically to divide the burden among the group members, Alison decided that she and Walter would decide on a strategy and get started setting up meetings.

11. **Measure X**
    Alison described the recent Measure X ½ cent sales tax and the Citizen’s Advisory Group being created to make decisions about dividing up the proceeds. Some clarification is needed as to whether or not commission members are “appointed officials” because if so, they would not be eligible to participate. County Counsel has been asked for an opinion on this.

12. **AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS**
    None.

**ADJOURNMENT TO THE March 18, 2021 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

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Submitted by Walter Beveridge
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 3

MEETING DATE: Thursday, March 18, 2021
AGENDA ITEM #: 10.
ITEM: COUNTY LIBRARIAN REPORT

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
No action required.
County Librarian’s Report to the Library Commission

Thursday, March 18, 2021

NEW COMMISSIONERS

I am pleased to welcome Matt DeFraga of Martinez as new member to the Library Commission. As a point of interest, his mother, Ann DeFraga, was the manager of the Orinda Library when I was first hired in the early 2000s.

MAJOR PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Lendable WiFi hotspots launched to the public on February 11th.

The Library will begin moving onto the CENIC network in the next several months. This will significantly increase the speed of the Internet connection for both the public and the staff and will result in a significant cost savings for the Library. We expect all locations to be on CENIC by July 1, 2021. We do not expect any disruption in service.

Public printing is now available in all open library locations except for El Cerrito, Lafayette and Walnut Creek libraries.

BUDGET

The Library’s FY21-22 budget was completed and submitted to the County Administrator’s Office on Friday, February 19. The total annual budget for next FY is $36,110,000.

FACILITIES AND OPEN HOURS

The Ygnacio Valley Library’s parking lot is scheduled to be repaved starting in July. The Library will not be able to operate as a testing site at that time, nor as a Library. We expect the facility to be inaccessible to the public until early September.

Library staff are continuing to work with County Risk Management, Public Works and city partners to prepare the facilities to welcome the public back inside.

UPDATE ON EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION INITIATIVES

Contra Costa County Library has been selected to participate in the second year of the Creating Racial Equity and Inclusion in Libraries training. The entire Library Leadership team will participate as a cohort. Funding for the CREI Initiative comes from the California State Library and federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The CREI Initiative’s broad goal is to catalyze a statewide network of libraries and library staff committed to racial equity and inclusion for all, to share information; deepen conversations; and take actions to grow racial equity in library service delivery and the communities that we serve.

The Library Collection Development team is developing an in depth diversity assessment of the Library’s collection. We expect the assessment to begin this Spring.

Racial Equity trainings are continuing. At this point in time, 139 staff have completed the introductory training and 39 people opted to take and have completed the second level of training.
## Donations Received from Friends and Foundations
### January 2021 & February 2021

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We thank the many Friends, Foundations and other donors for their generous gifts to the Library.

Several grants were applied for during January and February 2021. No notices of any awards have yet been received.

*Respectfully submitted by Alison McKee, Interim County Librarian*