



"Enriching Lives"

LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION VIRTUAL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, May 18, 2022

TIME: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm



To participate: To attend the virtual meeting using a laptop or desktop computer, click [Virtual Meeting Link](#) to join at the time of the meeting.

Mobile device users will need to install and use the Cisco Webex Meetings application to access the meeting.

Meeting Number: 245 770 34410, Attendance Password: dZ6y6YhrKQ5

To listen only via telephone: Call (213) 306-3065, Access Code: 245 770 34410

If you are experiencing technical difficulties accessing the meeting, please call 1-888-810-8885 for assistance.

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call**
2. **Introduction of Board Library Deputies**
3. **Minutes**
Approval of minutes from the regular meeting on March 16, 2022.
4. **Chairperson's Report**
Chairperson Corey Calaycay will report on various items, including the Commission's progress on its Focus 2020-21 Goals and its goals for 2022-23.
5. **2022-23 Commission Goals and Objectives Subcommittees**
The Commission will finalize the chairs and members of its four subcommittees, who will focus on the Commission's 2022-23 Goals and Objectives:
 - a. Commission Benchmarking
 - b. Education & Community Needs
 - c. Foundation & Philanthropy
 - d. Legislative Advocacy
6. **Legislative Advocacy Report**
Jose Luis Solache and Angelita Medina of the Legislative Advocacy Subcommittee will provide an update on the committee's efforts to research and petition State representatives relative to local library funding.
7. **Bylaws and Ordinance Revision Report**
Jim Allen, Chair of the Bylaws and Ordinance Revision Ad Hoc Committee, will provide an update on the committee's efforts to revise the Library Commission Bylaws and put forth an ordinance.

8. Library Commission 2022 Election

Jim Allen, Chair of the Nominating Ad Hoc Committee, will provide an update on the process of selecting nominees and voting on Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary with voting to take place in July 2022. Appointments to take effect immediately after the July 20, 2022, meeting.

9. Library Commission 2021-22 Annual Report

Lisa Cleri Reale, Chair of the Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee, will provide an update on preparation of the Commission's 2021-22 Annual Report.

10. Public Comment *(Limited to 3 minutes per speaker.)*

Opportunity for members of the public to address the Library Commission items of interest within the jurisdiction of the Library Commission.

For those who wish to provide live public comment, you must join the virtual Webex meeting as a participant. You may also provide written public comment via email to librarycommission@library.lacounty.gov. Deadline to submit written public comment is Tuesday, May 17, 2022, by 5:00 pm. Please include the agenda item and meeting date in your correspondence. All correspondence received shall become part of the official record.

11. New Business

Discuss new business items and identify a plan to take action, including referral to a committee or placing new business items on the agenda for action at a future Commission meeting.

12. Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency, or when action is needed after the posting of the agenda.

13. Adjournment**Upcoming Meetings:**

Wednesday, July 20, 2022
10:00 am – 12:00pm

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
10:00am – 12:00pm

Accommodations: For ADA accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter for the virtual meeting or materials in an alternative format, call (562) 940-8462 (voice) or (562) 940-8477 (TTY), Monday - Thursday, 8 am - 5 pm, at least 6 days prior to the meeting date.

Supporting Documentation: Documents distributed to the Commission for this meeting can be made available for public inspection. Supporting documentation is available by appointment at LA County Library Headquarters located at 7400 Imperial Hwy, Downey, California 90242, and may also be accessible on the LA County Library Commission website at lacountylibrary.org/library-commission. To make arrangements, please contact librarycommission@library.lacounty.gov.



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LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION VIRTUAL MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, May 18, 2022

TIME: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

MINUTES

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

Chair Corey Calaycay called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. He thanked everyone for attending and welcomed the Board Deputies. The Pledge of Allegiance followed after which roll call was initiated, and a quorum was met.

Commissioners in Attendance: (15) Andrew Yam, Angelita Medina, Corey Calaycay, Denise Diaz, Jim Allen, Jose Luis Solache, Joy Williams, Karen Farrer, Lisa Cleri Reale, Mary Mendoza, Nancy Kuechle, Nancy Lyons, Reve Gipson, Steve Croft, Tess Shih.

Library Staff in Attendance: (3) Samangi Skinner, Sara Keating, Jaclyn Morales

Guests in Attendance: (5) Mary Ann Morato, Nyla Jefferson, and Twila Kerr, Commission Services, Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors; Maria Chong-Castillo, 3rd Supervisorial District; Michelle Vega, 5th Supervisorial District

Introductions

Chair Calaycay welcomed everyone and reminded them that the annual May meeting is dedicated to interacting with the Library's Deputies from the Board of Supervisors. The following individuals were introduced:

From 3rd District, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office: Maria Chong-Castillo, Deputy for Public Works. Chong-Castillo thanked Library Director Skye Patrick and her entire staff, stating that they have really stepped up to the plate during challenging times and it is appreciated how Library staff has been proactive and come to the aid of the communities. She added that times are still challenging and while we are seeing a light, there is still a ways to go.

From 5th District, Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office: Michelle Vega, Assistant Chief Deputy. Vega stated that she is new to her role but she had met with Commissioners

Jim Allen and Tess Shih. She thanked everyone for their dedication and for volunteering valuable time to help LA County Library be the best that it can be.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on March 16, 2022, was made by Commissioner Croft and seconded by Commissioner Allen. The minutes were approved by a majority of the Commissioners with two abstentions by Commissioners Diaz and Lyons, who did not attend the March meeting.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Corey Calaycay reviewed the prior year's work by the three sub-committees. He discussed the evolution of the legislative advocacy work that is new. He gave credit to Vice Chair Jim Allen for coming close to finalizing the by-laws and ordinance. He reviewed that Library staff asked the Commission to reduce the number of meetings to help reduce the workload of the staff. Commissioners discussed the issue and one of the concerns was that reducing the number of meetings per year would not allow Commissioners to visit libraries in each of the five Supervisorial Districts, Library headquarters and meet with the Board Deputies.

Calaycay added that the compromise that was offered was for the Commission to have one to two meetings where most Library staff would not be present and during these off months, the Commissioners would discuss key strategic issues. One such meeting took place in March and the result was the creation of some new work and the evolution of prior work.

2022-23 Commission Goals and Objectives Subcommittees

Calaycay explained to Chong-Castillo and Vega that there are now four special Library Commission Subcommittees:

1. Commission Benchmarking: Commissioners Allen, Croft, Lyons, Mendoza, Shih and Williams.
2. Education & Community Needs: Commissioners Farrer, Kuechle, Diaz and Yam.
3. Philanthropy & Foundation: Commissioners Calaycay, Cleri Reale, Gipson and Medina.
4. Legislative Advocacy: Commissioners Medina, Shih, Solache and Yam

Calaycay stated that not every commissioner had volunteered for one or more of the subcommittees and he encouraged everyone to do so. He then asked the Subcommittee Chairs to report on progress.

Commission Benchmarking report:

- Chair Tess Shih shared that the subcommittee was able to meet to determine its mission, which is to speak to other commissions and understand their size, scope, fundraising and advocacy responsibilities. The subcommittee is compiling a list of questions that are consistent for each commission interviewed. Shih said

they need contacts at these other commissions. She added that this subcommittee's work is not ongoing and will wrap up in a year or so.

Philanthropy & Foundation

- Chair Cleri Reale stated that the subcommittee had not yet met but she did report on behalf of Foundation Executive Director Andrea Carroll about Library Giving Day in April, which raised more than \$10,000. Cleri Reale added more news from Carroll that the Foundation, with the Library Director's backing, and spearheaded by Laura Rosenthal (former Malibu Councilmember), has requested funding of \$500,000 from the City of Malibu (surplus Library funds) to establish an endowment.
- Commissioner Karen Farrer shared that Malibu has excess funds due to their property tax revenue. She also shared that there is an upcoming Malibu City Council virtual meeting and the Library's request is on the agenda. Public comments are welcome.
- Commissioner Allen stated that he plans to attend the meeting. He thanked Commissioner Farrer and the City of Malibu for their ongoing support.
- Commissioner Cleri Reale added that the only reason the Foundation Executive Director position exists is because of Malibu.

Legislative Advocacy

- Chair Jose Luis Solache reported that there has been great progress and that fellow Commissioner Medina has been persistent in moving things forward. Solache added that the State has \$98 billion in excess funding and the subcommittee thought it would be worth an attempt to secure some funds for LA County Library. He thanked Library staff for the short turnaround on materials. He added that the ask is big, and the Library is competing with many others but there is nothing to lose with the request. He reminded everyone that the CA State Assembly Speaker is Anthony Rendon, who resides in Lakewood in LA County. Commissioner Medina thanked Solache and said that they are waiting to hear if the request will be moved forward by the Speaker's Office. She said they don't expect the entire amount but hope for a portion of the request. Regardless of what happens, Medina stated that the exercise has been very good as it has helped the subcommittee members improve their approach. Both Medina and Solache discussed other grant opportunities including federal earmarks. They ended by saying that the state budget will be approved on June 15.
- Commissioner Yam asked for a copy of the funding request and offered to coordinate with others in approaching legislators.
- Chair Calaycay suggested that a meeting with legislators and possibly State Senator Portantino would be important.

Remarks from Board Representatives

Chair Calaycay opened the floor to Board Deputies Chong-Castillo and Vega.

Chong-Castillo shared that she has spent 48 years in politics and that she loves it and is passionate about the community service and delivering constituent needs. She would love to hear from commissioners and field questions.

Commissioner Cleri Reale asked about the pending structural deficit and whether there are any discussions at the Board level about solutions. Chong-Castillo reiterated that the pandemic hit the County pretty hard, but the Library staff has done a wonderful job and, unlike other departments, developed a very healthy fund balance. Chong-Castillo stated that the Board conveyed to Library Director Patrick that they will want her to use some of that funding for now. Chong-Castillo does not know what the future holds but strongly stated that the Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of LA County Library throughout the region, remarking that libraries have become the communities' babysitters and have always served that role much like the parks. She ended by saying that there is no question about the value of County libraries. Vega added that everyone at the Board level knows the deficit must be dealt with and something will need to be done; they just don't know what.

Commissioner Shih asked Vega about an operational survey that she heard was going to be conducted. Vega said it did not ring a bell, but she could look through her notes. Chong-Castillo asked the purpose of the survey. Commissioner Allen discussed that the Subcommittee on Benchmarking will do its own survey to understand what other commissions do about library services.

Chair Calaycay thanked both deputies for attending the meeting. He commented that Claremont moved to Supervisor Barger's District, and she came out to meet with the City Council. Calaycay thanked the deputies for their appointments of Commissioners Allen, Cleri Reale, Shih and Williams.

Calaycay ended by stating that the Commission will finalize the Chairs and members of its four subcommittees that will focus on the Commission's 2022-23 Goals and Objectives, and he strongly urged everyone to volunteer for at least one subcommittee.

Bylaws and Ordinance Revision Report

Vice Chair Jim Allen, Chair of the Bylaws and Ordinance Revision Ad Hoc Committee, provided an update on the committee's efforts to revise the Library Commission Bylaws and put forth an ordinance.

- The final draft was sent to Library leadership on March 15, 2022, and they reviewed and forwarded it to Commission Services on May 13, 2022. It was returned with some comments and recommendations. Committee is currently reviewing these suggestions and will have a dialogue about some of them.
- Commission Services did express support in providing a recommendation to the Board to establish the ordinance when submitting its sunset review recommendations in 2023. This has the support of several Board Offices.
- Allen thanked Library leadership and Samangi Skinner who helped keep the committee on track. He also thanked committee members Lisa Cleri Reale and Angie Medina for their great feedback and quick review of materials.

- Allen reported that he is drafting a letter from the Commission Chair to the five Board members.
- Allen ended by saying there is still a ways to go but he wants to maintain strong communication between the Board Offices and the Commission.

Chair Calaycay and Commissioner Cleri Reale thanked Vice Chair Allen for his extraordinary work and persistence regarding what is a critical commission issue.

Library Commission 2022 Election

Vice Chair Jim Allen, Chair of the Nominating Ad Hoc Committee, provided an update on the process of selecting nominees and voting on Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Allen reported that the Ad Hoc Committee will meet to discuss protocols and communication methodology and establish a timeline for nominations. He will send out instructions via email to all commissioners and hopefully receive comments back. Allen reminded everyone that voting will take place in July 2022 with appointments to take effect immediately after the July 20, 2022, meeting.

Library Commission 2021-22 Annual Report

Lisa Cleri Reale, Chair of the Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee, provided an update on preparation of the Commission's 2021-22 Annual Report. She reminded commissioners that every Commission is required to submit an annual report although only about 20% do and the Library Commission is one of them. The report is due to Commission Services in the fall, so must be approved at the July Commission meeting. Cleri Reale is drafting a new report that she will share with Commissioners to review. She thanked Commissioner Medina as she serves on this Ad Hoc Committee. Vice Chair Allen also volunteered to make sure bylaws are represented in the report. Commissioner Yam also volunteered.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

New Business

Chair Calaycay opened the floor for new business. Vice Chair Allen raised the issue of the attack on free speech in the library world and the banning books and how it's gaining steam. He stated that it is incredibly concerning as libraries are the most democratic of resources that government provides. Allen would like to hear from Library Director Skye Patrick at a future commission meeting and begin a discussion of this issue especially about the flexibility of library leaders to maintain their collections and materials.

Commissioner Medina thanked Allen for raising the issue as it's been bothering her as well. Chair Calaycay also thanked Allen and requested that it be placed on the July agenda.

Commissioner Yam echoed Allen's words and stated that the Commission should definitely look at what it can do to support free speech at libraries.

Commissioner Mendoza informed commissioners that Cesar Chavez Learning Academy teacher Fernando Lopez invited councilmembers for a book signing where students wrote a book as part of the “*We are America Project*.” The book was edited by Lopez and includes 70 students who wrote about living in their community. Mendoza asked how these books can be donated to LA County Library. Chair Calaycay suggested working through Andrea Carroll at the Foundation who could also write about it in the Foundation newsletter. Calaycay will send an email to Carroll.

Mendoza stated that they are selling the books and she encouraged everyone to purchase and read it.

Commissioner Lyons asked for an update on the City Selection Committee. Chair Calaycay explained that the City Selection Committee does plan to meet to discuss the open seats, some of which have now moved to other Districts. He stated that they need people that really want to engage and contribute and not just put a title on their resumes.

Twila Kerr from Commission Services confirmed that the City Selection Committee will meet on May 25 at 10:00 a.m. to discuss all of the Library Commission appointments that have expired as of April 30, 2022. The meeting will be held via Webex.

Calaycay thanked Kerr, Morato, and Jefferson of Commission Services for attending the Library Commission meetings.

Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Commissioner Yam shared that he spoke to Library Foundation Executive Director Andrea Carroll and he now makes a monthly contribution. He suggested that others may want to become regular donors.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Corey Calaycay at 11:18 a.m.