

LA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION



"Enriching Lives"

Wednesday, May 17, 2023
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

La Verne Library
3640 D St
La Verne, CA 91750



As members of the Library Commission have requested this meeting be made accessible via video conference, the following satellite locations will be also available to the public:

A C Bilbrew Library
150 E El Segundo Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90061

San Fernando Library
217 N Maclay Ave
San Fernando, CA 91340

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 meetings on January 18, 2023, and March 15, 2023.
4. **Chairperson's Report**
Chairperson Corey Calaycay will report on various items, including the Commission's 2022-23 goals and accomplishments.
5. **2022-23 Commission Goals and Objectives Reports**
Subcommittee Chairs will provide an update on the efforts of their respective subcommittees toward their goals and objectives:
 - a. Commission Benchmarking
 - b. Education & Community Needs
 - c. Legislative Advocacy
 - d. Philanthropy
6. **Library Commission 2022-23 Annual Report**
Lisa Cleri Reale, Chair of the Annual Report Ad Hoc Committee, will provide an update on preparation of the Commission's 2022-23 Annual Report.
7. **Bylaws/Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee Update**
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 2023 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 2023. Appointments to take effect immediately after the July 19, 2023, meeting.

9. 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.

10. 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 situation or when need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda.

11. New Business

New Business items for the Commission.

12. Adjournment

Accommodations: For ADA accommodations, such as a sign language interpreter 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 will be made available for public inspection at the meeting location and satellite locations. Supporting documentation is available by appointment at Lawndale Library located at 14615 Burin Ave, Lawndale, California 90260, 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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Primary Location: La Verne Library

Satellite Locations: A C Bilbrew Library & San Fernando Library

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

Chair Corey Calaycay called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was initiated and quorum was met.

Commissioners in Attendance: (14) Celeste Rodriguez, Corey Calaycay, David Lesser, Emmanuel Estrada, Göran Eriksson, James Allen, José Luis Solache, Kim Ting Yu, Lisa Cleri Reale, Mary Mendoza, Nancy Kuechle, Reve Gipson, Rick Crosby, Tess Shih

Library Staff in Attendance: (3) Samangi Skinner, Sara Keating, Bryant Chow

Guests in Attendance: Daniella Urbina, Library Deputy, 1st Supervisorial District; Rachel Fox, Library Deputy, 3rd Supervisorial District; Sam Pepper, Mayor, City of La Verne; Members of the La Verne Friends of the Library

Introduction of Board Library Deputies

Chair Calaycay welcomed everyone and introduced special guests from the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors Offices of Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath (3rd District) and Supervisor Hilda L. Solis (1st District). Deputy Rachel Fox, 3rd District, stated her pleasure with attending the meeting and learning about the Commission's work. Deputy Daniella Urbina, 1st District, also expressed her pleasure and shared that her scope of work includes housing, homelessness, and the Library.

Chairperson's Report

Chair Calaycay shared that he sent a letter on behalf of the Commission to the Board of Supervisors and highlighted the need for continued funding to mitigate the Library's projected structural deficit and to provide ongoing funding for books, materials, security and other critical resources.

Chair Calaycay shared that La Verne Library, in which the meeting took place, is his home library. He acknowledged new Commissioner and City Councilmember Rick Crosby from La Verne. Calaycay also introduced the Mayor of La Verne, Sam Pepper. Mayor Pepper welcomed the Commission, expressed appreciation that the community has a library in its midst and thanked

the County for its support. Commissioner Crosby also thanked everyone, stating his appreciation that his first meeting is “at home.” He shared some of the library programs being offered to the community and introduced George May, La Verne Library Manager. May has been there since 2000 and welcomed the Commission, offering a tour for those interested. He also pointed out the beautiful entry doors as a hallmark of the library. Commissioner Crosby also introduced two attendees from the La Verne Friends of the Library (FOL) group and recognized their support. The FOL members shared their love of libraries and excitement about the various programs.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve both sets of minutes from the regular meetings on January 18, 2023, and March 15, 2023, was made by Commissioner Kuechle and seconded by Commissioner Erickson. Both sets of minutes were approved by a majority vote, with three abstentions for each set of minutes. Commissioner Cleri Reale recognized Samangi Skinner and Sara Keating for handling the March minutes in her absence.

Discussion with Board Library Deputies

Chair Calaycay opened discussion between the Commissioners and the Board Deputies. Commissioner Lesser started off by asking the Deputies how the Commission can help their Supervisors. Deputy Urbina spoke of the need to raise additional funding to help support libraries in unincorporated areas and the need for programming that is multicultural. Deputy Fox stated that Supervisor Horvath is interested in what’s going on throughout the District and cares deeply about each unique community. Commissioner Cleri Reale stated that the Commission is doing its best to rebuild the Library Foundation and secure new sources of funding for LA County Library, but reminded everyone that these efforts will not solve the structural deficit that is being projected. She asked the Deputies if there is any update on budget discussions related to the Library. The response was that LA County has begun a lengthy process related to the new budget and that there is a great deal of respect for LA County Library’s work; however, every Supervisor is hearing from multiple departments related to funding matters.

2022-23 Commission Goals and Objectives Reports

Chair Calaycay provided some background of how the Commission Goals and Objectives came to be and outlined the purpose of each subcommittee, encouraging new Commissioners to join based on their interests.

Commission Benchmarking

Subcommittee Chair Shih provided an update that they had an opportunity to connect with several library systems and are getting a sense of how libraries do different things. The subcommittee plans to review the various bylaws and compare what they are doing and what LA County is doing. She reiterated that it’s been a wonderful opportunity to hear from other passionate library supporters. Shih ended by saying that this is a work in progress.

Education & Community Needs

Subcommittee Chair Kuechle thanked Commissioners Medina and Mendoza for their participation. The subcommittee met with Debbie Anderson, the Library’s Assistant Director of

Education & Engagement, about tutoring and homework help programs and found that there is a need for more academic support as students are still suffering learning deficits due to the pandemic. She added that the Library has hired a Management Fellow who will implement some pilots using volunteers. The subcommittee serves as a liaison between library staff and what's going on at the libraries to identify needs. Kuechle encouraged all Commissioners to use social media networks to get the word out about the programs and activities being offered.

Commissioner Shih asked if the Library is posting items that Commissioners can repost. Commissioner Kuechle responded that both the Library and the Library Foundation are regularly posting on social media. Chair Calaycay stated that library staff show up at City Council meetings in various communities and it makes a difference.

Legislative Advocacy

Chair Calaycay presented the report in Subcommittee Chair Medina's absence. He shared that subcommittee members visited State Assemblymember Lisa Calderon's office, where they heard some grim projections related to the state budget; however, when things are better, the subcommittee can actively pursue several opportunities. Calaycay added that they are also working closely with State Senator Bob Archuleta's office. Lastly, Calaycay asked for more Commissioners to serve on the subcommittee, especially Commissioner Solache who chaired it when it was created. Commissioner Solache agreed to serve, stating that he loved the work and wants to help put LA County Library on the radar of the legislature.

Philanthropy

Subcommittee Chair Cleri Reale thanked all the Commissioners who contributed as part of National Library Giving Day on April 4, but she did remind everyone that the Commission is still not at 100% giving. Cleri Reale reiterated that any size gift is acceptable as it's critical for outside donors/foundations to see 100% giving from both the Foundation board and the Library Commission. Cleri Reale also alerted the Commissioners about a special event on July 15 with Library Director Skye Patrick in conversation with author David Ambroz. All Commissioners will be invited. Lastly, she stated that the subcommittee is planning a meeting over the summer to strategize about fundraising and the Foundation Board is having a retreat over the summer to do the same. Chair Calaycay encouraged Commissioners to give and to encourage friends and colleagues to do to the same.

Library Commission 2022-23 Annual Report

Commissioner Cleri Reale provided an update on preparation of the Commission's 2022-23 Annual Report that is due this summer to LA County Commission Services.

Bylaws/Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee Update

Vice Chair Allen provided an update stating that the committee has finalized their work and shared it with Library leadership; it is now subject to Commission Services. He reported that Commission Services is preparing its Sunset Review recommendation and, calling the Library Commission a "model commission", has committed to putting forth an ordinance in its recommendations. Final approved will come from the Audit Committee and Allen is requesting

clear timing about the approval process. Allen thanked everyone who has helped throughout the entire process and encouraged every Commissioner to reach out to their Supervisors about this important issue.

Commissioner Lesser asked for clarification about what should be shared with the Supervisors. Vice Chair Allen responded that the vast majority of commissions were established by ordinance but not the Library Commission, so we need the Board of Supervisors to support this. Chair Calaycay also stated that the way the City Selection Committee is structure must be changed. He explained that some Supervisorial Districts have more libraries than others and it makes it difficult to recruit. The proposal is one City Selection member from each District and another five at-large members. Commissioner Rodriguez suggested that a template email be sent out to each Commissioner to use with their individual Board Office. Allen stated that the Subcommittee can take this on.

Library Commission 2023 Election

Vice Chair Allen sent out an email regarding nominations, which will remain open until end of May. Allen encouraged others to step up and consider serving by nominating themselves or others. The actual vote will be held in July. Chair Calaycay added that he has been Chair since 2014 so others can certainly consider running.

Public Comment

A member of the La Verne Friends of the Library group expressed interest in the discussion around the use of social media. Her sister had just retired and they both attended their first Friends meeting. They love the library, want to help and she asked about social media messages that they can share. Commissioner Kuechle responded that LA County Library and its Library Foundation have good Facebook pages and that she uses that information to share with her friends and colleagues. She also looks at various Friends groups to see what they are messaging. There was no other public comment at any of the satellite libraries.

Commissioner Comments/Announcements

Commissioner Crosby thanked everyone for visiting La Verne Library. Commissioner Kuechle suggested that the Subcommittee Chairs send brief reports of what they are doing to Commissioner Cleri Reale so that she can include the work in the Annual Report. Chair Calaycay thanked the Board Deputies for staying for the entire meeting and asked them for parting comments. Deputy Urbina thanked everyone for the work that they are doing and acknowledged that everyone is a volunteer. Deputy Fox echoed the comment and stated that she grew up visiting the library pretty much every day after school so realizes the impact it has. Commissioner Solache stated that he was happy to be back and see everyone and meet new commissioners.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Calaycay at 11:10 a.m.