CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY COMMISSION
AGENDA ATTACHMENT 1

MEETING DATE: Thursday, November 15, 2012
AGENDA ITEM #: 6
ITEM: ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDED ACTION:
Commissioners will approve or amend the minutes for the meeting of September 27, 2012.
MEETING OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION
MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, September 27, 2012

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER
Commission Chair, Lynn Meisch (Walnut Creek), called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. COMMISSION BOOKSHELF
Commissioners provided suggestions for current reading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading challenge - shared 8 pages of titles of books</td>
<td>Roy Gilmore</td>
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<td>Harry Potter series of books</td>
<td>J.K. Rowling</td>
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<td>Freedom</td>
<td>John Franzen</td>
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<td>My father, His Daughter</td>
<td>Yael Dayan</td>
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<td>Howard Hughes</td>
<td>Richard Hack</td>
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<td>Crescent and Star</td>
<td>Stephen Kinzer</td>
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<td>Gershwinn</td>
<td>Edward Jablonski</td>
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<td>The Path Between the Seas</td>
<td>David McCullough</td>
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<td>Special Trust</td>
<td>Robert McFarland</td>
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<td>Capitalist Romance</td>
<td>Ruth Brandon</td>
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<td>Salt, A World History</td>
<td>Mark Kurlansky</td>
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<td>Mysteries of Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Michael Chabon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contra Costa Community College District – Collection of Chapters 1948–2008</td>
<td>Edited by Bill Hurlar</td>
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3. ROLL CALL

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Total Commission positions: 29  Commission positions filled: 23  Commission positions vacant: 6  Commission quorum: 15

With 21 Library Commissioners present, a quorum was established.

VOTING:
According to the By-Laws of the Library Commission, in order for a vote to pass, a majority of the city representatives and a majority of the County representatives must approve it. Upon reauthorization of the Library Commission, the five special appointees to the Library Commission draw lots to determine whether their votes count with the cities or the County. Through June 2011 the special appointees will be counted as follows:
Three representative votes count with the County:
  - Friends Council
  - Contra Costa Council
  - Contra Costa Community College District
Two representative votes count with the cities:
  - Central Labor Council
  - Superintendent of Schools

4. INTRODUCTIONS
Lisa Chow, District IV Representative for Supervisor Mitchoff; Joan Conley, retired university librarian and League of Women Voters representative; Katie Corra, City of Richmond; Cindy Hadden, Friends of the Antioch Library; Elliot Warren, Library Staff; Maureen Kilmurray, Library Staff.

5. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC
Joan Conley, representative of the League of Women voters, shared a bookmark that describes how a bill becomes a law. She said that this document was shared in a foster care program with 32 children, most not yet voting age.

6. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES
One correction was made to the minutes from the July 26, 2012 meeting.

Commissioner Smith (District IV) added for clarification to page 3, paragraph 4, line 18, that the Whitefish, Montana Library won the lawsuit. Smith also added to the same paragraph, line 16, that each library listed where he conducted training is listed on Whitefish’s homepage website.

Commissioner Peck (Brentwood) submitted an email correction to page three, paragraph 5, line 24 of the minutes: following the first sentence, replace documentation with “There is a user problem with the instructions for changing the font size on the Kindles. The type size of the instructions is too small for users with low vision to see well enough to be able to easily enlarge the font for easy reading. This has been discouraging for users and is recognized as an ergonomic failure.”
Commissioners corrected page 7, paragraph 3, line 9: replace the word “Recourses” with “Resources”.

Commissioners adopted the minutes with the above corrections as amended.

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
The Commission approved the agenda for the September 27, 2012 meeting.

Commissioners reviewed the times set aside for agenda items and agreed that the timing is accurate for this meeting.

8. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
Commissioner Atkinson (Clayton) mentioned that the League of Women Voters is holding a Clayton City Council Candidate forum on October 1. The Friends of the Library book sale will be October 13-14.

Commissioner Fuller (Martinez) announced the October 14 Martinez Friends of the Library Wine Event. The recent Friends of the Library book sale raised $1,700.

Commissioner Bailey (Lafayette) said that on November 3 the Foundation will have a literate feast, with 16 local authors each hosting a table.

Commissioner Hoisington (Lafayette) shared the Lafayette Library and Learning Center’s monthly activity calendar.

Commissioner Enholm (District 5) said that Antioch’s Salvation Army accepts donated encyclopedias.

Commissioner Smith (District 4) announced that State Librarian, Stacey Aldrich, is leaving office on October 17 to be the Pennsylvania State Librarian. Smith will conduct CALTAC Board training in Davis; he compared state revenue from real estate tax at 1½ percent, compared to Contra Costa County Library’s real estate tax revenue of 1.49%. Smith suggested that Commissioners read CALTACS’ article about a library located near Yreka that offers the only Internet access within a 30 mile radius. He mentioned another article about the new 52,000 sq. ft. library in Gilroy and how the City’s 2008 election favored a new library. Smith was recently elected Vice Chair of the BART Accessibility Task Force.

Commissioner Faye (Brentwood) mentioned that Brentwood’s 10th Annual CityRead book is Locked Rooms: A Mary Russell Novel by Laurie R. King. The author will speak on October 21 at the Brentwood Community Center. The Brentwood City Council approved expansion of the library site which will be designed to include the adjacent building.

Commissioner Enholm (District 5) filmed District 5 libraries and placed his videos on YouTube (channel cococolibvid) for those interested in viewing them.

Commissioner O’Rourke said that County Librarian, Barbara Flynn, spoke at the Pinole Friends September membership meeting and Pinole’s Mayor attended. Pinole Friends book sale will be on October 6.

Commissioner Tumin (Oakley) said that the City is moving ahead with plans for a freestanding library, and a site has been located. She said that she appreciates that County Librarian Flynn has been attending the meetings.

Commissioner Meisch (Walnut Creek) said that the Walnut Creek Friends are actively registering new members, and offering various funding levels.
Commissioner Bracken (Pleasant Hill) mentioned that the LAFCO Library Report was mentioned at a recent City Council meeting.

County Librarian, Barbara Flynn, said that the Library has not seen the first draft of the LAFCO Report, but saw a simplified presentation a few months ago. The written proposal should be available in October for Library staff to review for clarification. Flynn will provide the Commission with information about the Report at the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Gomez (Concord) mentioned that the Concord City Council raised library funds in a challenge, in which a candidate for city council made a large donation. The Concord Friends’ book sale is this weekend. Gomez mentioned that the Walnut Creek Library Foundation invited library friends groups to discuss the Library's Strategic Plan.

County Librarian, Barbara Flynn, explained that the current Strategic Plan is a working draft that was compiled in 2006, and available on the Library’s Website. The Library is in the process of developing a new Strategic Plan which will include input from the community and other Library stakeholders.

9. CORRESPONDENCE
Commissioners reviewed the correspondence in the agenda packet about a computer not working and agreed that the Library responds excellently to complaints by seriously investigating and responding to correspondence.

10. COUNTY LIBRARIAN REPORT
Barbara Flynn, County Librarian reported that Project Second Chance, the Library’s literacy program, received almost $44,000 from the LSTA grant.

District II Supervisor, Candace Andersen, will attend the November 15 Library Commission meeting.

The Library is planning a film noir program, a series of four films, in Moraga beginning January 9. The series will be held in the afternoon with the film screening followed by discussion. (January 9 and 23, February 6 and 20).

The County Library will celebrate its 100th birthday on Sunday, July 21, 2013 (the actual date the Board of Supervisors authorized a County library). The 100th A Birthday Committee is scouting for a park venue with indoor facilities that can accommodate a large community celebration. There will be six regional kick off events in January and February for the celebration, which will last all year. The Board of Supervisors will consider proclaiming 2013, the year of the Library in Contra Costa County. Many exciting programs and events for the yearlong Countywide celebration are being planned, including a library postmark and cancellation, provided through the post office, a specially designed postage stamp, and a special library logo. The Library wants members of the community represented in planning the event, and has invited Commission Chair Meisch, and former Friends Council member, Charlie Reed, to join the Committee.

The County Librarian is attending the majority of West County’s California Reads grant programming and reported that there is overwhelming community participation. The two books featured are Jeanne Houston’s, Farewell to Manzanar, with the author program September 29 at the Hercules Library and Lost City Radio, with author Daniel Alarcon speaking at the Contra Costa College Library on October 17. County Librarian Flynn thanked Maureen Kilmurray, Senior Community Library Manager: Public Services, for preparing the successful West County Reads grant with such short notice.

Publishers Simon & Shuster, McMillan, and Penguin deny access to eBooks by Public Libraries. ALA’s website, under press releases, http://www.ala.org/news/pr?id=11508 , has an open letter from the President, Maureen Sullivan, regarding the eBook problem. Information on the controversy can also be found on the Library’s eBook subject guide. The number of eBook users has doubled in the past five years, with 39% of libraries circulating and purchasing eReaders. Publishers are denying eBook access
libraries that are eager to purchase eReaders and eBooks on behalf of the many readers that cannot afford to buy them.

The County Librarian said that the Brentwood City Council gave approval to the City Manager to hire an architect to prepare a design plan to expand the Library, which has been longtime in planning.

The County Librarian also reported that she is Flynn is running Treasurer for the California Library Association. She is currently completing the third year of a three-year term as a member of the Board of the CLA.

She closed her report with a quote from poet Archibald MacLeish, former Poet Laureate of the United States: "What is more important in a library than anything else - than everything else - is the fact that it exists."

11. OLD BUSINESS

STATE LIBRARY FUNDING ISSUES
Commission Chair Meisch (Walnut Creek) said that she did not initially understand the impact that letters of support for libraries have when they are sent to the legislators and Governor Brown, but now she realizes the effectiveness of letters from community members, commissioners, and other constituents. She encouraged everyone to continue writing letters in support of library funding.

DISSEMINATION OF COMMUNITY LIBRARY INFORMATION
The Home Page Library Click Committee of the Commission said that the County agreed to post a quick link to the Library’s website under Library Chat, on the County’s homepage. This is expected to be completed in November.

Commissioner Smith (District 4) said there are already 11 counties in California that offer a quick link to their library on their website, and Contra Costa County will soon be another.

The Committee was thanked for their efforts and the Commission will be notified when this is completed.

COMMISSION MAIL – “Let’s Talk Month”
Commissioners considered the Planned Parenthood Parent - Child Communication program, "Let’s Talk Month" and determined that the Library Chair would respond in an email saying that the Commission agreed that participating in this program is not something they wish to do.

12. NEW BUSINESS

CALIFORNIA READS
Maureen Kilmurray, Senior Community Library Manager: Public Services, shared information about the programs and activities taking place in West County as part of the Searching for Democracy California Reads Grant, which is a statewide initiative sponsored by the California Council for the Humanities.

California Reads in West County is similar to the one city – one book program that many communities participate in, but it covers the West County libraries. The grant received was for $15,000 with a $5,000 enhancement.

The programs are based around two books: Farewell to Manzanar, by Jeanne Houston, and Lost City Radio, by Daniel Alarcon. Houston will appear at the Hercules Library on September 29 and Alarcon will appear at Contra Costa College on October 17. Programming is designed around freedom, liberty, and democracy. The programs have been drawing between 70 to 200 people.
Only one region was selected for this grant because the amount of the grant was not enough to provide excellent Countywide programming. West County was selected so to provide resources in that part of the County that generally does not receive them. The books were selected to match the community, which is highly Asian and Latino. The books however, are available to check out through any of the community libraries, and many are included in the floating collection.

LIBRARY A-GO-GO REVIEW AND UPDATE
Elliot Warren, Collection Development/Technical Services Manager provided an update on the Library’s library-a-go-go automated book dispensing machines, which are located in Bay Point, El Cerrito and Discovery Bay.

The Library a-go-go was created in 2007, just after the Strategic Plan draft was completed, and the Board of Supervisors directed retired County Librarian, Anne Cain, to identify a way to increase library services in the County without encountering additional costs and without reducing services. The Library formed a committee and collaborated with agencies like BART. Contra Costa County was identified as the community with one of the longest commute times in the country. A grant was written, which allowed the Library to place library-a-go-go’s in sites where people go to travel from home to jobsite and back.

The Library received an LSTA grant and a BALIS grant to move forward with risky project of the first library book dispensing machine in the United States. The first library-a-go-go was placed at the BayPoint BART Station. There was a tremendous amount of publicity. Initially library staff worked with patrons to obtain library cards and assist them with using the machines and introducing them to library services. When outreach librarian, Patty Chan, retired, the Library was not able to fill her position due to staffing constraints. The Library has recognized the decrease in use of the library-a-go-go’s following Chan’s retirement, however usage has recently picked up again.

Medium sized libraries contain tens of thousands of books, and library-a-go-go machines contain only 400 books, which is a constrained amount. Machines are restocked with new material every few months. Initially the books were in plastic cases and inserted into the machine, and patrons would return the books in the cases, however the cases are no longer being used. The Library met the Board of Supervisor’s challenge, with little ongoing financial output, and reached people that would not have used a library. The Library circulates roughly one hundred books for $100.

Commissioner Enholm (District V) requested that he receive advance notification when books are exchanged in the machines. He would like to video tape the inner workings of the machine.

2012 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2013 WORK PLAN PLANNING WORKSHEET
The elected leaders want to know what the Commission does and what it plans to do next year. Items to place on the report include letter writing to legislators, attending council meetings, participating as members for friends of the library groups, lectures, are all activities to include on the worksheet. Report on what you do to help libraries.

Commissioners would like to maintain the objective to work for increased or solid library funding.

Commissioners would like to better understand ways to advise the Board of Supervisors, in addition to letters that the Commission agrees with the library’s budget.

Commissioner Smith (District IV) added that the Commission encouraged the Board of Supervisors to write letters in support of library funding to the Governor, which the Chair did.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2013 LIBRARY COMMISSIONER OFFICERS
Commissioner Chair, Meisch (Walnut Creek) nominated Commission Vice-chair Peck (Brentwood) for
Commissioner Smith (District IV) nominated Commissioner Fuller (Martinez) for Vice-chair.

Commissioners can submit additional nominations to Secretary Kelly at Library Administration. They can also make nominations at the November 15 meeting.

13. **AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING and FUTURE TOPICS**
Commissioners will suggest items for future meetings, including:
- Supervisor Andersen will attend the November 15 meeting.
- Predicting Success Grant presentation will be given at the November 15 meeting.
- Election of officers at the November 15 meeting.
- Commissioner Bracken (Concord) requested information on the LAFCO report.
- Clarification on the current Draft Strategic Plan (2006) – which is could be easily updated, to the movement into the new Strategic Plan.
- Receive a presentation form County Counsel to clarify the Commission’s role and what exactly they can do to help the Library as a Commission or what cannot be done as a private citizen. Questions are raised if the Commission supports a petition, can a Commissioner act as a Commissioner – a representative of the Commission, or must they still be acting as a private citizen.
- Ways to increase book donations and sales for Friends of the Library.
- Employment or career enhancement assistance for job seekers.
- Demographic Report from the State Library. Look at ways the Library can meet the needs outlined in the State’s report.
- Information on special library collections, reference directories, newspapers, and periodical sets (ie: Walnut Creek’s Russian collection (Commission Chair Meisch offered to research); Historical collection (climate controlled); and San Ramon’s jazz collection).
- Historical societies and the community library connections.

14. **ADJOURNMENT TO THE NOVEMBER 15, 2012 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING**
The meeting concluded at 8:40 p.m. Commissioners adjourned to the November 15, 2012 Library Commission Meeting.

Submitted by Corinne Kelly
Executive Secretary, Contra Costa County Library
NEWS
For Immediate Release
September 28, 2012

Contact: Jazzy Wright

An open letter to America’s publishers from ALA President Maureen Sullivan

CHICAGO — The following open letter was released by American Library Association (ALA) President Maureen Sullivan regarding Simon & Schuster, Macmillan, and Penguin refusal to provide access to their e-books in U.S. libraries.

The open letter states:

It's a rare thing in a free market when a customer is refused the ability to buy a company's product and is told its money is “no good here.” Surprisingly, after centuries of enthusiastically supporting publishers’ products, libraries find themselves in just that position with purchasing e-books from three of the largest publishers in the world. Simon & Schuster, Macmillan, and Penguin have been denying access to their e-books for our nation’s 112,000 libraries and roughly 169 million public library users.

Let's be clear on what this means: If our libraries’ digital bookshelves mirrored the New York Times fiction best-seller list, we would be missing half of our collection any given week due to these publishers’ policies. The popular “Bared to You” and “The Glass Castle” are not available in libraries because libraries cannot purchase them at any price. Today’s teens also will not find the digital copy of Judy Blume’s seminal “Forever,” nor today’s blockbuster “Hunger Games” series.

Not all publishers are following the path of these three publishers. In fact, hundreds of publishers of e-books have embraced the opportunity to create new sales and reach readers through our nation’s libraries. One recent innovation allows library patrons to immediately purchase an e-book if the library doesn’t have a copy or if there is a wait list they would like to avoid. This offers a win-win relationship for both publishers and library users since recent research from the Pew Internet Project tells us that library users are more than twice as likely to have bought their most recent book as to have borrowed it from a library.
Libraries around the country are developing mobile applications and online discovery systems that make it easier to explore books and authors on the go. Seventy-six percent of public libraries now offer e-books — double the number from only five years ago — and 39 percent of libraries have purchased and circulate e-readers. Public libraries alone spend more than $1.3 billion annually on their collections of print, audio, video, and electronic materials. They are investing not only in access to content and devices, but also in teaching the skills needed to navigate and utilize digital content successfully.

Librarians understand that publishing is not just another industry. It has special and important significance to society. Libraries complement and, in fact, actively support this industry by supporting literacy and seeking to spread an infectious and lifelong love of reading and learning. Library lending encourages patrons to experiment by sampling new authors, topics and genres. This experimentation stimulates the market for books, with the library serving as a de facto discovery, promotion and awareness service for authors and publishers.

Publishers, libraries and other entities have worked together for centuries to sustain a healthy reading ecosystem — celebrating our society’s access to the complete marketplace of ideas. Given the obvious value of libraries to publishers, it simply does not add up that any publisher would continue to lock out libraries. It doesn’t add up for me, it doesn’t add up for ALA’s 60,000 members, and it definitely doesn’t add up for the millions of people who use our libraries every month.

America’s libraries have always served as the “people’s university” by providing access to reading materials and educational opportunity for the millions who want to read and learn but cannot afford to buy the books they need. Librarians have a particular concern for vulnerable populations that may not have any other access to books and electronic content, including individuals and families who are homebound or low-income. To deny these library users access to e-books that are available to others — and which libraries are eager to purchase on their behalf — is discriminatory.

We have met and talked sincerely with many of these publishers. We have sought common ground by exploring new business models and library lending practices. But these conversations only matter if they are followed by action: Simon & Schuster must sell to libraries. Macmillan must implement its proposed pilot. Penguin must accelerate and expand its pilots beyond two urban New York libraries.

We librarians cannot stand by and do nothing while some publishers deepen the digital divide. We cannot wait passively while some publishers deny access to our cultural record. We must speak out on behalf of today’s — and tomorrow’s — readers. The library community demands meaningful change and creative solutions that serve libraries and our readers who rightfully expect the same access to e-books as they have to printed books.

So, which side will you be on? Will you join us in a future of liberating literature for all? Libraries stand with readers, thinkers, writers, dreamers and inventors. Books and knowledge — in all their forms — are essential. Access to them must not be denied.
TOOLS OF EFFECTIVE CITIZEN ADVOCACY

FIND OUT ABOUT ISSUES OR LEGISLATION IMPORTANT TO YOU
Probably the best source is the media. Newspapers, radio and television all report on legislation of concern to large numbers of Californians. If you are interested in special legislation, most organizations involved in particular issue areas publish newsletters with current data on issues affecting that interest group. Many education, health and environmental organizations, for example, publish monthly newsletters. Many of these public interest groups have advocated in the Capitol and have access to the most up-to-date information. In addition, my district office staff can help you track down legislation that you’ve heard about. We can provide you with copies of bills, or you can write directly to the Legislative Bill Room, State Capitol, Sacramento 95814. They will provide you with one copy each of up to 100 bills free of charge.

STAY CURRENT – BILLS ARE OFTEN AMENDED
Again, newsletters and the media can be very helpful. There are also official legislative publications found in public libraries and my district office, and available online through the State Senate’s web site at www.sen.ca.gov:

- **Senate or Assembly**  
  - **Daily File** – printed each day with the agenda and bills set for hearing.
  - **Weekly History** – with daily supplements indicating the status of each piece of legislation.
  - **Daily Journal** – the official record of each day's proceedings.
  - **Legislative Index** – the complete listing by subject of all bills introduced.

Call my district office to get the status of legislation. Also, please feel free to come in at any time and use all of the resources available.

COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR LEGISLATOR
Letters are extremely effective. Give me, or any legislator, all of the reasons you support or oppose particular legislation. Be sure to include your name and address so I can respond. Mail letters to either my Capitol or district office. Personal visits can also be valuable. Telegrams, postcards, petitions, phone calls and personal letters are all helpful, but remember that I like to know why you support or oppose a particular measure.

WHEN TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR
Each bill is heard a minimum of four times before passing the legislature – in policy committees and on the floor of each house. There is ample time to let your legislators know your feelings.

TYPES OF LEGISLATION
- **SB / AB** (Senate/Assembly Bill): most bills require a majority vote. If there is fiscal impact, they require a two-thirds vote.
- **SCA / ACA** (Senate/Assembly Constitutional Amendment): require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature and a vote by the people of California.
- **SCR / ACR** (Senate/Assembly Concurrent Resolution): relate to general matters of concern to the Legislature.
- **SJR / AJR** (Senate/Assembly Joint Resolution): convey to the federal government opinions of the California Legislature.
- **House Resolution**: relate to matters of concern to one particular house.
How a Bill Becomes a Law

This chart depicts the flow of a bill originating in the Senate. Except for minor differences, the process is similar if originating in the Assembly.