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

Chair, Brian Campbell-Miller, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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<th>LASTNAME</th>
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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 audience members came forward.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   No members of the public came forward to comment.

4.A. **OLD BUSINESS/RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2018 REVISED COMMISSION BYLAWS**
   Vice Chair Wilson began with a brief recap of the history of the bylaws revision process over the previous several years, ending with the clean and red-lined versions in this meeting’s packet. After reviewing the new bylaws VC Wilson had one question for the County Librarian and that had to do with section four, “Duties” and why a number of items included in that section by the ad-hoc committee were no longer listed there. The answer was that the items no longer listed in the bylaws were listed in the “Purpose and Duties” section of the December 19, 2017 Board Order, “Reconstitution of the County Library Commission in Composition and Powers” which was approved by the Board at that meeting. A copy of this Board Order was also included in the January 2018 commission meeting packet. County Librarian Cervantes assured VC Wilson that including the duties in the Board Order rather than the bylaws was the proper place for them and would not preclude the commission from assuming those responsibilities. VC Wilson found that answer to be satisfactory. He then asked if there were any other questions and Kathy Gilcrest asked if County Librarian Cervantes could quickly summarize the changes made to the work of the ad-hoc committee. County Librarian Cervantes explained that there had been some language (mostly around purpose and duties) that was not agreeable to county counsel and that a majority of the changes were made to incorporate what the commission wanted, using language acceptable to counsel. For example the language regarding working committees and their being able to work outside of the actual commission meetings was one thing the commission really wanted. VC Wilson stated that commission meetings were not really the place to dig into certain specific issues and what was desired was the ability for several commissioners to be able to meet offline and conduct their research, then report back to the full commission. The groups need to be small enough (3 to 5 people) so as to avoid having a quorum. Commissioner Gilcrest then mentioned the desire of the original group that worked on the bylaws to be able to advocate for certain issues but that she did not see that language in the document. County Librarian Cervantes stated that the commissioners were free to advocate for any issues that were not in opposition to the Board’s adopted legislative platform. VC Wilson reminded everyone that the Board of Supervisors doesn’t want to fund an advisory body that becomes an advocate for something that they don’t support and he thinks that is a reasonable position. There are ways the commission can advocate to them, which is part of the responsibility of the commission, as long as it is done in the right way.

Commissioner Fischer then pointed out that section 4.D. under Duties (“Provide reports to the Board and the County Librarian when the Commission deems such reports to be timely and appropriate”) when held up to the purpose of the commission, is worded such that it gives the commission the authority it desires as long as it’s done in the form of a recommendation. At this point Commissioner Hoisington expressed some concern that the method of voting gave too much authority to the Board appointed entities as opposed to those of the cities. Commissioner A. Smith mentioned that he would be abstaining from the vote because the bylaws as presented did not match up with what had previously been decided in 2016 as far as this voting issue. County Librarian Cervantes explained that the special entities votes would be counted with either the Board appointees or the cities but that a majority of both would be required for a vote
to pass. This type of vote will only come into play when a member of the commission calls for a vote rather than voting by consensus.

There being no other questions, VC Wilson made a motion to ask the Board of Supervisors to approve the final version of the Bylaws of the commission as presented at the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioners Menichelli and Fischer. Chair Campbell-Miller called for a vote:

*Recorded votes –

AYES: Vivian Faye; Michael Fischer; John Huh, Ph.D.; Juan Kelly; Yvonne LaLanne; Brian Campbell-Miller; Don McCormick; Sandra Menichelli; Tommy Smith; Peter Wilson; Kathy Gilcrest; Donna Rennie; Margie Valdez; Yolanda Pena-Mendrek

NAYS: Mary Ann Hoisington

Abstentions: Alan B. Smith

VACANT: City of San Pablo; City of Clayton

NOT PRESENT: Katherine Bracken; Laura Canciamilla; George Pursley; Patty Wernet; Don Woodrow; Cindy Wright

With 14 AYES, one NAYS and one Abstention, the motion to recommend approval of the revised commission bylaws carried.

4.8. FY 2018/19 LIBRARY BUDGET AND COMMISSION PRIORITIES

County Librarian Cervantes began by reminding the commissioners that at meetings in November and again in January they had come up with a list of items that they felt were their priorities for the budget for the next fiscal year. There were a total of 17 suggestions which VC Wilson was able to consolidate into four broad categories; after working to incorporate them into the budget, the commission would be presented with an update on the current budget cycle including how their suggestions had been addressed in the budget. Administrative Services Officer (ASO) Linda Martinez of Budget/Finance would be making the presentation.

Ms. Martinez began by explaining that the initial library budget was submitted to the County Administrator’s Office at the end of February in advance of the full recommended budget for presentation to the BOS on April 17th. Next the BOS will vote to adopt the recommended budget for the county on May 8th. Employee salaries and benefits once again represents the largest portion of the budget at 74%, followed by services and supplies at 16%, inter-departmental charges at 9% and fixed assets at 1%. This represents an almost identical footprint when compared to the previous budget. The FY 17/18 budget had services and supplies at 17% and inter-departmental charges at 8%, the difference of the cost of purchasing two new vehicles. A question was raised about what constitutes inter-departmental charges. Ms. Martinez explained that these were charges from one department that provided services to another, such as Human Resources, Printing, County Counsel, etc.

Next, Ms. Martinez spoke to the commission’s four budget priorities and what the library has in the budget for each. The four categories are Marketing/Outreach, Stable Funding Sources, Technology and Staffing/Hours. Under Marketing and Outreach the first thing to note is the hiring of a new graphic designer, Rafael Lopez. For part of last fiscal year this position was vacant. Rafael will be working on creating a consistent branding message across the system, using similar graphics and
color schemes to establish the library’s “look.” Also in this category is the plan for the trucks purchased last year; they will be wrapped with graphics designed to get the library’s message out into the public. Another element of this area is a new website for the library and upgraded network. Finally, the library is under contract with a market analytics and research firm that specializes in data analytics for libraries. This is a powerful marketing tool that will increase awareness of library programming, attendance and circulation. The first phase was issuing a library survey to ascertain progress towards each goal in the Strategic Plan. Deputy County Librarian Gail McPartland informed the commission that this firm had sent a request to each of the library’s 200,000 patrons with email addresses, asking them to participate in a general satisfaction survey (not targeted to a specific municipality or library service); the survey has received over 18,000 responses which is significant and enough to really see how we’re doing and what we’re learning about our community.

Questions were asked by the commissioners about how the library came by the email addresses and how diverse the 18,000 responses are. Deputy McPartland informed the commission that the firm the library is working with was extremely pleased with the response rate and that response rate should provide quite a bit in terms of usable demographic information. The emails are part of the process of signing up for a library card. If you provided one when you signed up then you were sent an invitation to participate in the survey.

The next budget priority of the commission is stable funding sources. For FY18/19 the library is again expecting an increase in the budget of approximately 5%, similar to the increase last year. As long as property values remain stable or increase, this will be the main stable source of revenue for the library. The establishment of a new East County Delta Library Foundation would also help stabilize funding, especially in the eastern portion of the county.

Next on the commission’s list of priorities is Technology. The library has recently added a number of new databases that library patrons can access, including BrainFuse, Kanopy, Lynda.com, Niche Academy, Newsbank and Rosetta Stone. Equipment the library has purchased or is planning to purchase includes four Laptop Anytime lending kiosks where patrons will be able to check out a laptop computer to use while in the library where deployed, including the new Brentwood Library. Also planned are additional installations of digital signage and upgrading WiFi across the system.

The final area of focus for the commission is Staffing and Hours. When construction of the new Brentwood Library is completed in September, the library will be open 56 hours per week. Early next year, when the El Sobrante Library reopens another 35 hours of service will be available to the community. This won’t increase staffing, as the El Sobrante employees have been temporarily reassigned to other locations, but the 35 open hours will resume. The Brentwood library is currently operating under a reduced weekly schedule in their temporary location and will return to 56 open hours. Commissioner Hoisington asked if 35 hours would remain the base for open hours across the system and County Librarian Cervantes confirmed that per a 2011 agreement with the cities, 35 hours funded by the county would remain the base.

Ms. Martinez thanked the commissioners for their input and thoughts around the budget and reminded them that the final budget should be in place by the next commission meeting.

5.A. NEW BUSINESS / ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL REPORT & WORK PLAN WORKING COMMITTEE
Chair Campbell-Miller asked if there was a motion to establish an Annual Report & Work Plan Working Committee. VC Wilson made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Gilcrest. VC Wilson
explained the annual process for collecting the data for the annual report and how the work plan for the following year was generated. This will be the responsibility of the Vice Chair of the commission. VC Wilson expressed the hope that information could be collected more frequently rather than trying to recall everything at the end of the year.

Having a motion and a second in hand, Chair Campbell-Miller called for a vote on forming this committee:

*Recorded votes –

AYES: Vivian Faye; Michael Fischer; John Huh, Ph.D.; Juan Kelly; Yvonne LaLanne; Brian Campbell-Miller; Don McCormick; Sandra Menichelli; Tommy Smith; Peter Wilson; Kathy Gilcrest; Donna Rennie; Margie Valdez; Yolanda Pena-Mendrek; Mary Ann Hoisington; Alan B. Smith

VACANT: City of San Pablo; City of Clayton

NOT PRESENT: Katherine Bracken; Laura Canciamilla; George Pursley; Patty Wernet; Don Woodrow; Cindy Wright

By unanimous vote the Commission voted to form the Annual Report & Work Plan Working Committee.

Next Chair Campbell-Miller made a motion to nominate VC Wilson as the Chair of the newly formed Annual Report & Work Plan Working Committee. Commissioner Gilcrest seconded the motion. There were no other nominees for the position. Chair Campbell-Miller called the vote:

*Recorded votes –

AYES: Vivian Faye; Michael Fischer; John Huh, Ph.D.; Juan Kelly; Yvonne LaLanne; Brian Campbell-Miller; Don McCormick; Sandra Menichelli; Tommy Smith; Peter Wilson; Kathy Gilcrest; Donna Rennie; Margie Valdez; Yolanda Pena-Mendrek; Mary Ann Hoisington; Alan B. Smith

VACANT: City of San Pablo; City of Clayton

NOT PRESENT: Katherine Bracken; Laura Canciamilla; George Pursley; Patty Wernet; Don Woodrow; Cindy Wright

By unanimous vote VC Wilson was elected Chair of the Annual Report & Work Plan Working Committee.

VC Wilson then asked if any of the commissioners (including alternates, who may serve on committees) would care to work on this new committee with him. Commissioners Kelly and Smith (Concord) both volunteered to work with VC Wilson on the new committee. VC Wilson declared that they would meet soon to determine their next steps.

5.B. ESTABLISH A LEGISLATIVE WORKING COMMITTEE

Chair Campbell-Miller next called for the establishment of a Legislative working committee whose purpose would be to bring legislative matters to the commission's attention, including local and national issues regarding funding, and to draft letters of recommendation (in support or opposition to legislation impacting libraries) for the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to consider when appropriate. Commissioner Alan Smith (Dist. IV) made a motion to establish such a committee. Commissioner Hoisington seconded the motion. Chair Campbell-Miller called the vote:
By unanimous vote the commission voted to establish a Legislative Working Committee.

Next, Chair Campbell-Miller made a motion to nominate Commission Smith (Dist. IV) to be Chair of the newly formed Legislative Working Committee. This was seconded by Commissioner Gilcrest. There being no other nominations, the vote was called:

AYES: Vivian Faye; Michael Fischer; John Huh, Ph.D.; Juan Kelly; Yvonne LaLanne; Brian Campbell-Miller; Don McCormick; Sandra Menichelli; Tommy Smith; Peter Wilson; Kathy Gilcrest; Donna Rennie; Margie Valdez; Yolanda Pena-Mendrek; Mary Ann Hoisington; Alan B. Smith
VACANT: City of San Pablo; City of Clayton

NOT PRESENT: Katherine Bracken; Laura Canciamilla; George Pursley; Patty Wernet; Don Woodrow; Cindy Wright

By unanimous vote Commissioner Smith was elected Chair of the newly formed Legislative Working Committee.

Commissioner Smith asked if any of the commissioners would care to assist him on this new committee and stated that he’d hoped Commissioner Gilcrest might consider it. Commissioners Peña-Mendrek, Fischer and Gilcrest all volunteered to work on the new committee with Commissioner Smith.

5.C. WORKING COMMITTEE REPORTS
Commissioner Smith commented on the letters sent previously by the Board of Supervisors to Senators Feinstein and Harris regarding the Institute of Museum and Library Services (federal) funding and brought up that he thought it appropriate to send one to Governor Brown to say “Thank You” for his support. He will draft this letter shortly and get the BOS on record as thanking the Governor.

Next Commissioner Smith referred to a letter he’d asked Administrative Assistant Walter Beveridge to share with the commission. In 2013 the Marrakesh Treaty was created to increase access to foreign published works for members of the blind, visually impaired or otherwise print-disabled community. This legislation was held up for several years as the publishing companies wrestled with the idea of giving away free books to the blind. Common sense finally prevailed and now the Judiciary and the Foreign Relations committees will be voting on it next month. It is an issue that has true bi-partisan support. He has drafted a letter to those voting on the issue and would like to share his soft copy with the members of the commission so that they may edit it and send out their own versions of the letter.
Commissioner Peña-Mendrek mentioned a recent meeting she’d had with Sen. Bill Dodd. The subject of SCA-3 came up and Sen. Dodd said he would try again but wasn’t as hopeful as some of the supporting legislators would be moving on and not in a position to support the legislation. Commissioner Fischer asked if the new committee would like the city councils to get involved in the letter writing and Commissioner Smith stated he would be happy to have that kind of support. Commissioner Gilcrest then asked if the ALA communication forwarded by Walter could be sent to other people to include them in the letter writing campaign and again the response was a resounding “yes.”

5.D. BAYPOINT COMMUNITY MURAL
Senior Community Library Manager Ginny Golden (Bay Point and Pittsburg Libraries) introduced herself to the commissioners and began her presentation by informing the group that the idea for this was formed a few years back when she’d met the artist, Rafael Lopez during the Library’s summer reading program. In addition to being a muralist he also illustrates children’s books. This mural project meets several of the objectives of the Strategic Plan by engaging children in literature and by lifting up the community and engaging them in the library.

Mr. Lopez uses motifs from his Latin heritage and bright colors to create his extraordinary works. He has created these for communities across the country as well as the Library of Congress and the United States Post office. He lives half the year in San Diego, California and the rest of the time in Mexico.

(Ms. Golden’s full PowerPoint presentation is appended to these minutes).

6. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES
Commissioner Alan Smith suggested a revision to the minutes on page 8. Line 7 on that page contains the word “despite” and the suggested change is to revise that to “in response to.”

As no other suggestions for changes were offered, Commissioner Smith made a motion to accept the minutes with the suggested change. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kelly.

*Recorded votes –
AYES: Vivian Faye; Michael Fischer; Mary Ann Hoisington; John Huh, Ph.D.; Juan Kelly; Yvonne LaLanne; Brian Campbell-Miller; Don McCormick; Sandra Menichelli; Alan B. Smith; Tommy Smith; Peter Wilson; Kathy Gilcrest; Donna Rennie; Margie Valdez; Yolanda Peña-Mendrek

NAYS: None

Abstentions: None

VACANT: City of San Pablo; City of Clayton

NOT PRESENT: Katherine Bracken; Laura Canciamilla; George Pursley; Patty Wernet; Don Woodrow; Cindy Wright

With 18 AYES, Zero NAYS and Abstentions, the motion to accept the minutes of the November 16, 2017 Library Commission meeting (with edits) carried.
7. ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner Gilcrest commented that the San Ramon Library is simply breathtaking.
- Commissioner Fischer mentioned that the El Cerrito Library is getting their 50 hours per week and will soon be open 7 days per week. April 4th is the “First Wednesday” event to celebrate being open on that day for the first time. Second, the El Cerrito city council voted to approve sending letters in support of the IMLS to Senators Feinstein and Harris. And finally, Commissioner Fischer mentioned attending a presentation by State Librarian Greg Lucas at the Mechanics Institute titled “What the Hell is a Twenty First Century Library?” Commissioner Fischer has notes from the presentation he can share if anyone is interested.
- Commissioner Menichelli shared an article from Local Happenings (Napa, Sonoma and Contra Costa Counties) where the Danville Library has received an award for outstanding customer service. Also, the Danville Library will be participating in a pilot program called the Idea Box where children can submit ideas for improving their local library.
- Commissioner Smith (Concord) shared something sponsored by the Loma Colorado Library in Rio Rancho, New Mexico called Water Cooler Wednesdays where entrepreneurs are invited in to network, share ideas and use library resources to develop their start-ups and various businesses. This is jointly sponsored by the Small Business Association and the ALA.
- Commissioner Peña-Mendrek mentioned the recent addition of fresh paint and a laptop lending kiosk at the Oakley Library.
- Commissioner Kelly thought the new carpet at the Orinda did wonders for the branch.
- Commissioner Huh mentioned the Antioch Library would soon be having their 50th anniversary celebration. One of the original builders of the library has been identified and will attend the celebration.
- Commissioner Faye mentioned the new library in Brentwood is beginning to generate a lot of excitement and the Friends and Foundation there are working to augment the budget for putting the finishing touches on it. She also mentioned an opportunity for those who are interested to tour the Mechanics Institute Library on April 2nd at 6pm in San Francisco. It’s only a couple of blocks from the Montgomery BART Station and is very interesting.
- Commissioner Fitzpatrick mentioned the STEAM instead of STEM program at the Oakley Library over spring break, where the additional A stands for Art. Also, he has been involved at the library (which in Oakley is shared by the community and the high school) trying to ease tensions there by working with the kids.
- Commissioner McCormick stated that Commissioner Fitzpatrick was being very modest and that he had been able to reduce tensions there by coming in and working with the kids and the school administration. Commissioner McCormick also mentioned that the Brentwood Library has been awarded funds from two grants: $300,000 from the Lesher Foundation and another $20-30,000 from Fremont Bank.
- Commissioner Hoisington has letters written to Senators Feinstein and Harris and also Congressman Mark DeSaulnier in support of literacy funding.
- Chair Campbell-Miller mentioned that the Hercules Library Foundation has funded the replacement of furniture in the children’s area of the library and it looks great. They are now looking for furniture for the outdoor children’s garden area. He also mentioned reading to kids (along with another librarian)
on Dr. Seuss’ birthday. He read Horton Hatches an Egg and wore a safari outfit complete with the hat and was able to read to multiple classrooms full of kids.

8. COUNTY LIBRARIAN REPORT
County Librarian Cervantes began by stating that there was a significant amount of information in her written report to the commission but that there were several items she wanted to call specific attention to at this meeting.

- **The Simpson Family Literacy Project**: She attended a fantastic event at the Lafayette Library with Joyce Carol Oates, who is the writer-in-residence for the project. There will be events all throughout the year so this would be another opportunity for any of the commissioners to get familiar with a different branch of the library if you find you are able to attend.

- **Annual Report**: These will going out to all the cities with their annual letter where we outline their fees for the year. This time around instead of a different report for each of the libraries there is only this single report. The absence of a graphic designer contributed to this decision, along with the idea that this is one library system, not 26. The individual library information will be available once the new website is up and running.

- **Recruiting**: The Deputy County Librarian position (currently filled by Nancy Kreiser as a T/U) will be posted in early April.

- **El Sobrante Branch Fire Update**: Deputy County Librarian McPartland began by mentioning the El Sobrante library had been damaged by a fire that started in a porta-potty on the grounds in the evening of February 27th. The fire ran up the side of the building and into the roof area, requiring the fire fighters to cut holes in the roof for ventilation. This, in turn, allowed water to enter the building, although the cause of a majority of the damage is from the smoke. The fire is being investigated by the authorities. The county’s Public Works department has brought in the fire restoration firm they work with to assess the damage and begin to make estimates regarding repairs. Things that cannot be cleaned up and used again have been disposed of and things that can be salvaged have been cleaned up, wrapped and will be stored at restoration management until the library is about to reopen. By the end of next week the building will be entirely empty. We need to move quickly like this in order to begin getting estimates from the various insurance adjustors. The staff of the library have all been relocated to work in other branches, mostly in West County since patrons who are frequent library users will mostly go to the branch nearest them until ‘their’ branch has reopened. Many members of library staff have been to the site multiple times, working with the various crews there and trying to figure out where we go from here. The restoration process will likely begin next week, starting with pulling out all of the carpet which was heavily damaged in the event. The ceiling (which had the holes cut into it for venting) will need to be replaced and since it is the popcorn-type ceiling it is an asbestos hazard and will require special handling to remove it all. While the ceiling is down it makes sense to upgrade the old lighting throughout the building. New LED lights will be installed all over the building. New paint, carpet and redone bathrooms are all part of the plan, as are bringing the building up to various codes/compliance. We will be bringing in Linda Demmers to help with the redesign
process. So far we don’t have a thought about when the library might reopen since we haven’t fully determined the extent of the damage, however one year is not an unreasonable time frame.

9. **AGENDA SETTING FOR NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE TOPICS**
The following topics were suggested for inclusion at the next meeting of the Commission:
- ADA report from Alison McKee, Deputy County Librarian
- Budget Detail presentation (Linda Martinez)
- Foundation Report / new Delta Foundation
- More art in the Libraries / Programming update
- Juvenile Hall Poetry Book
- Moving Commission meetings around to other libraries

10. **ADJOURNMENT TO THE MAY 24, 2018 LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING**
Chair Campbell-Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:55 pm.

Submitted by Walter Beveridge
Administrative Aide, Contra Costa County Library