
MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2026

I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day

Roll Call

PRESENT: Vice Chair Coco-Nicole Banks, Commissioners Karina Solano, Gini Bossenbroek, Sharon Holt, Kristen Brown, Charea Bustamante

ABSENT: Chair Angelica Ramos; Commissioners Daphna Woolfe, Deniz Lanyi-Hill, Jose L. Abastida, Rannik Saandal, Patricia Mendoza, Gerard Roney, Marvin McCrary and Westley Baker

STAFF: City Librarian Jill Bourne; Deputy Director of Public Services Ann Grabowski, Deputy Director of Operations Jenny Choi; Division Managers Jean Herriges, Vidya Kilambi and Michelle Amores; Administrative Officer Fiahna Cabana; Public Information Manager Elizabeth Castañeda; Sr. Public Info. Rep. Nancy Macias; Program Manager Karla Alvarez; Senior Analyst Rene Bettencourt; Analysts Cassie Hunter, Katie Linder and Robert Miranda; Volunteer Coordinator Carolina Ramirez.

OTHERS: Library Foundation Chief Executive Operator Dr. Dawn Coppin; Council District 1 Council Assistant Kope Lopez

I. Call to Order & Orders of the Day

The Library and Education Commission convened at 7:14 P.M. A quorum was not achieved with 5 Commissioners present and 9 Commissioners absent.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of November 19, 2025.

Action not taken.

III. Open Forum: No individuals addressed the Commission.

I. Discussion/Action Items

A. San José Public Library's Learning and Development (K. Linder)

The Commission received a verbal report on San José Public Library's Learning and Development Unit.

B. San José Public Library's Volunteer Services Update (R. Miranda/C. Ramirez)

The Commission received a verbal update on the San José Public Library's Volunteer Services.

IV. Council Liaison's Announcements

City of San José Council Assistant Kobe Lopez addressed the Commissioners. Kobe shared March 17, 2026, was the first Mayor's Budget Message. May 1st, the proposed operating budget and fees/charges will be released. May 6th, budget estimates are due from council offices. Council budget documents are due May 21st, and the Mayor's June Budget Message will be shared on June 1st with final adoption on June 8th. The City is working with an approximately 56-million-dollar deficit. Councilmember Kamei attended the Youth Commission Budget Summit on February 28th. The Councilmember also attended the San José Public Library's Nowruz Celebration held on March 14, 2026, at the City Hall Rotunda.

V. Vice Chair's Announcements

Vice Chair Banks shared that Former Commissioner Ken Kelley's celebration of life will be taking place on Saturday, March 21, 2026.

VI. Library Director's Announcements

San José Public Library Director, Jill Bourne, shared

- a. That the Mayor's March Budget Message was discussed at the March 17th City Council meeting. The Budget Letter from the Library and Education Commission was included in the packet for the City Council meeting
- b. The draft of the Facilities and Customer Experience Plan will be going to the Neighborhood Services and Education Committee on April 9, 2026, and to City Council on a later date.
- c. The San José Public Library is proud to announce its 2nd Annual San Jose Educator of the Year Award to honor local educators during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 4-8, 2026. For more information, visit: sjpl.org.
- d. San José State University and the City of San José, in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Technology and Innovation and in collaboration with the AI Center for Civic and Social Good, will host a Women in AI Panel Discussion and Networking event on Monday, March 23, 2026, from 5:00 PM -7:00 PM. at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library (2nd floor, room 225). For more information, visit: sjlibrary.org/AICenter.
- e. In honor of Women's History Month, library staff is hosting a variety of programs to recognize women past and present by highlighting its special collections by Edmonia Lewis and Edith Harvey Heron, recommended staff reads, online resources, and more. SJPL also recognizes our Irish community and culture during Irish American Heritage Month through programs like story times, arts & crafts, and a special concert by *Hardly Strictly Irish* on Friday, March 27, 2026, from 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM at West Valley Branch. For more details and a complete list of events, visit: sjpl.org.

- f. The San José Public Library is happy to announce its 6th Annual Spring into Poetry Contest next month, in celebration of National Poetry Month. The contest closes on Thursday, April 30th. For more details, visit: sjpl.org/PoetryContest


VII. Comments and Announcements:

- A. Announcements & Meetings Attended by Commissioners as Commissioners:
Commissioners Brown shared that there is a Silicon Valley Reads event taking place at Calabazas Library on March 28, 2026.
- B. San José Public Library Foundation (SJPLF) Board: Chief Executive Office Dawn Coppin shared thanks to Chair Ramos and Commissioner Mendoza for participating in the Advocacy Committee Meetings with Councilmembers and Mayor. With an invitation from Commissioner McCrary, the Foundation attended the Council District 10 Leadership Council. Lastly, Library Giving Day is on April 1, 2026.

VIII. Information and Upcoming Opportunities for Commission Participation

See SJPL Program Calendar at <https://www.sjpl.org/>

- IX. Items for Future Commission Meeting Agendas:** Commissioner Bossenbroek would like a presentation on the AI for all partnership.
- X. Meeting Schedule and Agenda Items**
The next regular meeting will be held on **April 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Village Square Library.**
- XI. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 P.M.



Angelica Ramos, Chair
San José Public Library
and Education Commission

ATTEST:

LIBRARY AND EDUCATION COMMISSION SECRETARY



CASSIE HUNTER