



**MINUTES OF THE
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Thushan Amarasiriwardena, President
Dimple Kanji, Vice President (Arrived 6:02 p.m.)
Anita Battle, Board Member
Debbie Gibbons, Board Member
Sara Strickler, Board Member

Absent: None

Staff: Mike Eitner, Library Director
Lori Amaya, Recording Secretary

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

CONSENT CALENDAR

An asterisk indicates items so enacted or approved on the Consent Calendar

- *A. Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of May 14, 2025
- *B. Financial Report Reflecting FY24/25 May & June, and FY 25/26 July & August Expenditures by Fund
- *C. Bills for Ratification for the Months of May, June, July and August, 2025

Board Member Strickler noted one correction for the Draft Minutes of the May 14, 2025 Regular Library Board Meeting. Under Item 5 Board Communications, the word "well" should be changed to "will."

Board Member Strickler moved to approve the Consent Calendar. Board Member Battle seconded the motion, which passed with a 5-0 vote.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. Election of Officers

Board Member Strickler nominated President Amarasiriwardena for President. Board Member Battled seconded the nomination. President Amarasiriwardena nominated Board Member Gibbons for Vice President. Board Member Battle seconded the nomination. Board Member Strickler moved to approve the slate of nominees. Board Member Battle seconded the motion, which passed with a 5-0 vote.

B. Review and Provide Feedback on a City of Alameda LGBTQ Action Plan

Assistant City Manager Amy Wooldridge presented the City's LGBTQ Action Plan to the Board to brainstorm and receive feedback on potential opportunities of support for the local LGBTQ community. She has also met with the Social Service Human Relations Board, the Executive Team, and will meet with the Recreation and Park Commission. Feedback will be brought to the next City Council meeting.

C. Receive Update on Strategic Planning Process and Discuss Mission Statement

The Pivotal Group presented an update on the strategic planning process, the results collected from the surveys & interviews, and the next steps in the process. Five sample mission statements were presented as jumping off points for the Board to provide feedback on key words or phrases that stand out to them. The goal is to continue to work with staff, action teams, and the Board, to come up with ideas for a final mission statement.

D. Receive a Report from Library Director

Director Eitner reported on Library activities from July – October 2025, and Library statistics through July, 2025.

E. Recommendation to Approve Draft Exhibit and Display Policy

Director Eitner asked if there were any questions about the Draft Exhibit and Display Policy, and the Board had none. Board Member Strickler moved to approve the Draft Exhibit and Display Policy. Board Member Battle seconded the motion, which passed with a 5-0 vote.

F. Recommendation to Approve Draft Public Posting and Distribution Policy

Director Eitner explained that this Public Posting and Distribution Policy provides the rules for staff whether items should be posted or not. There will be a designated location in each library for postings. Board Member Battle moved to approve the Draft Public Posting and Distribution Policy. Board Member Kanji seconded the motion, which passed with a 5-0 vote.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Board Member Strickler shared she learned of an event from the newsletter, but it didn't show in the preview of the email and could have missed it. She asked if there is a Poet Laureate update and Director Eitner responded there hasn't been an update. She also asked if the Tool Lending Survey can be removed because she is still receiving responses. Director Eitner confirmed it has been removed.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Library Board Meetings will move to City Hall beginning November, 2025. They will be held in Conference Room 360, on the third floor.

NON-AGENDA PUBLIC

Elyse Kanagaratnam suggested the Board consider a mission statement in addition to a vision statement.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Eitner, Library Director and
Secretary to the Alameda Free Library Board