

Library Commission Sustainability Committee-NOTES

Date: February 19, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Mary Cain-Simon

Commissioners in Attendance: Justus Samuels, Kevin Covarrubias, Karen Zukor, Chiye Azuma, Mary Cain-Simon, Alex Weinberg, Karen Zukor

Commissioners Absent: none

Staff Absent: Kere Gonzales

ROLL CALL

Present: all

Absent: none

PUBLIC COMMENT: none/closed

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2025 MINUTES: Chiye has reviewed the September minutes and found no issues. It was approved by Weinberg and seconded by Azuma

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR: Mary Cain-Simon was nominated by Azuma and unanimously approved by all the commissioners present.

MEETING DAY/WEEK FOR 2026: Thursday evenings was unanimously chosen for our future meetings.

Every two months. Next one is Thursday March 19

AGENDA BUILDING; C. A. Azuma has carefully reviewed page 4 of the Action Plan that was just published and on the website. Item 6 addresses the system expansion of branch libraries, the feasibility studies and the Capital improvement plan.

Calvin Hao is coming to the March 26th meeting to update the full commission on the Capital improvements. There is, at the end of the Action Plan, a list of all the Capital projects that are in progress.

The matter of the Hoover/Durant pending purchase of Community Market came up and was discussed with excitement; also how our endeavor of many years could teach other branches how to go about obtaining a new building. While the announcement was sent to the Commission as a whole, the Friends of the Hoover Durant felt that the news should be kept among ourselves and any future announcements as to progress, etc, be left to Jamie Turback. It was also noted that the lack of the feasibility studies being on the website is a serious omission. They need a web specialist to get those links back on board.

The ad hoc committee on the General Plan (Zukor, Azuma, Jones, Covarrubias, Cain-Simon, Weinberg) tracks planning meetings. Choice was made by the city for Option A where Oakland would emphasize development in each neighborhood, creating community centers. But there was barely a mention of libraries at all. Our job needs to write up recommendations for this plan of community based development, that emphasizes libraries to a greater degree – their multiple functions and an increasingly important part of their plans. The branches and expansions have to be mentioned and thought be given to future maintenance efforts. For example, Parks and Rec doesn't collaborate or necessarily communicate with other departments – we need to foster collaboration between departments so money is being saved. To advocate for our libraries as a critical resource; Cain-Simon needs to let the ad hoc committee know what the City decided about the plan.

ADJOURNMENT 6:40 pm Cain-Simon proposed the adjournment, Azuma seconded it.

Notes transcribed by Commissioner Karen Zukor