Library Commission Sustainability Committee-Draft Minutes

Date: Thursday**,** May 21, 2026

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Chair Cain Simon

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

Commissioners Absent: Justus Samuels

Staff Present: Kere Gonzales

Agenda

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comment/Open Forum: no members of the public were present; public comment closed.

3. Approval of March 2026 Draft Minutes (Att. A):
Chair Cain Simon noted that Commissioner Samuels had not yet shared the volunteers' information with her as stated under bullet point 3 under the Action Plan. However, Staff clarified that the language in the minutes is for the action "is" to happen, and is correct as recorded. There were no other changes to the minutes. A motion was made by Commissioner Weinberg to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Covarrubias. Commissioners Azuma and Zukor abstained; all others in favor. Motion carried.

4. Action Plan (Att. B):
The following items were discussed in review of the Action Plan:

- Commissioner Covarrubias was asked to recap the report on the Finance Department meeting held earlier in the week. A clarification was made that the GPF restoration to the library's funding is restored in the mayor's budget. There was a question of whether the restoration is contingent on the passage of Measure E. Commissioner Azuma added that the Mayor's proposed budget also includes a Measure E spending plan that details how the Measure E funds would be spent – and the library funding is not a part of that list. Commissioner Azuma will follow up and share the link to the Measure E spending plan with the Commission.
- Rather than speculating on how the library budget would be affected, a suggestion was made to invite Janelle (OPL Chief Financial Officer) to the June/July Commission meeting to share the library's budget and answers to questions that the Commission may have about the budget.

- Noted that we are in the second year of the biennial budget, and we are looking at adjustments to a budget that's already been passed. Next year starts a new two-year cycle. February is when the pie is being sliced anew. So it's good to keep that in mind in preparing for advocacy efforts next year.
- It was agreed for Commissioners to meet with electeds in the next few weeks to stress the importance of full restoration of MOE regardless of Measure E passing (or not). Commissioner Zukor confirmed with Commissioner Weinberg to meet with CM Unger. Commissioner Cain Simon is working on contacting CM Ramachandran.
- P.4 Item 6. Feasibility study links are still broken for Hoover Durant and Main.
- P.4 Item 6. Schedule East Oakland Engagement Team later in the fall?
- P.5 Item 3 Expand Coalition Building with OPL Advocates to be assigned to Full Commission instead of only the Community Engagement Committee. Form ad hoc committee to report on efforts.
- P.6 Item 1 General Plan updates – It was suggested that the GP ad hoc convene to discuss strategies and talking points for the upcoming presentation at CC of the GP, and to report out at the June Commission meeting.
- P.6 Item 4. Overlaps with Obj 1, Item 6 and can be deleted.
- Added new Action Plan item: Hoover Durant Planning under Obj 3. Item 5: forming a new ad hoc committee for tracking the Planning of the Hoover Durant Library, Chair Commission Zukor.
- Discussion of whether General Plan ad hoc is unique to Sustainability Committee or full commission. If it's limited to the Committee (?), there may be no more than 3 members. Confirmed members Cain Simon (Chair), Covarrubias, Weinberg. Remove Commissioner Jones from the ad hoc as she has resigned as of July 1.

5. Final Push for Advocacy with Electeds: covered under Action Plan discussion

6. Agenda Building for next meeting – Thursday, July 23, 2026

- Approval of Minutes
- Action Plan
- Revisit items promised by Calvin Hao – e.g. feasibility study links, projects timeline,
- Question re pending maintenance items – please submit to Cmr Azuma who will coordinate with Jamie to inquire with the appropriate departments.

7. Adjournment: 6:50 pm