

**CITY OF MANHATTAN BEACH
MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING**

Monday, June 8, 2026

4:00 PM

City Council Chamber, City Hall, 1400 Highland Avenue and Zoom

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Braitman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

B. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

C. ROLL CALL

Present (6) Commissioners Heise, Duncan, Crabtree-Kampe, Levitt, Vice Chair Chou, Chair Braitman

Absent: (1) Ferris

Others Present: Senior Recreation Supervisor (SRS) Kari Bell; Senior Management Analyst (SMA) Linda Robb, Recording Secretary Rosemary Lackow

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA Moved and seconded (Crabtree-Kampe, Levitt) to approve as submitted. Motion carried 6-0-0-1 (Ferris absent)

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Library Commission Minutes, Adjourned regular meeting minutes: May 11, 2026

Moved and seconded (Crabtree-Kampe/Chou) to approve as submitted. Motion carried 4-0-2-1 (Duncan, Heise abstain) by roll call.

F. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Library Manager (LM) Cassandra Sargent updated May 2026 metrics and reviewed programming, recent and upcoming (May/June):

	May 2026
No. of Programs	31; 1,672 participants, includes J. Quinn event
Visitors	15,418
Circulation (non-digital)	18,197
Library cards issued	333
Holds placed	4,820

June/July programming was reviewed: 15 events from 6/9 to 7/8 including as examples: Baila Bail Bilingual Show, soap making, Summer of Soccer Fans, Cubing Club for teens, and others.

Julia Quinn speaker event: 1800 registrants; 827 attendees, 416 in-line for book signing; Book signing took over 2 hours.

For more info and reservations: <https://lacountylibrary.org/location/manhattan-beach-library/>

Jessica Lee, LA County Public Library (LACPL) Marketing and Communication Department, addressed the Commission with a PowerPoint assisted recap on the Julia Quinn speaker event, providing stats on outreach including number of email blasts (2), engagement (343k), impressions (213k) and clicks (5,027); 3 media outlets: Easy Reader, Peninsula News Magazine (estimated audience 45,698). Observations: considerations for ADA accommodation, possibly extending program length and book signing time for Fall, 2026 from 1 hour to 1.5 hours.

Future speakers: Fall 2026: Michael Connelly, Spring 2027: R.L. Stone

Commission discussion and comments:

Braitman: use 2 side entrances to enhance ADA access; allow disabled in the auditorium earlier than others; assign escorts for disabled.

Levitt: the MB committee should do a walk through in advance; for R.L. Stine – perhaps open up the Mira Costa quad.; commended LACPL for a great job, very proud of the library. Need to consider how the library visibility at the event can be enhanced. Suggested to relocate Pages (bookstore) table. There was an issue with the bathrooms in that they were off-limits after program ended; need to consider how to avoid this next time (buy another hour of security time?). Should the committee or someone train the ushers?

Crabtree-Kampe: provide a map of the event area, and for the book signing: have 2 lines alternately getting book signed.

G. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Regarding the speaker series: Resident Dina Doll suggested to pick a fixed date for all speaker series events so this becomes a regular interest and will help residents to plan ahead; Regarding the moderator: consider having a person who matches (knowledgeable about) the speaker topic. Commissioner Levitt input: avoid holiday weekends, consider the second weekend in May

H. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

2. Library Commission Work Plan 2026/2027 (approved by City Council February 24, 2026).

Chair Braitman opened discussion regarding status and composition of committees.

a. Library Appreciation Events: Status: no updates; the Commission plans recognitions of library staff and school librarians; the Committee works out arrangements with input and assistance on the day of the recognition event from fellow commissioners. Committee: Commissioner Crabtree-Kampe will fill vacancy left by Commissioner Cullen and Commissioner Ferris will stay on the committee.

b. Speaker Series: Status: Committee will continue to work with Christina McTighe (LACPL Marketing and Communications Department) on choice of speaker and related issues for (for now) twice a year (Spring/Fall) events; Committee to stay as currently composed (Commissioners Braitman, Chou, Levitt).

c. StoryWalk: Status: latest installment went very well; scouts will continue to install and maintain in Polliwog Park; Commissioner Heise agreed to be “on-call” should an issue arise Committee to be composed of Commissioners Crabtree-Kampe, Duncan and Heise.

d. Library Needs Assessment: Status: committee waiting direction from City Council. Committee to be composed of Chair Braitman, Vice Chair Chou and Commissioner Levitt.

3. Selection of 2026/2027 Library Commission Chair and Vice-Chair

Commissioner Levitt moved to nominate as next year's officers - Vice Chair Chou as Chair and Commissioner Crabtree-Kampe as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Chair Braitman, and passed 6-0-1 (Ferris absent).

The new officers were re-seated and assumed new positions.

I. **STAFF ITEMS** – None

J. **COMMISSION ITEMS** (Items not on the agenda)

Commissioner Levitt will share an article and do more research about an innovated book mobile. SRS Bell noted that she recalls that the County has already considered a book-mobile concept and did not think it was a viable option.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:11 pm it was moved and seconded (Braitman/Crabtree-Kampe) to adjourn the meeting to July 13, 2026, at 4:00 pm; motion passed unanimously 6-0-0-1 (Ferris absent).