



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting of the South Pasadena Library Board of Trustees was called to order by Secretary Edward Pearson on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 7:06 P.M. in the Library Conference Room, 1100 Oxley Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Secretary	Edward Pearson
Trustee	Richard Elbaum
Trustee	Eric Forman
Trustee	Dean Serwin

ABSENT

Trustee	Minsun Meeker
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Sean Faye, Library Administrative Assistant, announced a quorum.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Matthew Patsel, Library Director, Cathy Billings, Assistant Library Director, and Sean Faye, Library Administrative Assistant, were present at Roll Call.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

In Person Comments:

None.

PRESENTATIONS

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW LIBRARY BOARD TRUSTEES – RICHARD ELBAUM AND ERIC FORMAN

Trustee Eric Forman grew up in the San Gabriel Valley and often visited this library. After living in New York for 20 years, he has returned and enjoys bringing his young children here. They greatly appreciate that the library stays open in the evenings, until 8 p.m.

Trustee Richard Elbaum has lived in South Pasadena for 20 years and is a regular library visitor. He recently served on the Library/Community Center Site Plan Ad Hoc Committee. He considers the library a special place and is very impressed by its community programs.

ACTION/DISCUSSION

3. REORDERING OF, ADDITIONS, OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2026, LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board review and consider approval of the January 20, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes.

BOARD ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Trustee Serwin, seconded by Trustee Forman, and approved by a roll call vote to approve Item No. 4, as presented by staff. The motion carried 4-0-1-0 by the following vote:

AYES: Elbaum, Forman, Pearson, Serwin

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Meeker

ABSTAINED: None.

5. QUARTERLY LIBRARY BUDGET UPDATE

Staff to provide a brief update to Trustees on the Library's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget and expenditures.

6. VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DISCUSSION

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Trustees discuss planning for the annual Volunteer Recognition event.

7. LIBRARY 2026 PROJECT REVIEW

Library Director to present an overview of the Library's projects for 2026.

8. LIBRARY OPERATIONS UPDATE

Staff to provide updates to Trustees about library events and programs, changes or additions to services, and operational matters of note, including staffing changes, project status updates, outreach activities, etc.

COMMUNICATIONS

9. BOARD PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS

None. (The Board President position is currently vacant.)

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary Pearson shared a quote from Abraham Lincoln, "The things I want to know are in books. My best friend is the man who will get me a book I ain't read."

Trustee Elbaum said the library's breadth of programs is truly impressive.

Trustee Forman said it's good to hear how much the community appreciates the library.

Trustee Serwin welcomed the new Trustees to the Board.

11. COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

None. (Council Liaison Jon Primuth was not in attendance.)

12. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPRESENTATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

Friends Board President Kevin O'Neill shared that last month's annual meeting had a great turnout. Local History Librarian Olivia Radbill gave an engaging presentation on the library's past buildings and the history of the Friends. The board now has a new vice president. Friends Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Conference Room.

13. TRUSTEE LIAISON TO THE FRIENDS COMMUNICATIONS

Trustee Serwin praised the Friends Board as the most organized he has served on, commending their meticulousness and attention to detail.

14. ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS

Assistant Director Billings shared details about the annual "Serving With a Purpose" conference, hosted by the California Library Association for Library Trustees and Friends groups. It will be held on 5/14/26 in Riverside, CA, with the theme, "Excellence Begins With the Essentials: Helping Your Boards Soar."

15. LIBRARY DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS

Director Patsel marked his first month as Library Director by thanking all city staff for their warm welcome. He expressed how impressed he is by the community's love for the library.

PUBLIC COMMENT - CONTINUED

16. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERAL

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters, Secretary Edward Pearson adjourned the meeting of the Library Board of Trustees at 8:32 P.M. to the next Regular Library Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for March 12, 2026.

Respectfully submitted:

Signed by:

Sean Faye

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Sean Faye
Staff Liaison, Library Administrative Assistant

APPROVED:

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Minsun Meeker

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Minsun Meeker
President

ATTEST:

Signed by:

Sean Faye

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Sean Faye
Staff Liaison, Library Administrative Assistant