

MINUTES
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES OF THE POMONA PUBLIC LIBRARY
REGULAR MEETING
January 21, 2026
5:00 P.M.

100. OPENING

- **110. Call to Order**

Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

- **120. Pledge of Allegiance**

Trustee Araya led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- **130. Roll Call**

Present Trustees:

Lisa Snider (Mayoral Appointee)
Sofia R. Araya Abbas (District 1)
Meg Johannsen (District 2)
Tom O. Rodriguez (District 3)
Mario Suarez (District 4)
Renee Barbee (District 5)
Vacant (District 6)

Others Present:

Mark Gluba, Assistant City Manager – ABSENT
Anita Torres, Deputy Director of Library Services / Board Secretary

200. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 210.** There was no public comment.

300. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 310.** Approval of the Library Board Meeting Minutes: November 19, 2025

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TRUSTEE SNIDER AND SECONDED BY TRUSTEE BARBEE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT (6-0).

400. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

- 410.** Trustee Barbee attended the Santa & Grinch event and said it was fantastic.

500. DISCUSSION CALENDAR**510. Ideas for Community Engagement with Poet Laureate, Natalie Sierra.**

Ms. Sierra asked questions and suggested ideas. Ms. Torres offered ways the Library may be able to support the Poet Laureate efforts. A tentative plan was made for a collaboration in April for National Poetry Month.

520. Creation of a Poet Laureate Policy. Ms. Torres suggested using the Pomona Poet Laureate Nomination/Application Document as a resource for creating the Poet Laureate Policy. Chair Rodriguez asked Ms. Torres to seek advisement from the City Clerk's office regarding the ability to include members of the Cultural Arts Commission on a Poet Laureate ad-hoc committee. Chair Rodriguez also asked for advisement on where the digital version of the Poet Laureate policy would be located once complete.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY TRUSTEE SNIDER TO CREATE A POET LAUREATE AD HOC COMMITTEE COMPRISED OF TRUSTEE SNIDER, TRUSTEE ARAYA, AND CHAIR RODRIGUEZ, WITH DIRECTION FOR LIBRARY STAFF TO SEEK ADVISEMENT FROM THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE REGARDING APPROVAL TO INVITE A MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE TO PARTICIPATE. MOTION WAS SECONDED BY TRUSTEE ARAYA. MOTION CARRIED BY A VOTE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT (6-0).

530. Update on Recent and Upcoming Library Events and Programs. – Ms. Torres announced a Hot Cocoa & Paint event scheduled for January 28th and a Lunar New Year event scheduled for February 18th.

540. Update on Library Building Improvements. Ms. Torres reported that construction will continue downstairs through March and that public restrooms are available intermittently throughout the project.

550. Update on Passport Services. Daniel Maldonado reported that passport office revenue has reached \$10,000 as of January and is on track to exceed current year end estimates.

560. Discussion Regarding Library Budget 2025-26 Year End Estimates and Looking Ahead to 2026-27. Ms. Torres noted that Assistant City Manager Gluba is currently out on jury duty and will report on this topic at the February meeting.

600. COMMUNICATIONS TO THE BOARD

610. Friends of the Pomona Public Library On behalf of the Friends Ms. Torres reported the group is recruiting members and the annual Trivia Bee is tentatively scheduled for April during National Library week.

620. Library Foundation Bree Hsieh announced the hiring of Megan Gearhart as Executive Director. Ms. Hsieh reported that Homework Club will be back from winter break on January 26th, that a Foundation donor and honoree reception is planned for February 7th, and there is significant progress with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library initiative.

630. Support Our Pomona Public Library (SOPPL) – Nothing to report from SOPPL.

700. STAFF COMMUNICATION

710. Deputy Director of Library Services – VITA free tax prep is scheduled to begin on Saturday 1/31.

720. Assistant City Manager – ABSENT (jury duty)

800. ADJOURNMENT

810. Adjournment to Wednesday February 18, 2026.

ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 6:32 PM.

Anita Torres, Deputy Director of Library Services /Board Secretary

ATTEST:

Tom Rodriguez, Chair, Library Board of Trustees