



Imperial City Library Board of Trustees

*Mia Hernandez – President
Valentina Estes – Vice President
Magdalena Altamirano – Trustee
Alejandra Banda – Trustee
Ivonne Sotomayor - Trustee*

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the Imperial City Library Board of Trustees

City Council Chambers
220 West 9th Street
Imperial, CA 92251-1637

January 13, 2026

6:00 PM REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by President Hernandez at 6:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Banda, Estes, Hernández (Altamirano, Sotomayor-absent)

CITY STAFF PRESENT: Assistant to City Manager Garcia, City Attorney Turner, Library Manager Haller, Literacy Coordinator Samaniego

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Pledge of allegiance led by Aubrey Hernandez

ADJUSTMENTS TO THIS AGENDA:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation by Julia Samaniego, Literacy Coordinator, regarding her literacy program statistics for December.

A. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A-1.** Approval of Minutes for the Regular Library Board Meeting of December 9, 2025 meeting.

Moved by Estes, seconded by Banda, to approve the minutes for the Regular Library Board Meeting of December 9, 2025.

AYES: Banda, Estes, Hernández

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

MOTION CARRIES: 3-0

WORK SESSION OF THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES (DISCUSSION ONLY):

- B-1.** Ready or Not Project

Presenter: Mia Hernandez, President

Discussion: Hernandez discussed the Ready or Not Project, funded by the California State Library, which provided a free on-site visit at the Imperial Public Library on January 13, 2026. Hernandez was unable to attend the meeting and turned over the discussion to Haller. Haller discussed how valuable it was to have met with the consultant from the Northeast Document Conservation Center, who came to prepare a report and provide us with resources. The recommendations will provide strategic plans and goal-setting for the Library.

- B-2.** Little Free Libraries

Presenter: Mia Hernandez, President

Discussion: Hernandez discussed the Little Free Libraries project and the grant opportunity available to help kick-start it. Unfortunately, the grant opportunity has been closed until April. Estes discussed possibly having volunteers or the public come together to help put one together. Haller discussed having a conversation with the City Attorney to guide the Library Board on how to proceed to ensure this project's success. Hernandez suggested revisiting the topic next month to outline a plan of action and next steps.

- B-3.** 2026 Strategic Planning Session

Presenter: Mia Hernandez, President

Discussion: Hernandez discussed the Library Board members' meeting for a planning workshop. Haller discussed potential meeting dates with the Library Board members to confirm availability and reserve the Council Chambers. An email will

also be sent to confirm which date works best. The workshop will aim to discuss planning and ideas for the year.

B-4. Every Story Counts

Presenter: Ember Haller, Library Manager

Discussion: Haller discussed the California State Library’s “Every Story Counts” initiative, which showcases patrons’ stories about why their library matters to them. This will run from January 25 through January 31. The State provides social media templates and resources to help promote this initiative. Haller discussed using the questionnaire provided by the State Library to share on social media and in the library for patrons to respond, along with 3 favorite photos to showcase patrons in their local library.

B-5. Review and Discussion of Current By-Laws

Presenter: Ember Haller, Library Manager

Discussion: Haller discussed the changes in the bylaws to be formally presented and approved at the next meeting. Turner discussed the changes to the bylaws at a previous meeting and noted that any additional changes can be made before approval.

C. REPORTS:

C-1. Library Manager Haller read her report to the Board.

C-2. Assistant to the City Manager Garcia read his report to the Board.

C-3. City Manager Morita was absent.

C-4. Trustees reported on their activities since the last library board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business before the board, President Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.