



**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 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Imperial, CA 92251-1637

**December 9, 2025**

### **6:00 PM REGULAR MEETING**

- CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by President Hernandez at 6:04 p.m.
- ROLL CALL:** Altamirano, Banda, Estes, Hernández, Sotomayor
- CITY STAFF PRESENT:** City Attorney Turner, Library Manager Haller, Administrative Assistant Laryssa Alvarado
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Pledge of allegiance led by Teen Intern Myah Pope
- ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:** None
- PUBLIC COMMENT:** None
- PRESENTATIONS:**

**A-1.** Recognition and Scholarship Presentation to “Lunch at the Library” Interns by Grant Coordinator, Elizabeth Luevano

**A-2.** Presentation by Vice President, Valentina Estes, regarding the Gilmore Girls Event held on November 6, 2025, at Imperial Public Library.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- B-1.** Approval of Minutes for the Regular Library Board Meeting of October 14, 2025

**Moved by Estes, seconded by Altamirano,** to approve the minutes for the Regular Library Board Meeting of October 14, 2025.

**AYES:** Altamirano, Banda, Estes, Hernández, Sotomayor

**NOES:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**MOTION CARRIES: 5-0**

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

- C-1.** Review and Discussion of Library Collection Development Policy

**Presenter:** Ember Haller, Library Manager

**Discussion:** Haller discussed the Library Collection Development Policy that was revised and adopted by the City Council on December 3, 2025. AB 1825, the California Freedom to Read Act, requires every public library in California to maintain a written and publicly accessible policy that affirms intellectual freedom, supports diverse interests of our community, and provides a transparent process for requesting reconsideration of materials. The updates must be in place by January 1, 2026. The California State Library has reviewed our library's revised policy and will be sending a receipt of compliance once the policy is uploaded to the library's website. This is necessary for the Imperial Public Library to maintain eligibility for California Library funding.

- C-2.** California Library Association Conference Recap

**Presenter:** Mia Hernandez, President

**Discussion:** Hernandez discussed her visit to the California Library Association Conference, held in Riverside from October 23 to 25, 2025. She stated that the sessions were highly impactful, and she gained a wealth of knowledge and ideas that she would like to apply to our library. Hernandez also discussed her gratitude to the City of Imperial for allowing the opportunity for two Library Board trustees, the City Manager, and all the Library staff to attend this conference.

- C-3.** Read, Dream, and Be Merry Event at the Library

**Presenter:** Ad Hoc Committee, President Hernandez, and Trustee Sotomayor

**Discussion:** Trustee Sotomayor talked about the "Read, Dream, and Be Merry" event at the Library, scheduled for December 11, 2025, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The

event will include craft stations, Storytime, outreach from the Library's Literacy program, Soroptimist of El Centro, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library will launch at the Imperial Public Library, with representatives from the organization, including its supervisor and program director, in attendance. Sotomayor states that families with children aged 0-5 who pre-enroll in the program will receive a ticket for tacos from a donated taco truck at the event. Hernandez invites staff and the public to attend and enjoy this family fun event.

**C-4.** Little Free Libraries

**Presenter:** Mia Hernandez, President

**Discussion:** Hernandez discussed meeting with the CEO for the Little Free Libraries and had a conversation about expanding Little Free Libraries to our community. Currently, there are only 2 Little Free Libraries in El Centro, and none are registered in Imperial. In addition to providing books to the community, some Little Free Libraries also offer non-perishable food items. Hernandez discussed the possibility of combining free books and food items for families in need, as food insecurity has reached an all-time high. Vice President Estes mentions collaboration with Rotary El Centro, which is currently running the program, to provide us with insight into how to launch this initiative successfully.

**C-5.** Ready or Not Project

**Presenter:** President Hernandez

**Discussion:** Hernandez met with representatives from the California State Library to discuss their Ready or Not project at the California Library Association Conference. Hernandez discussed securing a free site visit from these representatives to the Imperial Public Library on January 13, 2026, to help assess risks and create a disaster preparedness plan. Haller discussed that the State will then provide a disaster plan to the Library and praised President Hernandez for connecting with the California State Library to include Imperial Public Library in this program. The Imperial Public Library serves as a cooling and hydration center for the public, and having this plan in place will ensure that the space is safe and secure for all patrons in the event of a disaster.

**C-6.** 2026 Strategic Planning Session

**Presenter:** President Hernandez

**Discussion:** Hernandez discussed the importance of planning a 2026 Strategic Planning Session to help kick-start the discussion of eventually implementing a 5- or 10-year plan for the library. The session is intended to focus on 2026 while also looking ahead. Hernandez mentioned new policies and brainstorming ideas to help

get the Library in a better position. Estes raises a question of when this session would take place. Haller discusses sending out a survey link to determine the best time for everyone to participate and attend. City Attorney Turner advised the Library Board of Trustees that, since this will be a special meeting, by law, there needs to be a 24-hour notice.

**D. REPORTS:**

- D-1.** Library Manager Haller read her report to the Board.
- D-2.** Assistant to the City Manager Garcia was absent.
- D-3.** City Manager Morita was absent.
- D-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 7:06 p.m.