



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 12, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Council Chambers: 201 North Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025

WELCOME TO YOUR BOARD MEETING

We welcome your interest and involvement in the legislative process of Escondido. This agenda includes information about topics coming before the board.

PRESIDENT

Maribel Cruz Reyes

SECRETARY

Giselle Luevanos

TRUSTEES

Francis X. Bova III

Virginia Bunnell

John Schwab

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

Sarena Garcia

HOW TO WATCH

The City of Escondido provides one way to watch a board meeting:

In Person



201 N. Broadway, Escondido, CA 92025



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

The City of Escondido provides two ways to communicate with the board during a meeting:

In Person



Fill out Speaker Slip and Submit to City Clerk

In Writing



<https://escondido-ca.municodemeetings.com>

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

If you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact our ADA Coordinator at 760-839-4869. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the city to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired – please see the City Clerk.



ROLL CALL

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Review and approve the minutes for the February 12, 2026 meeting

CURRENT BUSINESS

2. **Updates: City of Escondido**

General updates from the City, including specific updates regarding the library infrastructure project.

Staff Recommendation: Receive and File (Community Services Department: Robert Rhoades, Assistant Director of Community Services)

Presenter(s): Robert Rhoades, Assistant Director of Community Services

3. **Planning & Discussion: Presentation to City Council**



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Discussion and planning by the Library Trustees for a presentation to the City Council on 2025 accomplishments, future plans, and recommendations. The presentation is tentatively scheduled for April 1, 2026; an alternative date of April 8 is also available.

Staff Recommendation: Provide Direction (Library: Rino Landa, Library Director)

Presenters(s): Library Board of Trustees

4. **Recognition of Retiring Library Board of Trustees Member – John Schwab**

Recognition of Library Trustee John Schwab for his many years of dedicated service to the City of Escondido and the Escondido Public Library, and to extend best wishes upon his retirement from the Library Board of Trustees.

Staff Recommendation: None

Presenters(s): Library Board of Trustees

STATISTICS REPORT

5. Presentation of monthly statistical report.

Staff Recommendation: Receive and File (Library: Rino Landa, Library Director)

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

6. Presentation of monthly reports and general library updates.

Staff Recommendation: Receive and File (Library: Rino Landa, Library Director)

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director

TRUSTEE LIBRARY USE REPORT

7. Reports by the Library Board of Trustees of their use of the library and its services.

ADJOURNMENT

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

8. Unless otherwise noted, the Library Board of Trustees meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.



CITY *of* ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026

4/9/2026 – 6:00 PM

5/14/2026 – 4:00 PM

6/11/2026 – 4:00 PM

7/9/2026 – 6:00 PM

8/12/2026 – 4:00 PM



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 12, 2026 at 4:00 PM

MINUTES

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

President Maribel Reyes - Arrived at 4:09 p.m.
Secretary Giselle Luevanos
Trustee Francis X. Bova III
Trustee Virginia Segarra Bunnell
Trustee John Schwab

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Review and approve the minutes for the January 8, 2026 meeting.**

Staff to update March meeting date to 3/12/2026

Motion made by Trustee Schwab

Seconded by Secretary Luevanos

Approved 4-0 (Reyes - Absent)

CURRENT BUSINESS

- 2. Updates: City of Escondido**

General updates from the City, including specific updates regarding the library infrastructure project.

Staff Recommendation: Receive and File (Community Services Department: Robert Rhoades, Assistant Director of Community Services)

Presenter(s): Robert Rhoades, Assistant Director of Community Services



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 12, 2026 at 4:00 PM

3. Staff Report: Library Trust Fund Special Projects Expenses 2015-2023

Request the Library Board of Trustees to retroactively approve \$500 withdrawn from the Special Projects account of the Library Trust Fund.

Staff Recommendation: Approve (Robert Rhoades, Assistant Director of Community Services)

Presenters(s): Leticia Leal, Management Analyst

Motion by Trustee Bova to apply \$500 retroactively to Library Trust Fund Special Projects Expenses for 2017

Seconded by Trustee Segarra Bunnell

Approved 5-0

STATISTICS REPORT

4. Presentation of monthly statistical report.

Staff Recommendation: Receive and File (Library: Rino Landa, Library Director)

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

5. Presentation of monthly report and general library updates.

Staff Recommendation: Receive and File (Library: Rino Landa, Library Director)

Presenter(s): Rino Landa, Library Director

TRUSTEE LIBRARY USE REPORT

6. Reports by the Library Board of Trustees of their use of the library and its services.

Trustee Bunnell - Thank you for the visibility of events; appreciated honoring Black History Month; appreciates availability of requested book

Trustee Schwab - March will be last meeting; Shared it was great working with everyone; Advocated for presenting collections budget at future Council meeting



CITY of ESCONDIDO

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 12, 2026 at 4:00 PM

President Reyes - Thank you to Trustee Schwab and for encouraging her to apply to the LBOT; attended the City's Measure I meeting and requested to give feedback to City Council regarding Workshop's (5) priorities

Secretary Luevanos - Supports advocating to Council; great job on programming and noted events fill up quickly; enjoys using Libby

Trustee Bova - Thanked Trustee Schwab for his service and dedication; visited booth at Love Esco day and loved it and noted there were great interactions between kids and staff

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

UPCOMING MEETING SCHEDULE

- 7. Unless otherwise noted, the Library Board of Trustees meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.**

- 3/12/2026 – 4:00 PM
- 4/9/2026 – 6:00 PM
- 5/14/2026 – 4:00 PM
- 6/11/2026 – 4:00 PM
- 7/9/2026 – 6:00 PM
- 8/13/2026 – 4:00 PM
- 9/10/2026 – 4:00 PM
- 10/8/2026 – 6:00 PM
- 11/12/2026 – 4:00 PM
- 12/10/2026 – 4:00 PM

PRESIDENT

ASSISTANT CITY CLERK



STATISTICS REPORT

Monthly Statistics 2025-2026		November	December	January
CIRCULATION:	Physical Materials	29,945	28,952	30,169
	Digital Materials	7,273	7,589	8,592
	<i>Overdrive Libby</i>	6,359	6,596	7,275
	<i>Hoopla</i>	573	587	583
	Total Circulation	37,218	36,541	38,761
	Holds Satisfied	1,628	1,346	1,800
INTER-LIBRARY LOANS:	ILLs Checked Out	1	1	1
	Link+ Items Borrowed (EPL patrons)	299	328	380
	Link+ Items Lent (to patrons at other libraries)	167	171	187
POPULATION & BORROWERS:	Total Registered Borrowers	99,256	99,847	100,692
REFERENCE QUESTIONS:	Total Reference Transactions	5,212	5,179	5,820
LIBRARY SERVICES:	Public Service Hours	217	244	250
	Library Visits	20,733	20,440	19,921
ELECTRONIC SERVICES:	Users of Public Internet Computers	422	441	486
	Wireless Sessions	4,684	2,197	5,418
	Number of Website Visits	10,817	9,615	12,246
VOLUNTEERS:	Total Active Volunteers	68	63	35
	Total Volunteer Hours	367	492	406
PROGRAMS:	# of live, in-person programs	114	141	135
	Live, in-person attendance	1,225	920	1,291
	# of live, virtual programs	-	-	-
	Live, virtual program attendance	-	-	-
	# of pre-recorded programs	-	-	-
	# of views of recorded program content	-	-	-
	# of live, off site programs (outreach)	1	2	4
Live, off site program (outreach) attendance	19	81	171	
PIONEER ROOM:	Pioneer Room Visits:	550	550	550
	Digital Collection Items Accessed:	271	253	466
	On-Site Items & Resources Accessed:	140	55	163
LITERACY:	Class Attendance	70	52	54
	Classes Taught	34	36	14
	Active Learner Pairs	32	32	31
	Books Distributed	6	483	2
	# of take home kits given out	80	80	80





LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

New Staff in Youth Services

We are pleased to welcome three new team members to Youth Services: Heather Bauer, Karlee Robinson, and Summer Ortiz. They bring diverse professional backgrounds with a shared focus on serving children and families. In their roles, they will provide frontline support in the Children's Department, assisting with desk coverage and helping support programs and activities for our young patrons and their caregivers.

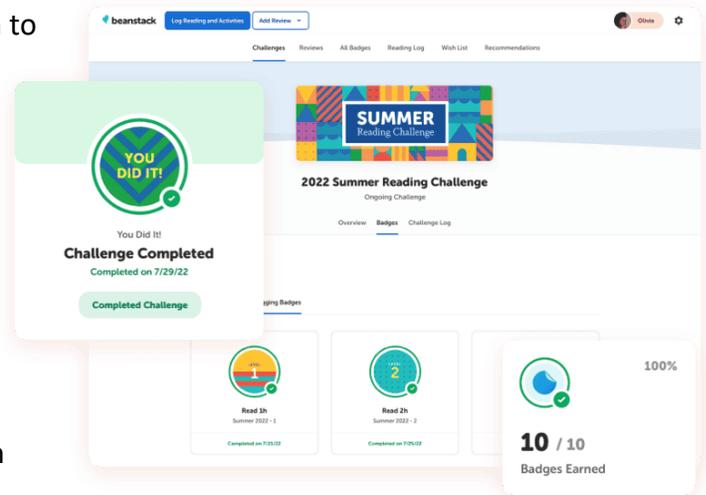
- **Heather Bauer** joined the Library team on February 2, 2026. She brings extensive experience in children's library services, having previously worked as a Children's Library Technician where she developed and delivered well-attended youth programs, supported patrons with reference and technology questions, and supervised volunteers. Heather has also worked in school and public libraries, supporting literacy initiatives, library events, and daily circulation services.
- **Karlee Robinson** joined the Library team on February 10, 2026. She brings experience working with students and families, most recently serving as an Onsite Coordinator for an elementary after-school program where she supported K–5 students, coordinated activities, and communicated with parents and staff. Karlee also has a background in campus outreach and student support from her time at the University of Puget Sound. Karlee holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Puget Sound.
- **Summer Ortiz** joined the Library team on February 17, 2026. She brings experience in higher education administration, student services, and program support, most recently serving as an Outdoor Education Program Assistant where she supported youth learning programs and managed classroom logistics. Previously, she worked at Point Loma Nazarene University in academic records and student support roles, assisting students with registration, transcripts, and academic policies. Summer holds a B.S. in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.



Beanstack Reading Challenge Platform – Overview

Beginning in 2026, Escondido Public Library will transition to *Beanstack*, a new digital platform for managing reading challenges and tracking reading activity. Beanstack will replace the library's current platform, *ReadSquared*, and provide a more modern and engaging experience for participants of all ages.

The platform allows readers to easily log books, minutes, or days spent reading while participating in library-created challenges. Participants can track their progress, earn digital badges, and stay motivated through interactive features designed to encourage consistent reading.



Escondido Public Library plans to use Beanstack to support several upcoming initiatives, including a *Spring Reading Challenge* and the library's annual *Summer Reading Challenge*. These programs will continue to promote literacy and community participation while benefiting from Beanstack's improved functionality.

A key advantage of Beanstack is its modern mobile app, which allows users to register for challenges, log reading, and monitor progress directly from their smartphones or tablets. This convenient mobile experience is expected to be especially popular with current users and will make it easier for individuals and families to participate in library reading programs.

Latinos in Escondido Oral History Project – Update

Archivist Ashley Hays has prepared a brief report for the Trustees on the progress of the *Latinos in Escondido Oral History Project*. The report is attached.

Originally a grant-funded project, the Pioneer Room continues to seek interviewees and it's ongoing support will be provided through a combination of library operations funds, donations from the Friends of the Pioneer Room, and applicable grants that are awarded.



FEBRURARY HIGHLIGHTS

In February, Escondido Public Library continued to provide meaningful programs, services, and community partnerships that reflect the Library’s commitment to learning, connection, and access. Across departments, staff advanced local history preservation, delivered engaging educational and cultural programming for youth and adults, and strengthened community well-being through collaborative outreach efforts. The following highlights reflect the breadth of the Library’s impact during the month.

YOUTH SERVICES

One of the month’s largest family events was the *Lunar New Year Celebration*, presented in partnership with the Three Treasures Cultural Arts Society. The program featured a lion dance performance, Tahitian dance showcase, and martial arts demonstration, along with craft activities for families. Attendance reached 845, reflecting strong community interest in cultural programming and family-centered events.



Youth Services also continued its partnership with EcoVivarium through the *Read to a Dragon* program, which welcomed 59 attendees. This unique literacy experience helps build reading confidence by giving children the opportunity to read aloud in a supportive and memorable environment alongside bearded dragons.

For tweens, the Library hosted another session of the California State University San Marcos STEM program, where 20 participants completed a *Hydraulic Rocket* project. This partnership series will continue through April 21 and return later in the year. Additional tween programming included *Tween Book Club*, with 9 attendees reading *Wonka* by Sibéal Pounder and enjoying a related craft and allergen-free chocolate tasting, as well as *Tween Art Squad*, where 28 participants created no-sew heart-shaped pillows.





ADULT SERVICES



Adult Services launched several successful programs in February that fostered creativity, skill-building, and community connection. On February 7, the Library introduced its new *Adult Crochet Club* in response to growing patron interest following the popularity of *Teen Crochet Club*. With support from regular patron Angela ElKhoury, the first session welcomed 28 attendees and reached full capacity in the Events Space. The strong turnout confirmed the need for this offering, and the program has now been added to the monthly rotation.

On February 11, *Artsy Adults* featured a Valentine-themed workshop in which participants transformed empty wine bottles into decorative pieces using paint, ribbons, washi tape, and cork lights. The program drew 20 attendees and continued to demonstrate the popularity of hands-on craft programs that provide a welcoming environment for creativity and social connection.



Adult Services also launched its first *Library Kitchen* cooking class on February 26. Designed as a welcoming, beginner-friendly culinary program, the inaugural session taught participants how to make pasta from scratch without a pasta machine. Librarians guided the group through the two-hour class, which drew 18 attendees. Feedback was highly positive, with participants praising both the organization of the class and the enjoyable learning experience. Based on this strong start, Adult Services plans to continue

Library Kitchen and expand food-focused programming in the future.

THE PIONEER ROOM

February was a productive month for the Pioneer Room, marked by professional development, community partnership, and local history preservation. Archivist Ashley Hays began the month by attending a hands-on wet salvage workshop hosted by the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Palm Springs. The training provided valuable instruction in disaster response and collection recovery, while also offering an





opportunity to connect with colleagues from archives and cultural institutions across California.

The Pioneer Room also partnered with the Library’s Outreach Department for a visit to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, where Shelley Mangram led an informative tour of the base’s historic sites. This collaboration strengthened community connections while expanding public engagement with regional history.



The month concluded with an oral history recording at Grape Day Park featuring Rod, Doug, and Wes Pratte. The brothers shared memories of the Victorian home once occupied by their grandparents, Reverend William Hoffmann and his wife, Emma. Their reflections on the house and their family’s ties to Escondido added meaningful personal context to the history of the property and enriched the Pioneer Room’s growing local history collection.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS (OUTREACH)

On February 28, the Library partnered with the **TrueCare Mobile Vaccination Clinic** to provide no-cost vaccines to patrons of all ages. By hosting the clinic on-site, the Library helped reduce financial and logistical barriers that can prevent individuals and families from accessing routine healthcare.

Although turnout for this session was modest, the service remains an important and meaningful offering. Access to affordable healthcare continues to be a challenge for many community members, and the availability of vaccinations in a familiar, convenient location helps address a critical community need.



This partnership reflects the Library’s ongoing commitment to meeting residents where they are and supporting quality of life beyond traditional library services. Through collaborations like this one, Community Connections continues to expand the Library’s impact as a welcoming, responsive, and community-centered institution.



LATINOS IN ESCONDIDO ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

UPDATE TO THE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

March 6, 2026

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Latinos in Escondido Oral History Project officially launched in August 2025. The project is designed to capture the previously underrepresented shared history of the Latino community of Escondido through the collection of oral histories and related materials from community members. This initiative reflects the Pioneer Room's commitment to inclusive documentation, collaborative partnerships, and saving shared history for future generations.

INTERVIEWS COMPLETED TO DATE

To date, we have completed 8 oral histories, with 2 additional interviews scheduled, bringing our current total to 10 participants.

- 3 interviews are with members of the Latino community.
- 7 interviews are with members of the broader Escondido community.
- Participants include two former Escondido mayors
- In total, we have recorded 4 hours and 7 minutes of content.

All interviews have been conducted in English, with Spanish language support available through our partners at the Escondido History Center. Interviews have been conducted by EPL Archivist Ashley Hays and Escondido History Center Historian Hellen Williams.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & RECRUITMENT

Recruitment efforts have included:

- Project flyers
- Inclusion in Library and Escondido History Center newsletters
- Promotion at Library events
- Outreach to Pioneer Room patrons
- Word of mouth (which has proven especially successful)

We will also be partnering with *The Paper* in 2026 through the Library's outreach department and with community liaison Teddy Borja to further expand recruitment efforts within the Latino community.

Several interviews have resulted from our community connections. During a meeting with the Escondido Alley Art group, a member connected us with former Escondido Mayor Ernie Cowan. Through that interview, we were introduced to Brant Bassett, who later connected us with Ann Lievers.

Additionally, we conducted three interviews during the 2025 Grape Day Festival in a pop-up format hosted in partnership with the Escondido History Center, which generously provided space inside the historic Victorian home. This partnership allowed us to capture memories of Grape Days gone by.

PRESERVATION & ACCESS

All oral histories are being saved in accordance with archival best practices and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transcription standards. All transcriptions are created by Pioneer Room staff in accordance with CSUSM's best practices. Participants review and approve their transcripts prior to public release and determine their access preferences.

Oral histories will be made available through:

- The Pioneer Room's CONTENTdm digital collections platform
- CSUSM's *Voices of North County* oral history collection (future inclusion)

The first wave of completed oral histories will be published in CONTENTdm within the next three months as participants complete their transcription reviews.

In addition, we are developing a Google My Maps component that will plot key locations mentioned in interviews and incorporate historic photographs from the Library and Escondido History Center collections. This interactive tool will provide geographic context and deepen public engagement with the stories being saved.

NEXT STEPS

Over the next several months, we will:

- Work directly with Teddy Borja, Escondido History Center Board Member, to bring in additional Latino community participants
- Record at least 10 new oral histories by the end of the year
- Publish the first wave of interviews on CONTENTdm
- Continue developing the interactive mapping component

These efforts will significantly expand the project's scope and visibility within the community.

APPRECIATION

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Board for your ongoing support of the Pioneer Room's outreach, programming, and collections, as well as your continued interest in this project. Your support makes our work possible.

We are excited about the strong foundation established in the project's first months and look forward to sharing continued progress in the coming year.