

TACOMA HILLTOP LIBRARY



A COMMUNITY'S LIFELINE TO A NETWORK OF LEARNING

COMMUNITY MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2025, 6PM

Call to Order 6PM -

Greetings and Welcome - S. Eidenschink, M. Betor, K. Whitney, D. Ranniger, H. Alexander, S. Parker-Lee

Minutes of last meeting – Accepted

Finance Report - \$1,011.05

Tacoma Library Report – The library update will go out next week.

[The library calendar can be found here](#)

Unfinished Business –

In the last TPL Board meeting (probably December) it was mentioned that they may be hiring a consultant to investigate a possible ballot issue as it seems library ballot issues did wellish in the last bunch of elections nationwide. We may get an update on this if we have a meeting.

Also, Parks Tacoma (or whatever) is planning on launching a Community Consultation on a new People's Center. TPL sees this as the best chance to get something in the Hilltop, and this is where we can try to make an impact as they decide what kinds of facilities get included in the new center (should it ever get built). Here is where we could gather a group to push for a library to get included.

The cost of a library branch is estimated at \$1,000,000.00 per year. The Tacoma budget is already stretched to it's limit so the City is not eager to take on an added million in debt each year.

New Business –

1105 MLK Street (the old Rite-Aid building) has 2 community land trusts interested in developing affordable housing. [Aya is based in Tacoma](#), and [Homestead is based in Seattle](#). There may be opportunities for library support. We will have more information on opportunities in April.

Also the [Tacoma Tree Foundation is giving away trees for the Hilltop](#).

Adjournment 5:59

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Letter from the American Library Association:



Big news: Thanks to advocates like you, Congress is on track to Fund Libraries. This week, the House of Representatives released a budget proposal that actually *increases* funding for libraries through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and preserves funding for the Innovative Approaches to Literacy program for school libraries.

That's right: while the current Administration has sought to dismantle IMLS, Congress is funding it. Because of your emails, calls, and visits to Congress, libraries are on the precipice of a massive win. ALA continues to monitor the ongoing Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 appropriations process. Barring any last-minute delays – and we know delays are always possible - these funding levels are poised to become law soon. Even if the vote is delayed, these funding provisions for libraries are a major accomplishment, and we wanted our advocates to be among the first to know. If we win, we'll take a moment to celebrate this massive victory - then we'll thank Congressmembers for their support and start working to defend this funding in the next year's budget (only in a matter of weeks now!). There's more: ALA is showing up for our libraries every day in Washington across the country to ensure Americans have access to information and opportunity. See my P.S. below for updates on our other work, including legal actions to stop President Trump's executive order to dismantle IMLS. The road ahead will not be any easier than it was in 2025, but thanks to your advocacy, libraries are beating the odds. As ALA marks 150 years of advancing access to information, I tip my hat to advocates for the historic gains we've won for libraries – and for the history we're making together.



**Lisa Varga, Associate Executive Director
ALA Public Policy & Advocacy Office
Washington, D.C.
Photo courtesy of Library Journal**

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P.S. More ALA activity in Washington:

- *Fighting for IMLS in federal court:* ALA's lawsuit against the Administration's attempt last year to dismantle IMLS is pending. Meanwhile, in a separate but parallel lawsuit, this week the Administration appealed the [decision](#) by a federal judge in Rhode Island to strike down actions to dismantle IMLS. We'll closely monitor that appeal and, if it proceeds to briefing, we'll ensure that libraries' perspectives are heard in that case.
- *Finding data to support library facility needs:* For years, ALA has advocated for more capital funding for library buildings and better data about libraries' needs. We achieved a major step forward last month: The Government Accountability Office finally [issued a report](#), sought by ALA, that provides the first comprehensive national data in decades about public library facilities. The study estimated that 70% of public libraries have a backlog of deferred maintenance and repair—evidence supporting the need for increased investments in library facilities.
- *Facing challenges to funding for library broadband:* Fresh off a Supreme Court victory last year, the federal E-Rate program, which subsidizes high-speed internet access in public libraries and schools, again faces legal challenges from Consumers' Research. The group filed [another petition](#) alleging that E-Rate and other Universal Service Fund programs are unconstitutional. ALA and our coalition partners are strategizing how to best address this new threat.

Next meeting: 6:00PM

April 24, 2026

Every 3rd month on the Fourth Friday.

Meeting ID

862 8530 3937

Passcode

846674

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86285303937?pwd=cU1OL0VzazNxSUIJNUprQUFXR2dnQT09>

Each one bring one.