

MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

March 16, 2009
4:00 p.m.

Pima County Public Library
Joel D. Valdez Main Library
101 N. Stone Ave.
Tucson, AZ

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marjorie Gerdes, Tom Ward, Pat Peterson, Obdúlia González, Frank Antenori

ABSENT: Carla Stoffle, Annabelle Nuñez, Miley Clark

GUEST: Louis Mindes, community member, Arthur Goldberg, Jane Goldberg, Doug McKee, Oro Valley resident, John Musolf, Oro Valley resident

STAFF: Library Director Nancy Ledeboer, Deputy Director Pat Corella, Administrator Karen Thayer, Administrator Bonny Bruce, Marketing & Community Relations Manager Steff Koeneman, Branch Manager Sarajeon Harwood, Virtual Library Manager, Jen Maney, Collection Development Manager, Rich DiRusso, Pima County Deputy Administrator, Hank Atha

1. CALL TO ORDER

Marjorie Gerdes called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

2. MINUTES FOR February 11, 2009

Motion by Obdulia González to approve minutes, seconded by Pat Peterson.
Minutes were approved as written.

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Marjorie Gerdes went around the room introducing staff. Guests John Muslof and Doug McKee from Oro Valley, Louis Mindes and Arthur Goldberg, community members.

4. UPDATES FROM LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS, FRIENDS GROUPS, AND FOUNDATION

Tom Ward attended the Tucson Festival of Books, he said it was amazing. Very crowded, many families, very, very successful, Tom hopes it happens again next year.

Marjorie Gerdes attended the book festival, mentioned great author venues and food venues. Marjorie visited the Sahuarita Express Library, had a delightful time. She complimented Jere Voigt on a wonderful job. Also visited the Caviglia-Arivaca Branch library. Manager, Mary Kasulaitis gave her a book about the history of Arivaca that Mary is writing. It is a very active library. Marjorie attended the Oro Valley volunteer appreciation dinner, provided by the Oro Valley Library and Oro Valley Friends. The Oro Valley Friends will have their book sale March 25 - 28 in the Oro Valley Library. Marjorie also visited the Himmel Park Branch.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Himmel Park Branch Update:

Branch Manager Sarajeon Harwood gave a short history on the branch. Himmel Park was the first branch library in the city of Tucson. It is a small library serving a diverse community. They offer a chess club, teen manga group, children's book group, Read to a Dog Program and Chinese/English bilingual storytime. Himmel serves customers from a wide variety of nationalities, ethnic groups and religions. Circulation figures are high or higher than several much larger branches with larger collections.

Himmel is piloting a sustainability "Living Library". Experts on sustainable subjects such as backyard gardening and composting, rain water harvesting, mending your clothes instead of disposing of them and local food choices will be available. Patrons will check these experts out for ½ hour time slots.

Nancy commented that Sarajeon was nominated for the Dynamic Duo award for her efforts to coordinate solar energy programs at libraries in partnership with staff from Gabrielle Gifford's office. Sarajeon has piloted several programs that have been implemented at other libraries including Read to a Dog Read to a Dog and Energy Efficiency 101 with TEP. TEP will purchase kilowatts readers for homes. Patrons will be able to see where they use the most energy.

B. Proposed Name Change for Himmel Park Branch:

Pima County Public Library received letters from Board of Supervisors, Chair, Richard Eliás and Councilmember Nina Trasoff proposing a name change to the Himmel Branch Library. The request is to rename the Himmel Branch the Tom Volgy-Himmel Park Branch Library.

Sarajeon spoke to Councilmember Trasoff's office to get the background. Sarajeon indicated that the neighborhood association members that she talked with were not opposed to the name change. However, they provided an alternate suggestion to name the branch for Molly McKasson. Community members support this ideas based on Molly McKasson's service on the library board and on the city council.

After several questions and much discussion, Tom Ward motioned to direct Nancy Ledebor to inquire whether the Supervisor and Council member would consider naming this library after Molly McKasson, or combining the names McKassen-Volgy. Pat Peterson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Pat Peterson felt it was not appropriate to make inquiries with out McKassen's knowledge of the name change. Nancy said she would first discuss with Chairman Elias and Nina Trasoff.

C. Challenge to Collection Development:

In response to a question of censorship that was brought to the Library Advisory Board, Rich DiRusso explained that the Collection Development Office (CDO) selects material based upon the policies and principles found in the Library's Collection Development Policy. While CDO works within the entire framework of the policy, there are specific areas that they return to time and again regarding selecting materials for inclusion in the library's collection.

CDO receives hundreds of requests per month. The Department receives feedback from staff and patrons on what books are requested or that are popular. New items that are 3 or so years old are more cost effective for the library to purchase rather than inter-library loan. Reasons the library would not accommodate a request are: if materials are hard to locate through a qualified vendor; material is out of print; or the requested item is not suitable for popular collection in a public library. Some items are referred to inter library loan. If there is a high demand of a certain book/topic CDO will purchase the material.

Tom Ward asked if the requests are screened. Rich responded that they are not. Customers may request that an item be purchased or that an item be borrowed through inter-library loans. Library customers may also submit a written request to withdraw an item from the collection. CDO reviews each request.

Pat Peterson asked if there is a policy that sets these standards. Nancy responded that there is a Collection Development Policy that has been approved by the Library Advisory Board and the Board of Supervisor.

Jen Maney, Virtual Library Manager, said that electronic resources are also available to patrons. Electronic resources including aggregate subscription databases and digital audio books, eBooks, and videos, are treated as part of our collection. They are selected in accordance with selection criteria in the Collection Development Policy. Electronic resources include resources for business, health, grants, homework help, auto repair, general reference, science, and a wide variety of encyclopedias. It also includes social issue databases which give balanced overviews, opinion articles, and analyses of social topics. One of these is called *Opposing Viewpoints*, which is provided by Thomson Gale, a reputable publisher, and the other is called *SIRS Researcher*, which is provided by ProQuest, a large and well-respected database vendor. The digital book collection has fiction and nonfiction titles, as well as classics for children, teens and adults.

In addition to providing access to electronic resources the library's website provides information about library services and programs, answers to frequently asked questions and referrals to local resources. In 2005, a study revealed that more people rely on search engines than libraries to find links to information on the Internet. Therefore, the library does not try to serve as a comprehensive portal to websites. However, there are no current guidelines for selecting what sites the Library will link to on its page. We will be looking at our external websites; we intend to focus on local content, local resources,

D. Strategic Plan Update:

Amber Mathewson and Gina Macaluso were unable to attend this meeting. Nancy explained that staff is still working on developing the goals and measurable objectives for the six service priorities that were presented to the Board. A final draft will be presented to the Library Advisory Board in May.

6. LIBRARY REPORTS:

Deputy County Administrator Hank Atha commented that nothing has really changed with the Library budget. He complimented staff and community on the Tucson Festival of Books. He attended and said it came off very well and that he was very impressed.

Library Director Nancy Ledeboer reported that she and Pat Corella continue to have productive meetings working with Facilities Management on a temporary site for the Wilmot Branch.

Nancy spoke about the convocation she attended. She remarked that it was an outstanding program with a variety of topics covered. Nancy also commented that the Tucson Festival of Books was a community wide effort involving the U of A, the Library and many of our community partners. On Saturday about 25,000-30,000 people attended and on Sunday about 15,000-20,000. We've received many "Thank you" emails from the authors. This will become an annual event will eventually bring an economic benefit to the entire community .

David Fitzsimmons was the MC at the kick off dinner and he recognized amongst others, the Library. Bill and Brenda Viner are the ones who really deserve the thanks from the community for having the vision and the ability to involve a wide range of volunteers in making the Festival a success.

Deputy Director Melody Ballard highlighted the small branches in her report: Arivaca; the branch had a special program on property tax presented by the Pima Council on Aging. When no one showed up, the librarian got the phonebook, made some calls and within no time had a full room. El Pueblo: On Tuesdays the YMCA takes three groups of children to attend storytime. The Flowing Wells branch partnered with Step Up into T.L.C. who brought a Clydesdale and a pony to the branch. Sahuarita: The first storytime program had 85 children in attendance. Readrunners: Had a bookmobile palooza where they visited various branches. In the three months that they have done this they have had over 300 non-bookmobile users visit the bookmobile. Melody commented that Supervisor Ray Carroll also visited the bookmobile at the Book Festival and was very impressed.

Deputy Director Pat Corella shared information about the one desk conversions at Nanini, Joyner-Green Valley and Main Branches. He and Nancy met with Facilities to go over the process for a lease for the temporary Wilmot Branch. The goal is to get the renovation out to bid soon to take advantage of the favorable bidding climate.

No progress on the E-Library.

Community Relations Manager Steff Koeneman indicated that publicity was focusing on Read Baby Read, Fit for Life 50+, the Bookmobile and Homework Help. Nuestras Raices will take place March 20 and 21. Author Luis Urrea presented at the Book Festival and information about Nuestras was distributed to all who attended his presentation. The Mercado on the Plaza in front of Main Library will be on March 21.

7. **CALL TO AUDIENCE**

Louis Mindes, a concerned citizen, spoke to the Advisory Board about censorship in our public library. Arthur Goldberg also spoke on the topic of unwanted same sex attraction and recommended that the Library provide information on this topic. The Board listened to these concerns.

Frank Antenori, board member asked that a report on what has been done to address this concern be addressed at a future meeting.

John Muslof, community member of Oro Valley, had the opportunity to visit four Pima County Public Library branches. He commented on how busy the library was helping people come in to work on job resumes on the computers. He commended the library for providing this great tool to help the unemployed.

Nancy requested that the April meeting be held on 4/13 due to conflict with the OVPL Review Committee meeting. Members approved the change.

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

- One Stop – Partnership to assist unemployed in seeking jobs
- Naming Policy – Tom Ward asked that the Library Advisory Board receive information on the County’s naming policy and advice on what role the Library Advisory Board has in recommending the naming of libraries.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Obdulía González moved to adjourn the meeting. Pat Peterson seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura L. Galvez
Executive Administrative Assistant