

## MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

September 21, 2009  
4:00 p.m.

Pima County Public Library  
Joel D. Valdez Main  
101 N. Stone Ave  
Tucson, AZ 85701

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marjorie Gerdes, Obdúlia González, Tom Ward, Miley Clark, Pat Peterson, Annabelle Nuñez, David Ellington

**ABSENT:** Maureen Lueck, Marty Moreno, Frank Antenori

**GUEST:** Council Member Nina Trasoff

**STAFF:** Library Director Nancy Ledebor, Deputy Director Pat Corella, Deputy Director Melody Ballard, Administrator Karen Thayer, Administrator Bonny Bruce, Marketing & Community Relations Manager Steff Koeneman, Adriana Rendon, Young Adult Librarian, Mary Givins, Young Adult Librarian, Main Manager Karyn Prechtel, Sara Dias, Manager, Southwest Branch, Sarajeon Harwood, Branch Manager Himmel Library

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Marjorie Gerdes called meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Marjorie stated that Agenda Item 5D – Petition Passing Policy Review –the notation on the bottom indicating that this is an action item has a typo. The board is not required to vote unanimously on any item and this statement was made in error.

### **2. MINUTES FOR August 17, 2009.**

Motion was made by Obdúlia González to approve the minutes; Tom Ward seconded the motion to approve the minutes.

Motion passed to approve minutes.

### **3. INTRODUCTIONS**

Marjorie Gerdes introduced those present at the meeting.

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

Tom Ward made a comment on a call he received regarding the Woods Memorial Library. A customer called to complain about the flag not being on display. The branch staff was unable to give the customer a satisfactory explanation for why the flag was not flying. Mr. Ward was able to call Library Administration. He discovered that the flag had been locked in a cabinet and the staff that had the key was off. The situation was resolved and the flag is now flying.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Joel D. Valdez Main Library Update:

Karyn Prechtel, Manager gave a short update on the Library's services and programming. Karyn provided a handout for members to read and she highlighted all the new services Main is providing such as Family Friendly Weekends, Food For Thought, Job Help Days, A Book Club, Film screenings, Teen Time, and Urban Yarns, a knitting group. Staff participates in planning system-wide annual events such as the All Souls Procession, Día de los Niños, Nuestras Raíces and many more.

Main partners with the El Rio Branch Library providing support in children's services and staffing as necessary.

Karyn also provided a list of all community and business partnerships that Main Library staff has developed. Main still provides traditional library services such as reference, InfoLine, & askalibrarian. She provided statistics showing growth in all these areas as well as gate count and circulation.

The Friends Bookstore is under construction and will open in time for the holidays. Volunteers will staff the store and provide used books and some office supplies for sale to the public.

The City will be closing the Plaza, for re-design which will allow for more events in the future. It is being modeled after Bryant Park in New York City. El Tour de Tucson will begin and end at the plaza. Other major events often are hosted outside the library.

Tom Ward commented that he uses InfoLine often. They do a wonderful job!

### B. Petition Passing Policy Review:

Nancy provided background on a complaint from a petition passer who was upset that she could not petition at the River branch. Nancy explained that the River branch is not owned by Pima County and the owner does not allow petition passing on the property.

Pima County Deputy Attorney, Karen Friar, provided legal guidance and answered questions regarding options that would be available to the board. It was suggested that perhaps the Board could revise the policy to allow petitioners inside the library at the locations where the County does not own the property and the lease does not allow petitioners. Ms. Friar emphasized that any restrictions should be based upon the primary function of the library. If the principal function is to allow access to information, use of the collections and ability to attend programs in the library then the restriction would apply to all libraries and not just those that have lease agreements that do not allow petitioners.

After a very thorough discussion the members agreed that the current policy should stand as written. Since it is the mission of the library to provide information each branch should be prepared to provide petitioners with information on where they can petition with referral to nearby locations if requested. Tom Ward made a motion to give direction to staff to prepare and provide an informational pamphlet or handout to individuals that want to pass petitions and are not able to do it at a library. Miley Clark seconded the motion.

Motion passed.

C. Himmel Branch Library Renaming Proposal:

Council Member Nina Trasoff proposed that the Himmel Branch Library be renamed to honor former Mayor Tom Volgy. She provided a letter to the Advisory Board asking them to consider renaming the branch “The Tom Volgy Library at Himmel Park”. She also provided a copy of a letter to Chairman Richard Elias, Board of Supervisors. Council Member Trasoff stated that renaming a library is not taken lightly. For two years she has tried to find a way to appropriately honor Former Mayor Tom Volgy. She provided a short bio on Tom Volgy and emphasized his work in the area of leadership, economic development and his desire to educate and build a foundation for democracy to flourish. She felt it was most fitting to name this library in his honor and she asked the Library Advisory Board to support this request.

There was discussion about whether the neighborhood associations had been consulted. Branch Manager Sarajeon Harwood indicated she had asked members of the three associations for their support. She has not heard back from any of the groups. Council Member Trasoff indicated she would attend the next meeting of the joint neighborhood associations to discuss plans to name the library and the community pool. She assured the Library Advisory Board that she would secure support from the neighborhood.

Miley Clark motioned to authorize the President of the Board to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending that the Himmel Branch Library be renamed the Tom Volgy Library at Himmel Park. Annabelle Nuñez seconded the motion.

Tom Ward abstained. The motion passed.

D. Leadership Projects:

The Board heard presentations from three librarians who participated in Leadership Academy that was sponsored by the State Library & Archives. Each participant was to create a potential grant to fund a new service that meets library community needs.

**Adriana Rendon** presented a description of a proposed program titled “Intercambio en su biblioteca-Language Exchange at your Library Program”. This program would provide opportunities for native English and native Spanish speakers to meet and practice speaking in an informal setting. To implement this program, Ms. Rendon proposed hiring a bilingual bicultural program facilitator. The facilitator will create the curriculum that would be culturally and linguistically relevant to our communities. It would also insure the program sustainability.

The program goal would be to work with community members to develop their secondary language literacy as well as creating a comfortable space for conversation among community members of distinct backgrounds. This program would help various community members practice and improve their secondary language which would in turn help them become self sufficient, increase their job opportunities and improve their professional assets.

**Sara Dias** presented ‘Saving a Rainy Day,’ collaboration between the Library, City Council Member Rodney Glassman, and an organization called Environmental Education Exchange. They are all working together to publish a youth-illustrated picture book titled *Jeremy Jackrabbit Harvests the Rain*.

Project goals include:

- Learning: Participants will be invited to illustrate the book and will learn about water harvesting, a vitally important local issue.
- Creativity and fun – participants will have a positive, fun experience.
- Raise awareness and pride in the community: The authors will make a tour of libraries to discuss water sustainability issues; promotion of the book and celebration with the illustrators will take place around the 2010 Tucson Festival of Books.
- Finally, all proceeds from sale of the book will go toward an actual water harvesting project at the Wilmot Library.

A former legislative aide for Congressman Raul Grijalva, Rodney Glassman holds his PhD in Arid Land Resource Sciences, and has been published regionally, nationally, and internationally in the area of natural resource education for children. Most recently, Rodney authored the nation's first mandatory rainwater harvesting ordinance for commercial development, and was awarded the EPA's environmental achievement award. With his fiancée Sasha Borsand, he's excited to work on a joint project that will educate children, benefit the community, and promote something they are both passionate about.

Meanwhile, the Library is the perfect partner to work on this type of project. Not only do we have experience running art contests and have a way into many classrooms, but we also, thanks to our Eco Champions, have become more knowledgeable and active regarding sustainability issues.

We've applied for a project grant through the Arizona Humanities Council for the amount of \$10,000, matched by an in-kind contribution from the library in the amount of \$5,000 and a cash contribution from the Glassman Foundation for \$5,000.

Rodney is also approaching the business community to ask for donations.

Any funds received will go toward:

- Publicizing the contest;
- Getting the book published;
- Recognizing the illustrators;
- Expanding the Library's Collection of Materials.

**Mary Givins** presented "Refugee Career Enhancement Training Project" which will provide multilingual computer help at the Pima County Public Library. Mary was awarded a grant to implement computer instruction focusing on job help to refugees in our community.

Refugees have been resettling in Tucson for more than 30 years. The number of resettlement agencies is down to 3, and the refugee numbers have increased. Educational level for refugees ranges from little or no education to professionals. The languages we see the highest need for are Kirundi, Somali, Napoli and Arabic. In the past, most refugees found work within 60 days of resettlement. That is no longer the case and the library will work with resettlement agencies to help build job skills among this population.

Our ultimate goals are:

- Provide multilingual computer instruction for refugees
- Refugees will learn new skills
- Refugees will acquire jobs

6. **LIBRARY REPORTS:**

***Deputy County Administration***

No report available

***Director's Report***

Nancy Ledeboer attended the Friends of Arivaca Annual Meeting in Arivaca. It was a great event. Author Susan Lowell was the special speaker. Nancy mentioned that her report was short due to the short interval since the last meeting. She offered to answer any questions about her written report.

***Public Services Report***

Melody Ballard highlighted:

- Murphy Wilmot-lots of people coming to the temporary site, it feels very welcoming.
- Dusenberry-River-offering very intriguing programs

***Support Services Report***

Pat Corella stated that the bid to renovate Wilmot is going out; the remodel should be complete by late 2010.

The A/C replacement bid for the Green Valley Branch should go out in mid October, with work starting in December and finishing in May, 2010.

***Community Relations Report***

Steff Koeneman reported that she has completed work to promote the Lawrence Clark Powell lecture which is coming up.

7. **CALL TO AUDIENCE**

None

8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Wilmot Building Report
- Possible cancellation of the December Board Meeting

**ADJOURNMENT**

Obdúlia González moved to adjourn meeting, Miley Clark seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura L. Galvez  
Executive Administrative Assistant