

**PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

March 4, 2021 4:00 p.m.

Meeting conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams

- Present: Nancy Puckett, Chair; Beverly J. Bannon; Edward Buster; Barbara A. Escobar; John Halliday; Maria Iannone; Cheryl Langer; Betsy Shepard; and Elizabeth Soltero
- Absent: Nubia Valentino, Vice-Chair
- Also Present: Amber Mathewson, Library Director; Karyn Prechtel-Altman, Deputy Director; Michelle Simon, Deputy Director; Kate DeMeester, Library Services Manager; Beth Matthias-Loghry, Library Services Manager; Amy Rusk, Library Services Manager; Sharla Ronstadt, Library Services Manager; Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager; Ken Zambos, Workforce and Economic Development Program Manager Xuan Zhou, Children's Services Librarian; Debbie Quakenbush, YA Librarian; and Sharon Yang-McNeil, Librarian II
- Guests: Pima County Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, District 5; Keith Bagwell, Executive Assistant District 5; Kate Hiller, District Executive Assistant 1; Gerry Peterson, Friends of the Green Valley Library; Karen Williams, Pima Library Foundation

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Nancy Puckett and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**2. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES**

Edward Buster moved and Elizabeth Soltero seconded approval of the February 4, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

**4. INTRODUCTIONS**

Supervisor Adelita Grijalva, District 5, was introduced. As the daughter, wife, and sister of librarians, she is very supportive of libraries. The library continues to have an advocate in District 5. She thanked everyone for what they are doing to support the community during the pandemic, including providing food, information, and internet access. When the pandemic is over, Supervisor Grijalva intends to visit every library in District 5 to thank the staff. For today's meeting, she is particularly interested in the agenda item for renaming the El Pueblo Library.

Kate Hiller is new to Supervisor Rex Scott's office in District 1. She is a library user and a supporter of the library, and is here to listen.

**5. FRIENDS GROUPS AND LIBRARY FOUNDATION REPORTS ON EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF THE PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Gerry Peterson updated on how the Friends of the Green Valley Library did over the past year. Membership has been higher than ever, with almost 1,000 memberships. Because of the memberships and donations, and despite the loss from bookstore sales, they have still been able to support all the programs they ordinarily do, and were able to maintain a stable financial position throughout the year. They are part of the Hughes Federal Credit Union program, and received twice the donation than budgeted. They have continued with their book giveaway for children at the local foodbanks and Amado Youth Center. They requested that the library use some of their donated funds to purchase more eBooks.

They have continued providing scholarships for both Career Online High School and for Pima County Library staff who are in the UA graduate program. They continued connecting with members, sending bulletins, and added an extra print newsletter for people without email. They continue to strengthen their relationship with the Green Valley News and their local radio station. They have two bookstores, and while the one in the library has been closed during this time, the one in their annex has been open. They held their Annual meeting via Zoom, and were grateful to Director Mathewson and Branch Manager Victoria Salajko for attending. She also expressed appreciation for Beth Matthias-Loghry working with them on their requests and questions. Nancy Puckett asked if they planned to reopen the bookstore when possible, and was told yes.

Karen Williams, from the Pima Library Foundation Board, reported that they continue to fund Career Online High School and plan to provide \$50,000 for scholarships. They are also raising funds for the new Sahuarita outdoor performance venue. They are doing a matching grant with the goal of raising a total of \$75,000. So far they have raised \$26,000, and are ahead of their goal. They have also offered two free Author Salon events, held over Zoom.

**6. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS**

Board members updated on what library related activities they have been doing since the last meeting. Some of the responses included:

Edward Buster informed that Beth Matthias-Loghry attended one of the Friends of the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library meetings and discussed ways she can support them. The Friends group is currently having a membership drive, with the goal of getting 100 friends at this time. Since the branch has opened, he has had over 100 people reach out to him to express their praise of PCPL. He also receives great feedback about the progress of Sahuarita Library. He and Nancy Puckett both commented on their appreciation for the Library report that was recently sent to the Board of Supervisors.

Elizabeth Soltero thanked Supervisor Grijalva for attending, and for putting forth the recommendation to name the El Pueblo Library. She recently met virtually with Alina Rowe, the Manager of Richard Elías-Mission Library.

John Halliday said he was happy to see PCPL featured in American Libraries Magazine. He thought the Library did a great job getting food and PPE to the community.

[https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2021/03/01/bookmobiles-road-to-normal-covid-19/?utm\\_source=rss&utm\\_medium=rss&utm\\_campaign=bookmobiles-road-to-normal-covid-19](https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2021/03/01/bookmobiles-road-to-normal-covid-19/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=bookmobiles-road-to-normal-covid-19)

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Presentation on the new Biblio Lotus Team— The Biblio Lotus Team (Xuan Zhou, Debbie Quakenbush, and Sharon Yang-McNeil)**

Highlights from the presentation on the new Affinity Team, Biblio Lotus

The Asian population grew the fastest among the four largest minority groups in Pima County between 2000 and 2010, at 49%. Over 44,000 people identified as Asian, or have Asian heritage, in Pima County in 2019. Asia is the second biggest place of birth for non-citizens and naturalized citizens in Tucson.

One of the goals Biblio Lotus has to close the service gap for Asian communities. The current Asian population in Pima County is over 4%, but programming offered is far less than that.

Some of the topics for upcoming programming, lists, blogs, and collection development include Lunar New Year, Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center Book Dragon Blog, and TUSD Asian Pacific American Student Services. They plan to highlight resources for Asian cultures, create cultural awareness for Library staff, and enrich the collection targeting Asian communities.

Barbara Escobar commented that as a Pima County employee, she was required to do a mandatory training on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and saw pictures that featured the Library's Welcome to America Team and the LGBTQ+ Team.

**B. Discuss and Vote on El Pueblo Library name for recommendation to County Administration**

Director Mathewson pointed out that there were letters from Supervisor Grijalva, Congressman Grijalva, and William Barker included in the meeting packet, supporting the renaming of the El Pueblo Library for the late Frank De la Cruz.

Supervisor Grijalva talked about Frank De la Cruz and how he worked at both El Pueblo and El Rio Libraries. He was very supportive of initiatives that helped the local community. The Library has already dedicated a collection to him [Frank De La Cruz Collection | Pima County Public Library](#). He dedicated over three decades to the library and two of those were at El Pueblo Library. She noted that it would be very fitting for someone who spent so much time promoting literacy, connectedness and community, to be honored this way. And it would be an honor, and very humbling for his family and friends. She thanked the Library Advisory Board for considering the renaming.

Director Mathewson commented that the community already thought of the Library as the Frank De la Cruz Library. Elizabeth Soltero added that she knew him when she was a Graduate Assistant, and that he gave back to the community and focused on social justice issues.

Elizabeth Soltero moved to rename the El Pueblo Library the Frank De la Cruz-El Pueblo Library, Barbara Escobar seconded approval of the motion.

Betsy mentioned many years ago when she first came to Tucson as a librarian, she saw Frank De la Cruz at many events at the library. He was always present and always working for the community. He always worked on social justice and did outreach to the community.

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Nancy Puckett asked about the process of renaming the library and if the community was aware, and if they had a chance to say if this is what they wanted.

Supervisor Grijalva said she asked about the process, and followed what was outlined. The Board of Supervisors needs approval from the Library Advisory Board, but doesn't think there is a forum beyond that. She added that the initial request came from William Barker. Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman added that universally, the library staff has been delighted. Nancy Puckett stated that she wanted to understand the process since there would be other libraries renamed. She also wanted to make sure this wasn't the model used for other libraries when the choice wasn't as clear as it is now.

Director Mathewson explained that the process is generally straightforward but can vary. Sometimes a community wants to honor someone. But when a library is already established, the process might be different compared to when there are new facilities. Sometimes libraries have been named for people who donated money or land. And if there are many suggestions and no one clear vision, it might go out to the community. While the process of getting the names to the Library Advisory Board might be different, ultimately, they can choose and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Motion to rename the El Pueblo Library the Frank De la Cruz-El Pueblo Library was approved unanimously.

## 8. LIBRARY REPORTS

### A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager, highlighted and/or added to her written report:

- PCPL's latest Writer in Residence Gregory McNamee, has two workshops coming up: [The Nature of Fact](#) and [Writing Nonfiction](#). Advance registration is required.
- The Library will be presenting the [26th Annual High School Art Invitational](#). About 100 High School art and photography teachers was asked to submit their students' work. About 93 images were collected from 23 teachers from Tucson and Pima County.
- Holly is on the LGBTQ+ Committee, which is trying to increase their presence. They recently had a Meet the Team Q&As, and posted a blog post [We're inspired by](#), about people who inspire the Committee as well as anyone else who wanted to participate. They received some great heartfelt responses.

### B. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Amber Mathewson, Library Director, highlighted and/or added to her written report:

Library staff has started receiving Covid-19 vaccines at the Tucson Convention Center. The next age groups are getting prepared. There are currently 511 staff. Some won't want the vaccination for various reasons, so they will be removed from the list. PCPL is excited as it will bring libraries that much closer to being able to open to the public. The number of cases also needs to come down more. The hope is that staff is vaccinated and numbers come down at the same time.

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Supervisor Grijalva said that as essential workers, library staff was the next group coming up, regardless of age, adding that staff needs to be vaccinated before the public is allowed in.

Director Mathewson acknowledged that the Monday—Friday schedule has been problematic for the public. Beginning March 15<sup>th</sup>, six branches will be shifting to a Tuesday—Saturday schedule. The branches are Martha Cooper, Nanini, Sam Lena-South Tucson, Valencia, Murphy-Wilmot and Woods Memorial. This is a stopgap until branches can open fully.

Cheryl Langer asked if staff will be able to be vaccinated in the areas they live in. Director Mathewson is looking into options for Ajo and Arivaca areas.

### **C. PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT**

Karyn Prechtel-Altman, Deputy Director of Public Services & Community Engagement, highlighted and/or added to her written report:

Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman recommended reading her report, especially the report about the Santa Rosa Library and the services it has been providing, even though they are not open. They are very busy providing food and various activities.

Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman informed that the Tucson Festival of Books will be having their virtual kickoff, and anyone can attend. Scott Simon is the MC, Billy Collins will be there, and Lisa See will be receiving an award. The programs start on Saturday with several Nuestras Raíces programs being offered over the weekend. Because the event is being held online this year, recordings will be available.

This year, the Nuestras Raíces team had to figure out how to do everything online, and did a great job. In the future, the Festival may have both online and in-person events, which will allow authors to attend who wouldn't normally be able to travel.

### **D. SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT**

Michelle Simon, Deputy Director of Support Services, highlighted and/or added to her written report:

Deputy Director Simon talked about how proud she has been of her Support Services team, who have helped to make an impact throughout the community. She said it was a misnomer to say that libraries are closed, when we are providing access to food, vaccines, Wi-Fi, hotspots, and books. Our libraries are flourishing and staff is doing a tremendous job making sure that people are able to get what they need. Numerous phone calls have been handled to help register the public for the Covid-19 vaccine, and a lot of people have been vaccinated as a result. PCPL purchased hotspots for use with students because of their remote learning. Over 60 students in the Altar Valley School District got internet access, because of the hotspots.

The State Library received mobile Wi-Fi hotspots for vehicles, and PCPL will be putting them on three vehicles. The Bookmobile already has Wi-Fi and laptops on it. One vehicle is dedicated to the Many Nations team, and will go out to the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe to take books and interact. One van is a technology van and will bring science kits and robotics kits to youth.

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Six libraries will be getting book lockers installed mid-March so that library access hours can be expanded and people can pick up their material whenever it works for them.

The E-rate application is being worked on, and will result in adding around 90 additional wireless access points to bolster the Wi-Fi inside and outside buildings.

Library staff has been working with the National Guard, Community Food Bank, and Amphi School District to get food to people.

John Halliday asked which libraries will be getting the book lockers and was told that Nanini Library, Joel D. Valdez Main Library, Sahuarita Library, Kirk-Bear Canyon Library, W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library, and Murphy-Wilmot Library will be the first to test them.

### 9. ADJOURNMENT

Cheryl Langer moved and Beverly J. Bannon seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** April 1, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. Meeting will be held virtually, with instructions on the agenda.

Submitted by:  
Judy Moses  
Special Staff Assistant - Senior