

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2021 4:00 p.m.

Meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams

Present: Nancy Puckett, Chair; Nubia Valentino, Vice-Chair; Beverly J. Bannon; Edward Buster; John Halliday; Maria Iannone; Cheryl Langer; Betsy Shepard; and Elizabeth Soltero

Absent: Barbara A. Escobar

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; Sharla Ronstadt, Library Services Manager; Amy Rusk, Library Services Manager; Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager; Kendra Davey, Literacy Initiatives Program Manager and Jodi Ohlson, Caviglia-Arivaca Library Manager

Guests: Kate Hiller, Executive Assistant, Board of Supervisors-District 1

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 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 Cheryl Langer seconded approval of the April 1, 2021 minutes. Motion carried.

4. INTRODUCTIONS

No introductions were made.

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

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

- John Halliday said that he and Maria Iannone met with District 1 Supervisor Rex Scott and Kate Hiller to discuss library matters for over an hour. They are very supportive of PCPL. They discussed several things, including Career Online High School, and diversity and equality in the Library. Maria Iannone added that she thought their discussion went well.
- Edward Buster informed that the Friends of Esmond Station Library was going strong, and that memberships were increasing. Book donations have been consistent. The public is enthusiastic about the new lockers that are getting installed.

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- Cheryl Langer has been inside Salazar-Ajo Library since it re-opened. She continues to maintain the book cart and sees that books are being sold.
- Nancy Puckett informed that her term ends at the end of June and that she did not ask for reappointment. She won't be able to attend next month's meeting, and wanted to say that it has been an honor and pleasure with the library, staff, and the Library Board. She will continue being a great advocate for the library.

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

No one from Friends or Foundation groups were in attendance.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSS AND VOTE ON SAHUARITA LIBRARY NAME FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Director Mathewson informed that the survey sent to the Sahuarita community consisted of two questions asking whether or not to keep the current name, and if not, name suggestions. While many suggestions were made, 60% of the responses were to keep it the same. Director Mathewson noted that the community can always change it later, if they chose.

John Halliday moved and Edward Buster seconded to recommend to County Administration to keep the name Sahuarita Library. Motion carried.

Nubia Valentino asked how the public would be informed about the Board's recommendation. Director Mathewson commented that everything the Board does is public record, and would be available through the Board packet and minutes. Nancy Puckett speculated that news about the naming would also be followed up in the Green Valley News, especially once it goes to the Board of Supervisors.

B. DISCUSS NOMINATIONS FOR LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER RENEWAL

Nancy Puckett said that if anyone was interested in the Chair or Vice-Chair positions for FY 2021-2022, to let her and Director Mathewson know. The Chair and Vice-Chair votes will be on next month's agenda.

Director Mathewson added that Nancy Puckett, Elizabeth Soltero, Cheryl Langer and Maria Iannone were at the end of their terms, and to let their District Supervisors know of their plans. Beverly J. Bannon said she would be resigning at this time also. Nubia Valentino planned to talk with people about joining the Board to replace those who will leave. Director Mathewson said if anyone had any names to send them to her or directly to the Board of Supervisors.

C. DISCUSS BOARD MEMBERS' SUMMER PLANS AND VOTE ON FUTURE MEETINGS

Nancy Puckett asked if Board Members were planning on being gone over the summer. A few indicated that they would not be able to attend in July, and it was noted that there would be at least three fewer members on the Board.

Edward Buster moved and John Halliday seconded approval to cancel the first meeting of FY 2021-2022, on July 1, 2021. Motion carried.

8. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

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

- Summer Learning Kickoff will begin with children's author and meditation guide Rebekah Borucki, who wrote *Zara's Big Messy Day (That Turned Out Okay)*. She will be doing a virtual event on May 29th where she will read from her book and do a guided meditation, followed by a Q & A session. It is sponsored by PCPL's Kindred Team. [Kick Off the Summer with Rebekah Borucki! | Events | Pima County Public Library \(bibliocommons.com\)](#)
- Marge Pellegrino is returning as the Library's latest Writer-in-Residence. She was the Writer-in-Residence in 2017, and is well-loved in the community. [Marge Pellegrino to be Library's 12th Writer in Residence! | Pima County Public Library](#)
- Holly recently launched a new blog series, Meet the Team, featuring the LGBTQ+ Services Committee. Team members will be interviewed about once a month. The first blogpost features Toby W., who has served on the committee for almost 25 years. [LGBTQ+ Services Committee: Meet the Team | Pima County Public Library](#)
- Holly recently interviewed a young girl who collects library cards, and as of now, has 107 standard size library cards from 76 different libraries. She had reached out to Ask A Librarian and was forwarded to Holly who interviewed her for a Q & A. ["At this point, I have 107 library cards." | Pima County Public Library](#). Edward Buster asked if PCPL has an archive of all the library cards that have been issued over the years. Director Mathewson doesn't think there is an official archive but speculated that staff could come up with something.

B. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Director Mathewson thanked departing Board members Nancy Puckett, Cheryl Langer, and Beverly J. Bannon for their service.

Libraries have been open to 25% capacity, and will be moving to 50% by June 1. The plan is to be open 100% at the beginning of the fiscal year. Currently, most branches are not reaching 25% capacity.

Director Mathewson included a detailed breakdown of the FY 2021/22 Recommended Budget in the Board packet, and reviewed some key points.

- Challenges for FY 2021/22 include building new library facilities with the pay-as-you-go model, delays in construction because of the pandemic, and having vacant positions removed.
- Expenditures are \$45,031,490, Revenues are predicted to be \$52,866,050 and the Fund Balance is \$3,703,560, leaving money for future projects.
- The number of vacancies reported will go down since some positions have been recently posted. New positions were added to this budget, however, and vacancies will go up again at the beginning of the year as a result.
- Personnel is the biggest expenditure, but some of the largest non-personnel expenses are books, subscriptions and videos; County overhead; and computer and technology costs.

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 responded to Cheryl Langer’s question asked at the last meeting about the number of people using Brainfuse. From January-March, 2021, there were 2,778 individual uses of the database, 369 one-on-one tutor sessions, and the total use was 3,162 individual uses. That includes Homework Help, writing labs, and test prep sessions. In January, 37% of the usage was in the Adult Learning Center. The majority of tutoring requested was for math, advanced science, algebra, trigonometry, physics, etc.

Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman recommended taking note of the quarterly written report that focuses on the work of the affinity teams. She also highlighted the Urban Libraries Council’s Leadership Brief that was issued to leaders across North America called the Anti-Racist Executive Leadership for Public Libraries. Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman was on the action team that created this Leadership Brief, and explained that libraries have had a long history of not allowing access to people of color, or providing only segregated access. There is also a history of uneven investments in communities, similar to what has happened in school districts.

Explaining the history was important, but this is also a call to all library leaders to do deep introspective work. The team is also working on crafting benchmarks for the entire industry, as well as a process by which libraries will report on how they are doing with those benchmarks, so that there is accountability. Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman read from the last page of the brief, “If library executives fail to use the right words to describe issues of race and racism, they may fail to do the right work. “Until we can say race and racism without stumbling over the words, we can’t make progress,” said Houston Public Library Director, Dr. Rhea Lawson. The common use of the acronym EDI to describe library activities addressing equity, diversity and inclusion glosses over and deflects away from the real issues of race and racism.”

PCPL’s internal anti-racism team is crafting a statement that will be put forward to County Administration for approval. Elizabeth Soltero commended Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman and the anti-racism team for the great work they were doing.

Edward Buster said that he is part of the Vail School District Cultural Diversity Committee and asked if Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman would be interested in coming to talk to the committee and she accepted.

D. SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT

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

Deputy Director Simon pointed out the Requested and Recommended Budget document in Director Mathewson’s report. The last page shows revenue from FYs 2019/20 (\$48M) and 2020/21 (\$50M) and anticipated revenue for 2021/22 (\$53M). Library revenue is tied to the secondary property tax, which is affected by the housing market. It takes around two years for economic impacts to affect the Library’s budget.

The “transfers out” row is directly related to construction projects that are done at the library. The Library’s secondary property tax is \$.53 for \$1,000 of assessed value of homes. The Library dedicates no less than \$.04 of the \$.53 to fund the pay-as-you-go model, which is dedicated to construction projects. This fiscal year, the Library will be spending \$6.6M, which

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goes to the completion of the Sahuarita Library, the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library, and for architectural and design costs for the Martha Cooper Library. \$4.1M is dedicated for architectural costs for the renovation of the Richard Elías-Mission Library and for land purchase costs for the Southwest Library.

Pima County has a ten year Integrated Infrastructure plan, which includes specific information about the Library, and all of the projects that are currently being planned. Included is ongoing deferred maintenance, which gets no less than \$60,000 a year allotted for interior and exterior renovation, and parking lots. [Integrated-Infrastructure-Plan-2019-2029.pdf \(pima.gov\)](#)

Deputy Director Simon showed where the Pima County Budget could be found on the internet: [County Budget - Pima County](#) and pointed out the Working Budget Draft, and how object reports, unit reports and positions of all County Departments could be viewed.

The American Rescue Plan Act ALA 2021 [American Rescue Plan - Library Relief | Advocacy, Legislation & Issues \(ala.org\)](#), will allow Arizona to receive significant funds via Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the FCC's E-rate program (PCPL will be reimbursed 100% for the cost of the 400 hotspots, data, etc. previously purchased), and other funding opportunities.

Nancy Puckett asked if there was an update on the Focus on Friends project. Beth Matthias-Loghry responded that feedback had been collected they are talking about recommendations of what they might be able to do. She added that it was a perfect time for the Library and Friends groups to have deeper conversations about building relationships.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Maria Iannone moved and Edward Buster seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 3, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. Meeting will be held virtually, with instructions on the agenda.

Submitted by:
Judy Moses
Senior Special Staff Assistant