

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

June 3, 2021 4:00 p.m.

Meeting was conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams

- Present: Nubia Valentino, Vice-Chair; Beverly J. Bannon; Edward Buster; Barbara A. Escobar; John Halliday; Maria Iannone; Cheryl Langer; and Elizabeth Soltero
- Absent: Nancy Puckett, Chair; and Betsy Shepard
- Also Present: Amber Mathewson, Library Director; Karyn Prechtel-Altman, Deputy Director; Michelle Simon, Deputy Director; Beth Matthias-Loghry, Library Services Manager; Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager; Kendra Davey, Literacy Initiatives Program Manager; Ken Zambos, Workforce and Economic Development Program Manager; and Jodi Ohlson, Caviglia-Arivaca Library Manager
- Guests: Kylie Walzak, Senior Special Staff Assistant, Board of Supervisors-District 2

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

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Nubia Valentino 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**

Cheryl Langer moved and Beverly J. Bannon seconded approval of the May 6, 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:

- Nubia Valentino announced that she is leaving the Library Advisory Board because she is moving out of state. She appreciates what she has learned, and was happy to have served on the Board.
- Cheryl Langer expressed how wonderful and rewarding her experience has been being on the Library Board over the last 8 years. She appreciated the dedication of the Board members and staff. She plans to continue volunteering and advocating for the library.

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- Beverly J. Bannon said that she has never worked with such energetic people, and is confident that the Library is in good hands.
- Edward Buster informed that the Friends of the Esmond Station Library continue to meet virtually, but expect to meet in person soon. They are receiving many donations of books. On July 3<sup>rd</sup> they will be having a booth and will do community outreach at the “First Saturday Between the Tracks” event, in Vail. Lastly, Michelle Simon will be attending the Friends of the Esmond Station Library meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

### 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

Edward Buster nominated John Halliday for Chair of the Library Advisory Board for FY 2021/2022; Elizabeth Soltero seconded nomination and motion carried.

John Halliday nominated Elizabeth Soltero for Vice-Chair of the Library Advisory Board for FY 2021/2022; Edward Buster seconded nomination and 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 just launched with author and meditation guide Rebekah Borucki. There were about 40 virtual attendees.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEQLQ3buYrY>  
[It's time for Summer Learning! | Pima County Public Library](#)
- The second installment of Meet the Team that features members of the LGBTQ+ Services Committee recently went out, and featured Tara Wright.  
[LGBTQ+ Services Committee: Meet the Team | Pima County Public Library](#)
- Virtual Code Club will be starting soon.  
[Summer virtual Code Clubs start soon! | Pima County Public Library](#)
- The Biblio Lotus team has launched another blog series spotlight, with an interview of the Director of Yume Japanese Gardens of Tucson.  
[Community Spotlight: Yume Japanese Gardens of Tucson | Pima County Public Library](#)
- Holly thanked all the exiting Board members, and wished them well.

#### B. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Director Mathewson expressed her appreciation for departing Board members Nancy Puckett, Cheryl Langer, Nubia Valentino, and Beverly J. Bannon, adding that she is also looking forward to working with John Halliday and Elizabeth Soltero.

PCPL is in the process of hiring 33 Library Technical Assistants, who are expected to start by June 20<sup>th</sup>. Interviewing for 24 Librarian I positions will begin soon. Four Librarian III

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positions will be posted soon, for Branch Manager positions at Sahuarita Library, Miller-Golf Links Library, Eckstrom-Columbus Library, and Nanini Library.

The Library is currently allowing 50% occupancy in the branches, with computer sessions limited to one hour. PCPL is no longer enforcing time limits in the building. Unattended children age eight and over are now allowed in the buildings. Libraries are starting to put furniture out. The Library plans to be at 100% occupancy by July 1, but depends on when the State lifts the Declaration of Emergency.

The Budget for the entire County was tentatively approved, and will be approved finally on June 22. The County's budget includes raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Also included is a position for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the entire County. The County will also be conducting a salary study for all County departments.

Cheryl Langer asked how the message was being put out about the Library's restricted hours. Director Mathewson responded that the website is constantly updated with that kind of information. Holly Schaffer added that Savannah messages are emailed to all customers, press releases are issued and a social media push is done to announce any big changes. Cheryl Langer didn't think that everyone in Ajo is reached, particularly if they don't have access to the internet. Holly stated that emails are required to get cards, so they would be emailed at the address they had provided. Director Mathewson added that there may need be more of a concerted effort, particularly with the staffing issues the Salazar-Ajo Library has been experiencing recently.

Several Library staff wrote a letter that was sent to all the Pima County Supervisorial Districts regarding what was described as discriminatory pay for library positions as well as other County positions that are primarily filled by women. Social work and public health nurse pay scales were compared to those in the IT and Sheriff's Departments. Mr. Huckelberry wrote a response [June 2, 2021 - May 23, 2021 Letter from Library Employees](#) and stated that the salary study will hopefully address some of those issues. The Library wasn't aware this was going forward and was a surprise to administration. Deputy Director Simon and administration had already been working with a consultant to evaluate job descriptions to ensure they reflect the work that is currently being done. The consultant group had planned to make salary recommendations, which will be helpful as the County does their study.

### 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 talked about the recent Career Online High School graduation that had 25 graduates. Since they couldn't have a ceremony in person, a video was made and a drive-thru event was held instead. Ken Zambos and Marisol did a phenomenal job. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZV9OODgMA0>

The Summer Reading Program has begun. Trackers, book giveaways, grab-n-go activity kits, and programs, including youth volunteer opportunities, are all happening. [Summer | Pima County Public Library](#)

Website visits are up 70% over last year, but cardholders are down significantly, by 40%. With Libraries reopening, there will be some benchmarks to meet, and numbers should go up. John Halliday noted that compared to April, 2020, the numbers are starting to go up.

**D. SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT**

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

**E-Library:**

Deputy Director Simon reminded everyone that PCPL digital library cards can be used anywhere. The Library provides access to Ancestry Library Edition, Magazines in Overdrive, the New York Times, computer classes, and many other resources. Digital cards can be obtained online.

**Facilities:**

The pilot project for pickup lockers has begun, and have been installed at Nanini Library, Murphy-Wilmot Library, and Oro Valley Public Library. Staff is working out the details on how to use them, and input from the community will be sought later. W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library, Sahuarita Library, and Joel D. Valdez-Main Library will be next to get them.

**Construction:**

- The Sahuarita Library is in the punch list stage, and furniture may get installed towards the end of June. They are hoping to show it to the public soon, including the Library Board. Opening will hopefully be in August.
- The Martha Cooper Library design phase is completed. Construction documents are being worked on, which takes between 9-12 months.
- The architect for the Richard Elías-Mission Library is onboard. Community input will be sought. The process will begin the next month or so.
- Himmel Park Library recently got flooded and had a couple of inches of water throughout the library. No books were damaged except the ones in the book chute. A restoration company is scheduled to take care of all the issues.
- Last year, the Library received a Library Services and Technology grant to fund a 101 Space for teens at Valencia Library. They will have a community garden as well as maker-type activities that are culturally relevant. It will start in the beginning of July.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

John Halliday moved and Beverly J. Bannon seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** August 5, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Judy Moses

Senior Special Staff Assistant