

Library Advisory Board Minutes

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 2, 2022 4:00 p.m.

Meeting was held both at Joel D. Valdez Main Library, 4th Floor Boardroom, 101 N. Stone Ave, Tucson, Arizona and virtually via Microsoft Teams

Present: John Halliday, Chair; Elizabeth Soltero, Vice-Chair; Barbara Blake, Edward Buster; Lorraine Marquez Eiler; Barbara A. Escobar; Maria Iannone; Craig Kleine; and Mary Ann O'Neil

Absent: Betsy Shepard

Also Present: Amber Mathewson, Library Director; Michelle Simon, Deputy Director; Kate DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Beth Matthias-Loghry, Library Services Manager; Sharla Ronstadt, Library Services Manager; Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager; and Nicholas McCullough, Special Staff Assistant, Board of Supervisors-District 5

Guests: None

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by John Halliday and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public spoke.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Edward Buster moved and Maria Iannone seconded approval of the April 7, 2022 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:

- Craig Kleine used PCPL's Writer in Residence service.
- Maria Iannone informed that she and John Halliday plan to meet with Supervisor Scott the following week.
- Edward Buster attended a Small Business Saturday event recently and distributed PCPL material.
- John Halliday attended the Career Online High School graduation and recommends attending one as it was highly inspirational.

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

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Director Mathewson shared a message from Wendy Dresang, from Friends of the Arivaca Library. "Diversity, equity, and inclusion - we can work on those throughout our lives. Thank you for spreading the awareness of these. Also, the Library Summer Learning Arivaca Sidewalk Chalk Contest Kickoff on Wednesday was wonderful, and enjoyed by all ages. The masterpieces are on display. Popsicles were provided by the Friends. We so much appreciate our knowledgeable, caring, and creative staff."

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Possible vote to approve Library Advisory Board Members' planned summer absences (if any)

Edward Buster moved and Mary Ann O'Neil seconded approval of Library Advisory Board Members' planned summer absences (if any are more than bylaws allow).
Motion carried.

B. Discussion and possible vote to cancel summer meeting(s)

Several members indicated that they would not attend July's meeting.

Mary Ann O'Neil moved and Edward Buster seconded approval to cancel the Library Board's July 7, 2022 meeting.

C. Vote on Nomination and Election of Officers for Library Advisory Board FY 2022/2023

John Holliday nominated Elizabeth Soltero for Chair of the Library Advisory Board for FY 2022/2023 and Elizabeth Soltero nominated Barbara Escobar for Vice-Chair of the Library Advisory Board for FY 2022/2023.

Edward Buster moved to approve the slate as presented and Maria Iannone seconded.
Motion carried.

8. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

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

- Summer Learning is happening, and customers can pick up trackers and free books while supplies last.
- In-person events will be happening soon, and many fun events are being planned, including DIY crafts, special story time, and puppet shows.
- The LGBTQ+ Services Committee anniversary series continues with another author talk on June 18, featuring Tee Franklin. She is a DC Comics writer of the Harley Quinn series.

B. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Director Mathewson attended the Career Online High School graduation, and commented that it was lovely. Supervisor Grijalva stepped in at the last minute to speak.

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Director Mathewson also attended the Summer Reading kickoff, which was held at the swap meet. It was a great event, she got to speak with many people, and almost all the books were given away.

Director Mathewson and Deputy Director Simon distributed Covid test kits at some recent popup events, and gave away around 90 kits at the Richard Elfas-Mission Library. More sites are listed on the County's Covid-19 Testing Centers page:

<https://webcms.pima.gov/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=575060>.

Director Mathewson noted that information about the budget presentation to the Board of Supervisors was in the packet. The Library was asked to talk about what the Library Department does well, such as Homework Help, GED, Job Help, and how the Library is a trusted community source for information. Some of the solutions that PCPL found during the pandemic included online programming, curbside service, and installing book lockers. The Library also successfully opened two new facilities during the pandemic. The biggest challenge is reopening libraries to their full hours with the current number of staff vacancies.

Goals for the coming year are increasing hours, getting back to events, staff recruitment, and rebuilding relationships with the community. She also discussed how the Library has been collaborating with other departments, particularly the Health Department. The presentation was very well received and the Library's budget was approved by all five Supervisors.

The Board of Supervisors tentatively approved the entire County budget, which includes a 5% salary increase. However, they will be possibly voting on a different increase schedule, as submitted by different Supervisors. If a larger increase than what was approved happens, departments would have to do some cuts. She and Deputy Director Simon have worked together to see where the cuts would come from, and think it is doable. Elizabeth asked if the 5% raise was already in the current budget, and Director Mathewson responded that it was planned and in the budget.

Director Mathewson informed that the plans for the renovation for the Martha Cooper Library ran into a snag with the bidding process and will be delayed about five months. The hope is that the rebidding will be able to happen in the next couple of months.

Mary Ann O'Neil asked if there are any savings for the Library or the general fund when there are empty FTEs. Director Mathewson responded that the money stays with the Library, and that if there was a bigger increase, the County allowed two months of vacancy savings.

Mary Ann O'Neil asked if there was a formula for the number of branches or the number of hours that are pervasive to the County about the Library's staffing needs. Director Mathewson responded that she'd discussed with County Administration how PCPL can't expand hours until staffing is up to 400 FTE. Currently, some of the branches have to close at lunch because they don't have enough staff. The Board of Supervisors are aware and are supportive of the Library.

John Halliday asked if the County planned to do another salary survey, and Director Mathewson responded that they were, and that the one for the Library District was coming up. If there is an increase in July, there may be another raise coming later. The survey could take a year for the entire County, but for the Library, it could take six months. Mary Ann O'Neil asked if the raises would be implemented then, or if there was a wait until all the

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departments were done, and Director Mathewson responded that it would happen right away.

John Halliday commented that he appreciates seeing the list of donations in Director Mathewson's report that are made by individuals and Friends and Foundation groups.

C. PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT

Karyn Prechtel-Altman, Deputy Director of Public Services & Community Engagement, was not in attendance.

Director Mathewson asked if there were any questions about Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman's report.

John Halliday commented that one of the branch reports in Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman's report mentioned interns, and he asked if that was a County-wide program. Director Mathewson explained that there were a couple different ways to get interns now. One is the Library Intern Program, through Pima County One Stop, and the second is the Summer Interns program for youth, also through Pima County One Stop. They are paid internships.

D. SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT

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

Deputy Director Simon talked about the test kits that Pima County was distributing for the Health Department and encouraged the Board to visit the County's website <http://www.pima.gov/covid19> for all Covid-related information. Households are also allowed to get eight more test kits through the federal government. There is an uptick in cases and while Pima County is still in the low category, cases are expected to go up. The Library continues to provide staff safe with PPE. The Library previously gave out 35,000 boxes of test kits that are currently being given out at pop-up events.

Facilities update:

- Book lockers have been installed and are being set up at three additional libraries: Flowing Wells Library, Quincie Douglas Library, and Joel D. Valdez Main Library. They have been successful, and they allow people to get their material anytime.
- Murphy-Wilmot Library is still closed and will probably open just after July 4. It received new flooring and painting, and the computer commons area and staff area were reconfigured.
- The 101 Space at Valencia Library continues to have supply issues and is not finished.
- The Martha Cooper Library bid came in too high due to increase in costs and will be put back out to bid. The Communications and Systems Office is working to keep the public informed about what is happening.
- The design process is almost ready to begin for the Richard Elías-Mission Library.
- The Library will be helping to distribute 4,000 gun locks through the Health Department. They will be put out and the community can help themselves.

John Halliday asked how high the bids were that came in for the Richard Elías-Mission Library. One came in \$600K over what was anticipated, and the other was \$1.6M over.

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John Halliday asked for an update on the parking lot going in at the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library. Deputy Director Simon responded that it will start in September, and ended up costing \$737K, when the original plan was \$350K.

Mary Ann O'Neil said that Supervisor Scott had an editorial piece on PEEPS, a pre-school program, and there was a discussion on the Library's taxing authority being used in the future when the federal money runs out. She added that Supervisor Scott stated that there was a recent piece of state legislation that allows for that, and she asked what the legislation was, and if it would alter the secondary taxing authority for the Library. Director Mathewson replied that she would provide the specific Arizona Revised Statutes ([HB2386 - 542R - Senate Fact Sheet \(azleg.gov\)](#)), which states that public library funds can be used for early education programs. Deputy Director Simon added that the law changed last year, and was really a clarification of the wording as libraries have always provided early education programming. At this time, the Library will dedicate a penny of the tax rate to the PEEPS program. John Halliday and Maria Iannone said they will ask Supervisor Scott about this when they meet with him.

Deputy Director Simon informed that the Library will be promoting the Affordable Connectivity Program, an FCC program that will provide internet access as well as assist people with their technology needs. Flyers will be put in Tucson Water bills. This is a Pima County and City of Tucson partnership. There will be three community listening sessions to get information from community members in Ajo, Sahuarita, at the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library to find out what their needs are.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Edward Buster moved and Barbara A. Escobar seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 4, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Judy Moses
Senior Special Staff Assistant