

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 5, 2023 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: Elizabeth Soltero, Chair; Barbara Blake; Edward Buster; Lorraine Marquez Eiler; John Halliday; Maria Iannone; Craig Kleine; and Mary Ann O’Neil

Absent: Barbara A. Escobar, Vice-Chair and Betsy Shepard

Also Present: Amber Mathewson, Library Director; Karyn Prechtel-Altman, Deputy Director; Michelle Simon, Deputy Director; Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director; Kendra Davey, Library Services Manager; Kate DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Vicki Lázaro, Library Services Manager; Beth Matthias-Loghry, Library Services Manager; Sharla Ronstadt, Library Services Manager; Ken Zambos, Library Services Manager; and Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager

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

1. CALL TO ORDER: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Elizabeth Soltero and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Elizabeth Soltero read PCPL’s Land Acknowledgement Statement.

2. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public spoke.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING’S MINUTES

Edward Buster moved and John Halliday seconded approval of the December 1, 2022 minutes. Elizabeth Soltero recused herself from voting since she had not attended the meeting. 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:

- Mary Ann O’Neil attended the event for the naming of the Richard Elías-Mission Library, and appreciated seeing the architecture plans for expansion. Elizabeth Soltero also appreciated the efforts that went into the planning for the event.

Library Advisory Board Minutes

- Edward Buster informed that he would be leaving the Pima County Library Advisory Board as he transitions into his new role on the Vail Unified School District's Governing Board. He thanked the Library Board and PCPL staff for their support.

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

There were no updates from Friends or Foundation groups.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DIVISION — Karyn Prechtel-Altman, Deputy Director

Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman discussed Asset-Based Community Development, the concept of Parallel Partnerships, and community collaborations that will help to achieve PCPL's mission.

Outreach, which is transactional and limited in scope, is different than community engagement, which is relationship building, collaborating and co-designing with the community. Asset-Based Community Development is a framework to design community solutions by focusing on what resources already exist, and investing in those assets.

Parallel Partnerships is where organizations know and support each other's missions, work together to move their missions forward, and look out for each other. An example of this is the partnership PCPL has with Literacy Connections. The Seed Library is an example of Asset-Based Community Development. Staff have built strong relationships with other organizations, including UA Cooperative Extension and Native Seeds/SEARCH.

The Many Nations Team has been working toward the goal of parallel partnerships. The Library Night Out events have happened because it was co-designed with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and Arizona Public Media. PCPL's Land Acknowledgement Statement was created in partnership with the Tohono O'odham Cultural Preservation Committee and Pascua Yaqui Department of Language and Culture.

Examples of what ULC Libraries' Partners and Collaborators are doing include Cleveland Public Library working with YWCA to have conversations on race and equity. In learning that people needed equitable and inclusive access to performance and rehearsal space, Memphis Public Library is repurposing meeting rooms and study rooms to become acoustically appropriate rehearsal and performance spaces in the Historic Cossitt Library.

PCPL has plans to expand and explore new partnerships with Pima Animal Care Center to launch the Mobile Outreach Unit, and with Pima County Health Department for a Mobile Clinic, which will rotate through all library locations. New partnerships are being explored with COPE, a behavioral health organization, Primavera, and Community Prevention Coalition of Pima County.

Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman discussed the connections everyone has in the community with current partners and potential partners. Through them, there is potential to look for gaps and opportunities to meet community needs that will also align with PCPL's Community Impact Plan. If Board members had potential partners in mind, let her know.

PCPL's Community Impact Plan will be extended from the original dates of 2020-2023 to 2020-2024 as the pandemic prohibited completion of some of the items. A new planning

Library Advisory Board Minutes

process will be starting soon for 2024-2027 and will use a new process called Strategic Foresight, which uses multiple future scenarios to plan for future outcomes.

Craig Kleine asked if the mobile Clinic will be offering HPV vaccinations. Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman said that only Covid and flu vaccinations were currently being offered.

8. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

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

Synapse, PCPL's newest affinity team, distributed its first grab-n-go kits: The Holiday Survival Kit. There were kits for adults and kids, and they featured items and projects that provide opportunities to unwind and relax during the holidays. System wide, 955 children's kits and 1,107 adult kits were distributed.

The Biblio Lotus team published a second blog post in the team's "Mastering a Second Language" series, about learning Korean. The third post will be about learning Japanese.

Kanopy released its Most Watched of 2022 list, which includes not-to-be-missed films, documentaries, and television shows: <https://www.library.pima.gov/blogs/post/kanopys-most-watched-films-of-2022/>

B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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

Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman's written report anticipated that Title 42 would be lifted, but it was not, and the assistance needed for asylum seekers has been manageable. Staff has expressed that doing this work has been really rewarding.

PCPL has been helping people with the housing waitlist applications. There is enormous need for housing in this community as there are more people than there are units. There is a lottery system, and people have three weeks to sign up. The Library is partnering with the City of Tucson on this.

Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman will be looking to fill Program Manager positions since Kendra Davey and Ken Zambos were recently promoted.

C. PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT

Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director of Public Services/Customer Experience, was not in attendance.

Director Mathewson reported that Deputy Director Alcorta is doing a great job with the five new LSMs that were recently hired.

John Halliday expressed thanks for the statistics in Deputy Director Alcorta's report. He's noticing that numbers are going up, indicating that PCPL is getting beyond the pandemic as numbers are increasing. Director Mathewson agreed, saying that while the Library isn't back to 2018 levels, people are coming back.

D. SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT

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

Deputy Director Simon informed that 70 signs advertising free Wi-Fi hotspots were going up around the community. PCPL is providing the hotspots in conjunction with Cox as part of the Connect Pima countywide efforts for internet connectivity. The Library is also working on purchasing Chromebooks that can be checked out with hotspots.

Deputy Director Simon is creating library facility reports that are formatted for each Pima County District on activities that are happening at the libraries in each district. The facilities portion of the Library Advisory report look show this new formatting.

The County's budget process has been changing, allowing time to have lengthier discussions beforehand. Instead of all the departments coming in front of the Board of Supervisors to make a presentation, there is now a more rigorous process upfront.

Deputy Director Simon informed that the gate count provided in the statistics for this meeting will be updated for the next packet as some data did not get entered.

E. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Director Mathewson informed that there has been progress with hiring, but that there are still over forty positions to be filled. Because so many Branch Managers were promoted into Library Service Managers, there are new positions to fill. Librarian I positions will close soon. There have been a lot of organizational changes and an updated organizational chart will be sent to the Library Board soon.

Director Mathewson discussed how this is an evolutionary period for libraries as the pandemic has changed how people use libraries. The planning process that Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman will be working on will help see how to bring services to people. Services could include mobile units that are Wi-Fi capable and incorporate the hotspots around town, and having devices to connect to those hotspots. Library services will be looked at from a new angle. Director Mathewson requested that if the Board had any ideas, to share them with her.

Director Mathewson added that contributions are up, and people are still supporting Libraries.

9. ADJOURNMENT

John Halliday moved and Barbara Blake seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 2, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Judy Moses
Senior Special Staff Assistant