

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

March 2, 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; Lorraine Marquez Eiler; John Halliday; Maria Iannone; Craig Kleine; Mary Ann O’Neil; and Betsy Shepard
- Absent: Barbara A. Escobar, Vice-Chair
- Also Present: Amber Mathewson, Library Director; Karyn Prechtel-Altman, Deputy Director; Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director; Kendra Davey, Library Services Manager; Beth Matthias-Loghry, Library Services Manager; Vicki Lázaro, Library Services Manager; Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager; Margie Trujillo-Farmer, Literary Arts Librarian
- Guests: None

**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. Betsy Shepard read PCPL’s Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**2. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

No members of the public spoke.

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

John Halliday moved and Barbara Blake seconded approval of the February 2, 2023 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 had a positive experience using Culture Passes and looks forward to using them again.
- John Halliday watched and appreciated the movie *The Right to Read* that Board Member Barbara Blake had recommended. It was put out for Read Across America Day.
- Barbara Blake informed that her Costco Connection asked members “What is your favorite book growing up?” and posted the poll results.
- Elizabeth Soltero informed that the Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library, Sunnyside Foundation and other organizations partnered to do a community reinvestment event at

## Library Advisory Board Minutes

the Library. People brought their artifacts and photos, and the Center for Creative Photography digitized photos on the spot.

### 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. TUCSON FESTIVAL OF BOOKS UPDATE — Margie Trujillo-Farmer, Literary Arts Librarian

Margie Trujillo-Farmer is the Literary Arts Librarian, and assists with the coordination of Tucson Festival of Books. PCPL will have activities for all ages this year, including a teen activity tent, teen-lead author interviews, Bookmobile, and the Bookbike. There will be two Southwest Books of the Year panels, and several of the authors will also be at Nuestras Raíces. The latest Writer in Resident, Estella González, will be there doing a writer's workshop.

At the Nuestras Raíces venue, PCPL will host ten panels this year, with twenty-eight authors presenting. There will be book giveaways for teens and children, and the Many Nations team will be giving out grab-n-go craft kits for children.

PCPL's Nuestras Raíces venue hosts Latino and indigenous authors, some are nationally recognized, and some are emerging authors, including Ingrid Rojas Contreras, Erica Sanchez, and Alejandro Varela. Two New York Times Best Books of the Year authors Angie Cruz and Javier Zamora will be there. Luis Alberto Urrea will be there with his new book, *Goodnight Irene*.

Beth Matthias-Loghry added that they worked to have all of PCPL's affinity teams involved with the festival, and they were well-represented.

#### B. REVIEW AND DISCUSS POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR ANNUAL LIBRARY BOARD RETREAT IN MAY — All

A discussion was held about how past retreats were structured, with a tour of the library, continental breakfast, speakers from the Board of Supervisors and County, a State of Library update, Friends and Foundation updates, a planning session, followed by lunch. The W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library was suggested for this year's location, with the session being on strategic planning, on May 6.

John Halliday asked if there would be time to discuss Censorship and Intellectual Freedom and Elizabeth Soltero thought Director Mathewson could discuss this during her report on the state of the library. A draft agenda will be prepared for the next Library Board meeting.

### 8. LIBRARY REPORTS

#### A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

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

- PCPL recently did a "Meet the Moderator" blogpost series on staff members who were going to be moderators at the Tucson Festival of Books.

## Library Advisory Board Minutes

- Daniel Nayeri, who immigrated from Iran to Oklahoma and is author of *Everything Sad is Untrue*, was being hosted by Welcome to America to present at the Woods Memorial Library on March 3 from 3-5 pm.
- KOLD did a piece on Kirk-Bear Canyon Library's sensory program, which was funded by Friends of the Kirk-Bear Canyon Library via Hughes Federal Credit Union.
- Annual Reports have come out and were mailed to Board members. If anyone wants more copies, let her know. Harold, featured in the Annual Report at age 103, just turned 104.

### **B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT**

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

Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman informed that PCPL would be starting a new Reading Help program designed by Program Instructors who are reading experts. They also piloted the program at the Oro Valley Public Library where teens helping children with their reading. The program is also modeled after one at the New York Public Library. It is coordinated by Library staff with teen and adult volunteers working directly with the kids. They don't actually teach reading but are there to support learning. Once there are enough volunteers lined up, it will be advertised.

Early math is as much an indicator of success as early reading. PCPL is starting an early math passive family engagement program. Games were purchased for all libraries, and they are laid out to let kids and families play. There are already early math aspects to PCPL's early childhood Storytimes. Parents will be taught to observe and point out math in everyday lives, all day long, when doing ordinary things. Studies have shown that early math is incredibly important for brains. Kendra Davey, the Library Services Manager in the Community Engagement Office, is involved with the DREME Network out of Stanford, a non-profit that focuses on early math. She added that the games come from Zeno Math Company and are centered in equity, access, and racial justice.

On March 4, Hassael Cazesuz and his team will be hosting an event they coordinated for K-8 classes with Roni Capin Rivera-Ashford to present her book *Raulito, The First Latino Governor of Arizona*, about Governor Raul H. Castro.

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

Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director of Public Services/Customer Experience, highlighted and/or added to her written report:

Deputy Director Alcorta provided an update on hiring. New Librarian I's are being placed at many branches and they are finishing the process in hiring Librarian III branch managers. Separate recruitments are happening for Library Associate and part-time Librarians for Salazar-Ajo Library and part-time positions at other branches.

An upcoming event that will be happening on April 15 from 10-1 is the community-based Dia de los Niños program. They are partnering with the Tucson Chapter of Reforma and Galeria Mitotera. Reforma received funds from a grant through Arizona State Library, which will help pay for logistics, tents, chairs, etc. The Bookmobile will be there, they will have book giveaways, crafts, mariachis, dancers, vendors, sale, and food. The Pima County Health Department may have a mobile unit with Covid tests. Last year they had around 500 attendees, and they hope to have a great turnout this year.

## Library Advisory Board Minutes

Interesting programs happening at the Library:

- February was Love of Reading month and staff went to local schools and did many outreach events to promote reading.
- Writer in Residence Estella González is having one-on-one sessions at Flowing Wells Library and Quincie Douglas Library through April.
- Murphy-Wilmot Library celebrated Stitch-In-Public Day, which was created by the Embroiderer's Guild of America. They had demonstrations and gave out kits.
- Caviglia-Arivaca Library did an outreach Storytime at the local San Fernando School, and the focus was vulture stories. Arivaca will be having their first Vulture Festival on March 11.
- Deputy Director Alcorta has been working with Kate DeMeester in the Collection Development Office to expand Culture Passes to all branches.

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

Michelle Simon, Deputy Director of Support Services, was not in attendance.

Director Mathewson highlighted an item in Deputy Director Simon's report about the Library Services and Technology Act grants. One that is exciting is the 24/7 Library where material is put out in vending machines in places where Pima County does not have libraries. If this goes well, it is a way to extend services without having to build a building or add staff.

### **E. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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

Director Mathewson informed that there were people filming in libraries, doing what they call First Amendment audits. They want staff to tell them they can't film, and feel it is their right to film in a public space. While that is generally true, and they can even film library staff, Arizona statutes do not allow revealing a person's use of the library. Filming patrons is not allowed. It has gotten to be very difficult for staff as derogatory videos are posted publicly. There isn't a lot that the Library can do, except that if they don't leave the premise, they can be arrested. Staff is having to deal with this on a regular basis.

Director Mathewson informed that the Library has been getting some complaints about books, mostly concerning LGBTQIA+ content. There was one recently at Oro Valley Public Library recently about children's books. Kate DeMeester, who is in charge of the Collection Development Office usually responds to the complaints and does a great job explaining the Library's position.

On the theme of early childhood education, Director Mathewson discussed how Pima County started the Pima Early Education Program scholarships (PEEPs) Program that provides scholarships for kids to go to preschool. This is the second year, and the program was initially paid for with ARPA funds. Going forward, one cent of the Library's taxes is going to be identified for this. Almost 1,200 kids are currently in the program, significantly up from last year. Kids who have preschool education are much more likely to graduate from High School.

Friends of the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library donated \$425 from their first book sale. Friends of the Pima County Library donated \$60,000 this week.

A memo was released today about the County's overall salary study.

[https://webcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_6/File/Government/Administration/Admi nMemosForWeb/2023/March/2023-march-2-2022-countywide-compensation-study-](https://webcms.pima.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_6/File/Government/Administration/Admi nMemosForWeb/2023/March/2023-march-2-2022-countywide-compensation-study-)

## Library Advisory Board Minutes

[update.pdf](#) They are creating a job architecture framework. There are currently sixty-nine different grades within Pima County and seven-hundred different job classifications, but with consolidation, there will be thirty grades different classifications. This will help create a process for people move through grades. HR still has to review what they got from the consultants to make sure it makes sense. County Administrator Leshner has already put \$11.5M in the tentative budget to start the process of increasing wages. It will probably take more than one year to get everyone into their proper ranges, and may be as soon as July for some.

Maria Iannone asked if there were safety concerns with the First Amendment audits, and how frequently they happened. Director Mathewson responded that to date, they eventually leave and that their intention hasn't been to do physical harm, but to embarrass staff. Maria Iannone asked what kind of support there is for staff. Director Mathewson responded that the County has an Employee Assistance Program, and the Library has a Trauma Informed Team that reaches out when something traumatic happens.

There was a discussion about informing the auditors about the laws, and Director Mathewson added that it doesn't matter to them if staff is following the law. It is complicated because Police can be filmed, but they don't inform them that filming isn't allowed at the Library. Director Mathewson informed the County Attorney to let them know this was happening with more frequency. Mary Ann O'Neil asked if the County Attorney can develop one sheet to inform staff about what their behavior should be. Director Mathewson said this was done by one of the branches. John Halliday wondered if a small notice on the front doors would help, and Director Mathewson said PCPL could try it, but typically they just don't care about the rules. Director Mathewson added that this is happening all over the country.

### 9. ADJOURNMENT

Barbara Blake moved and Maria Iannone seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** April 6, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Judy Moses  
Senior Special Staff Assistant