

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

April 6, 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; John Halliday; Maria Iannone; Craig Kleine;  
Mary Ann O'Neil; and Betsy Shepard

Absent: Barbara Blake and Lorraine Marquez Eiler

Also Present: Amber Mathewson, Library Director; Karyn Prechtel-Altman, Deputy  
Director; Michelle Simon, Deputy Director; Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director;  
Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, Library Services Manager; Kendra Davey, Library  
Services Manager; Em DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Kate  
DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Vicki Lázaro, Library Services  
Manager; Ken Zambos, Library Services Manager; and Holly Schaffer,  
Community Relations Manager

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. Elizabeth Soltero read PCPL's Land Acknowledgement Statement.

**2. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Elizabeth Moll and Jane Hubbard attended but did not speak at Call to the Public except to introduce themselves.

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

John Halliday moved and Maria Iannone seconded approval of the March 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:

- Betsy Shepard attended the Tucson Festival of Books, and commented that she enjoyed the event, particularly the Nuestras Raíces presentations. She also went to the Quincie Douglas Library to check out books for her students, and noted that the collection was great, specifically the Spanish collection and the picture book collection.

## Library Advisory Board Minutes

- John Halliday visited the Caviglia-Arivaca Library for the Vulture Festival and found the library to be well-maintained and child friendly, with an excellent book collection. Manager Jodi Ohlson and staff were friendly and welcoming. He highly recommends visiting.
- Mary Ann O'Neil visited Santa Rosa Library's garden and was able to check out a tomato plant. She hopes to be able to return seeds someday.
- Maria Iannone visited the Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr Library recently. She uses virtual resources a lot and found it great to be in the physical library. She was reminded about all the programs and services offered in person, including Culture Passes and tax preparation.
- Elizabeth Soltero received an email from Gerald Lowe, who proposed having a library named after Henry "Hank" Atha, a former Deputy County Administrator, to recognize his advocacy and support of the Library.

### **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. Director Mathewson informed that the Friends of the Pima County Library recently made a \$60,000 donation, and that the Pima Library Foundation is looking forward to attending the upcoming Career Online High School graduation at the venue they helped to support and build at the Sahuarita Library.

### **7. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. FINALIZE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT TOPIC(S) AND ITINERARY—**

Director Mathewson reviewed the itinerary for the retreat, suggesting that the main topic would be strategic planning, as discussed at the last meeting. Board members agreed.

#### **B. APPROVE CANCELLATION OF MAY 4, 2023 LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING (ACTION ITEM) — Amber Mathewson, Library Director**

Mary Ann O'Neil moved and Betsy Shepard seconded approval to cancel the Library Advisory Board meeting scheduled on May 4, 2023. Motion carried.

#### **C. DISCUSS NOMINATIONS FOR LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR & VICE-CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER TERMS**

A discussion was held about nominations for the Library Advisory Board Chair and Vice-Chair positions that would be voted on at the next meeting, in June.

#### **D. DISCUSS BOARD MEMBERS' SUMMER PLANS AND FUTURE MEETINGS**

A discussion was held about summer absences, and the requirement of the Bylaws to approve multiple absences. If necessary, the upcoming meeting in June will allow for approval of multiple absences during the summer. There will also be an opportunity to cancel summer meeting(s).

### **8. LIBRARY REPORTS**

#### **A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT**

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

## Library Advisory Board Minutes

- The first Rising Voices Youth Summit since the pandemic is being held on April 15, at Flowing Wells Library. The topic will be mental health awareness.
- Career Online High School graduation is scheduled on April 29 at Sahuarita Library.
- The new Writer in Residence is Gene Twaronite, a poet, essayist, and children's fiction writer. He will have consultations at Woods Memorial Library starting in mid-May. He will also offer three programs for adults, teens, and tweens.
- April is National Poetry Month and Lindsey Curley, Program Collaborators in Residence, created Ten Poetry Prompts Inspired by Native American Poets, which asks writers to reflect on the words and the format. They will be printed and available at branches.

### **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 will be at the Fiesta Sahuarita event at Anamax Park on April 15. The Board was invited to volunteer if they wanted to help.

The Library has been invited by Urban Library Council to present a webinar based on the Synapse Team, which focuses on mental health and wellness. The program is called How to Support Mental Health and Wellbeing in Your Library. Heather Severson and Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman will be presenting and will discuss how to get administrative buy in for these types of affinity teams, why it was started, how the team was formed, lessons learned, and partnerships formed. They will share statistics about youth and adult health crises currently happening across America and the world.

John Halliday asked about the Library's social media presence, and if TikTok has any impact on public library services in any way. Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman responded that PCPL had a TikTok account that was robust, but the Social Media Librarian left PCPL and now TikTok is on hiatus. She added that PCPL could function without it if it were no longer allowed, but added that it had been an incredibly powerful tool for engaging the community and brought new users to the Library.

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

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

Deputy Director Alcorta informed that five Librarian III positions have been hired. Two were internal promotions, and three were outside the system.

Deputy Director Alcorta, along with four Library Services Managers, recently had the opportunity to attend a week-long intensive training at Eller College of Management, focusing on Public Sector Management. They worked with other colleagues from Pima County, the City of Tucson, and a staff member from Sierra Vista Public Library. They built their skillset on strategic communication, ethical leadership, team dynamics, how they drive innovation in the system. They focused on trying to create a leadership training series for branch managers.

Deputy Director Alcorta provided some branch highlights:

- Quincie Douglas Library has had a longstanding collaboration with the Greater Southern Arizona Chapter (GSAC) of the Buffalo Soldiers. There is a display and an in-house use book collection that has been curated over several years. The

## Library Advisory Board Minutes

Pima County photographer was there recently, and photographed the GSAC in full uniform.

- Santa Rosa's garden is thriving. They have been partnering with the UA Garden Kitchen.
- W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library has been partnering with Pima County Assessor's Office and provided a property tax exemption workshop recently for widows and widowers with disabilities.
- Joyner-Green Valley Library collaborated with the Synapse Team. They had representatives from National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) provide resources to customers.
- Sahuarita Library partnered with the Sahuarita Unified School District and had a Maker Fair, with demos, experiments, and 3D printing. NASA ambassadors had telescopes set out.
- Nanini Library has been working closely with Veterans Employment through Arizona at Work, which has a table set up weekly at the branch. They provide resources such as resume assistance, personalized career guidance, and interview outfits.
- There are two events on April 15. The Día del Niño program is in its second year, and is a collaboration between Galeria Mitotera, Reforma, and Arizona Center for the Book. They will have the Bookmobile, free books, storytellers, dancers, and crafts. The PACC Mobile will be there as well.
- On May 6, PCPL is collaborating with Tucson City of Gastronomy for the second annual Pueblos del Maíz Fiesta. Tucson will host the first weekend of a month-long international food and culture celebration. The Library's Nuestras Raíces, Many Nations, and Welcome to America committees along with the Library's Seed Library team have collaborated on this event. It will be at Kennedy Park.

### D. SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT

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

Deputy Director Simon talked about how there have been recent conversations about various policies and procedures related to the Library in the news and in our own community. She reviewed PCPL's website, showing where to find information (click on Policies at the bottom of the Home page). <https://www.library.pima.gov/policies-guidelines/>

There are policies on Bulletin Board and Handout, Circulation of Library Materials, Collection Development, Customer Code of Conduct, and more. Most of the policies have Spanish versions. Forms, if used, are listed under the policies.

The policy on Library Confidentiality is about how the Library is a limited public forum, and does not share information about the use of the Library. This is per Arizona Revised Statute as well as United States Supreme Court law.

National Library Week is April 23-29. Deputy Director Simon showed more information from the American Library Association's (ALA) page: <https://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/natlibraryweek>

April 24, 2023 is Right to Read Day, and Deputy Director Simon highly recommended reading that section, which contained information about intellectual freedom.

## Library Advisory Board Minutes

National Library Workers Day is on April 25, 2023, and PCPL planned to celebrate all the staff at each of the libraries. Deputy Director Simon invited the Board to celebrate staff by visiting branches and thanking staff. Another thing they could do through the ALA website, is to nominate a library worker. [Nominate a stellar library worker!](#)

National Library Outreach Day is on April 26, 2023, and celebrates all of the Affinity Teams and service levels.

Take Action for Libraries Day is on April 27, 2023, and is a day to advocate for the Library. Deputy Director Simon suggested having conversations with the Board of Supervisors, and everyone, to tell them how great the Library is. The Library is the center of our community and is a place for everyone.

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

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

Director Mathewson informed that in addition to the hiring described by Deputy Director Alcorta, there were a lot of other positions being filled, including Librarian II and Librarian I positions that were closing soon. PCPL is starting to see the results of hiring with statistics going up, particularly circulation and gate counts, as a result of having more staff and more programs.

Director Mathewson thanked Deputy Director Simon for pointing out the Library's policies. She noted that the Library Board can review changes to them before they are submitted to the Board of Supervisors, and that some would be coming up at the June meeting. Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman heads up a team that reviews them, but if there are any that the Library Board wants staff to review, they can do that.

The Library continues to get lots of donations from all the Friends groups and the Pima Library Foundation. Total donations this fiscal year including from individuals is currently up to \$318,000, which helps PCPL to do all the programming described earlier.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Maria Iannone moved and Betsy Shepard seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** June 1, 2023, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Judy Moses  
Senior Special Staff Assistant