

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

June 1, 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; Lorraine Marquez Eiler; John Halliday; Craig Kleine; Mary Ann O’Neil; and Mariana Padias

Absent: Barbara Blake; Maria Iannone; and Betsy Shepard

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; Kate DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Vicki Lázaro, Library Services Manager; Alina Rowe, 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**

No members of the public spoke.

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

John Halliday moved and Mary Ann O’Neil seconded approval of the April 6, 2023 minutes. Motion carried.

**4. INTRODUCTIONS**

New Library Board Member Mariana Padias (District 2) was introduced, and all members introduced themselves.

**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:

- John Halliday informed that he and Maria Iannone did their annual visit with Supervisor Scott’s office, and the meeting was positive. Supervisor Scott supported the Library’s budget proposal, and was pleased with the increase in library usage statistics since the pandemic. They also stated that they do not support censoring Library material.

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- Elizabeth Soltero commented on some of the events she attended since the Library Board retreat in May, including Pueblos del Maiz and ¡Fiesta Fotográfica at the El Pueblo Neighborhood Center, and expressed thanks to the staff for their work.

### **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. POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS' PLANNED SUMMER ABSENCES, IF BEYOND BYLAWS LIMITS**

No Board Members requested approval to miss more meetings than the Bylaws allow.

#### **B. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO CANCEL SUMMER MEETING(S)**

After a discussion, the Board decided to cancel the August 3, 2023 meeting.

Mary Ann O'Neil moved and John Halliday seconded approval to cancel the August 3, 2023 Library Advisory Board meeting.  
Motion carried.

#### **C. VOTE ON NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD FY 2023/2024**

After a discussion, Mary Ann O'Neil was nominated to be Library Advisory Board Chair, and Maria Iannone was nominated to be Vice-Chair for FY 2023/2024.

John Halliday moved and Craig Kleine seconded approval for Mary Ann O'Neil to be Library Advisory Board Chair, and Maria Iannone to be Vice-Chair for FY 2023/2024.  
Motion carried.

#### **VOTE ON REVISED BULLETIN BOARD AND HANDOUT POLICY D 32.1—Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman**

Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman said there were few changes, and most were to minimize confusion and to clarify the process. Some content was added to give the Pima Library Foundation, Friends groups, and other governmental entities priorities for posting. Confusing information about political materials was removed and Arizona Revised Statutes was instead referenced.

Elizabeth Soltero asked if it would be translated into Spanish, and Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman responded that it would be.

Mary Ann O'Neil moved and John Halliday seconded recommendation of approval of the revised Bulletin and Handout Policy D 32.1 to the Board of Supervisors.  
Motion passed.

#### **D. VOTE ON REVISED E-COMMERCE POLICY D 32.13—Deputy Director Simon**

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Deputy Director Simon informed that the main changes to the E-Commerce Policy are about credit card usage, and how staff will not handle customers' cards.

Deputy Director Simon also informed that the Communications and Systems Office was slowly going through all Library policies and translating them into Spanish.

Mariana Padias moved and Mary Ann O'Neil seconded recommendation of approval of the revised E-Commerce Policy D 32.13 to the Board of Supervisors.  
Motion passed.

### **E. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY D 32.3 LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Elizabeth Soltero informed that there have been concerns expressed by the public with Board of Supervisors' Collection Development Policy, especially pertaining to LGBTQ collection, at Board of Supervisors' meetings. As a response, and to show that the Library Advisory Board was in full support of this policy, a letter was drafted for the Library Board's review and possible approval to send to the Board of Supervisors.

Director Mathewson said there were comments at recent meetings about one particular book and LGBTQ material in general, and PCPL has received some comments through Ask-A-Librarian, adding that this is something that is happening nationwide. Supervisor Christy had expressed concern that the policy hadn't been reviewed recently.

John Halliday asked if it would be helpful for people who support the policy to come to a Board of Supervisors meeting. Director Mathewson responded that if people wanted to come and speak about their support for the Library and the Collection Development Policy, it would be helpful to hear another viewpoint.

Mary Ann O'Neil moved and John Halliday seconded sending the letter of support for the Board of Supervisors' Collection Development Policy D 32.3.  
Motion passed.

## **8. LIBRARY REPORTS**

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

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

- Summer Learning launched today, and kids can pick up a free book and tracker. A press release was sent earlier in that day. Summer Learning will officially kickoff at the Tanque Verde Swap Meet, where crafts and books will be given out.
- PCPL has a call out to children ages 0-13 for the Joel D. Valdez-Main Library art display. Nominations are through July 30.
- There was a column in the Arizona Daily Star on Leila Duncan's work in the Community Engagement Office. Twice a week, she engages with families and children who have been evicted and are temporarily living in hotels. She brings books, crafts, and fun activities.

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

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

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Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman informed that PCPL had a potential partnership opportunity with FC Soccer Tucson, a professional soccer league. They want PCPL to be at some of their events and invited the Library to Pride Night. Going forward, Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman predicts that there will be potential for sponsorship.

PCPL will be at the Juneteenth Festival on June 17, 2023. The Festival will be at Kino Sports Park and the library will be in the Kids Zone giving away free books to youth, and providing a craft activity.

### **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 a reduction in hours would be happening soon at Southwest Library and Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library. They are both currently open Monday through Friday. Southwest Library will be open Wednesday and Friday 10-5 and Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library will be open Tuesday and Thursday 10-5. Staff will continue to work at these branches, and will also support other branches. It was a difficult decision, but there have been issues with facilities, staffing challenges, and security issues. Staff has been going through some difficult situations, particularly at Frank De La Cruz-El Pueblo Library. On the days they are open, there will be a lot of programming with full library services. Information will go out to the public.

Mary Ann O'Neill asked if this would be temporary and what factors would allow them to go back to their original hours. Director Mathewson responded that the El Pueblo Center is not activated, and the Library is the main attraction. The City of Tucson has been working to reengage and fill up the plaza again, but they are waiting for grant funds. There have been drug overdoses, violence, and vandalism. PCPL has been working with the Sheriff's Department and has been requiring an ID to use the restrooms. The nearby transit center doesn't have their restrooms open, so people come to the library. Limiting hours is an attempt to disrupt the pattern. The hope is that when there are more organizations open besides the library, hours can be expanded.

The Southwest Library might open sooner, depending on staffing, and recruitment is underway.

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

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

Deputy Director Simon informed that the Southwest Library is one of the locations where a regional library will be built, close to where it is currently located. It is anticipated that more services will be offered, such as from Pima Animal Care Center, Health Department, and Behavioral Health. Another thing being considered is having 24/7 library kiosks at the new location, which would allow people to browse, put items on hold, and check items out. Once the library is built, they would be used as pickup lockers. The kiosks are also being considered for other areas in town, especially in library deserts, to expand reach without having to build a new building.

Deputy Director Simon provided a facilities update:

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- The Martha Cooper Library's expansion frame is up. When it is finished, the branch will have a larger green space made of AstroTurf in front of the area, which uses less water than grass.
- The construction drawings for the Richard Elías-Mission Library are being finalized and will be ready to go to bid for a contractor in the fall. It will be closed for about a year.
- The Library is in the process of getting a designer and/or architect for the Himmel Park Library expansion. It is an old, small building that doesn't have enough outlets, adequate staff space, and has no staff bathroom. It will have 2,500-3,000 square feet added.

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

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

Director Mathewson thanked Library Board Members for their support, stating that it means a lot to staff. There has been a lot going on, with First Amendment audits, and staff having to deal with complaints about the LGBTQ displays, programs, and books at the branches.

PCPL has a Trauma Informed Care Team that received an LSTA grant to help staff with things they are having to deal with at this time. After the team surveyed staff, one of the things that came up was that staff needed acknowledgment about the difficulty they experienced during the pandemic, as well as things going on during that time in the community, and the issues staff were dealing with at the same time. Director Mathewson and the Deputy Directors have been having conversations at regional meetings to acknowledge to staff that they see the things they are going through, to give them time to ask them questions about how the Library is moving forward, and how PCPL will rebuild to what is right-size for community and for staff.

Director Mathewson shared about how she recently went by the Children's Room at the Joel D. Valdez-Main Library and saw the play area filled with kids, probably because of Summer Reading starting. It has been a while since she had seen so many kids together. Things are starting to pick up, and PCPL's goal right now is to rebuild relationships with staff, community, and partners.

John Halliday asked about the status of First Amendment audits. Director Mathewson responded that there haven't been any lately, but that they would probably cycle back. Staff have been told that they don't have to interact or engage and can call the police. They don't have to argue about the Library's policy or collection, and can give the administration phone number to take pressure off.

John Halliday asked about the status of the classification study and Director Mathewson responded that the consultants made some recommendations to move from 100 pay ranges to 26. All of the classifications were looked at and recommendations were made about which ones people should be in. Department heads had a few days to make recommendations and to provide comments. The Board of Supervisors approved the tentative budget, and the final approval will come in June. Once it passes, the process will be able to go forward. Phase 1 will push people up who are not at the minimum of their pay range. Phase two will move people along who are already in the pay range, and it will be determined how that will happen. Phase 3 is to create a plan for how people will move through the ranges in the future. It is expected that Phase 1 and Phase 2 will be able to happen in the next fiscal year, and Phase 3 will probably happen in the following one.

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John Halliday asked about the timeline, and Director Mathewson responded that it hadn't been determined yet, and depends on when the classifications are finalized.

There was a discussion about vacancies, and how fewer people are applying. Director Mathewson informed that more part-time librarians will be recruited and hoped it would result in more applicants. The Library hadn't done this before because it was seen as being expensive for part-time staff to get full-time benefits. She thought that it would make a difference because a lot of people want work-life balance.

### 9. ADJOURNMENT

Mary Ann O'Neill moved and John Halliday seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

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

Submitted by:  
Judy Moses  
Senior Special Staff Assistant