

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2024, 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: **Mariana** Padias, Chair; Vice-Chair Rebecca Téllez Peralta; Anna Sanchez, John Halliday, Maria Iannone, Mary Ann O’Neil and Sharon Foltz

Absent: Craig Kleine

Also Present: Amber Mathewson, Library Director; Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director; Anthony Batchelder, Deputy Library Director; Em DeMeester-Lane, Deputy Director; Kate DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Vicki Lázaro, Library Services Manager; Beth Matthias-Loghry, Library Services Manager; Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, Library Services Manager, Tara Foxx-Lupo, Branch Manager, Ken Zambos, Library Services Manager, Holly Schaefer, Community Relations Manager and Laura Lopez, Assistant to Library Director

- 1. **CALL TO ORDER: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT**
- 2. **CALL TO THE PUBLIC: None**

3. **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

John Halliday moved to approve November 7th, 2024, meeting minutes, Rebecca seconded, motion carried.

Rebecca Peralta moved to approve November 5, 2024, meeting minutes, John Halliday seconded, motion carried. All minutes were approved.

4. **INTRODUCTION**

Anthony Batchelder, the new Deputy Director, introduced himself giving a short bio of himself.

5. **SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS**

None

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

None

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Library Planning

Director Mathewson stated the survey will go out to the community in January but will go to board first for awareness.

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Martha Cooper Branch Renovation:

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Branch Manager, Tara Foxx-Lupo highlighted the innovative efforts and community impact at the Martha Cooper Library.

This library's expansion and innovative approaches are not just about infrastructure but about creating meaningful connections and opportunities for community members of all ages. It's a testament to the importance of investing in public libraries and their staff to nurture vibrant, accessible community spaces.

B. Cancellation of January 2, 2025 Board Meeting:

- Traditionally this meeting is skipped during the holiday season.
- John Haliday moved to cancel the meeting, Anna Sanchez seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Note: The Advisory Board may call a special meeting if the need arises.

9. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager, provided an update

- Progress of the Annual Report.
- Storytelling Insights when working at the Community Food Bank.
- Highlighted impactful moments, including a story about teens and tweens engaging in library programs.

B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT:

Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director, of Community Engagement. She provided an update on:

- Staffing and Community Engagement
 - a. Seeking two librarians to fill roles in the department.
 - b. Efforts are underway to rebuild relationships with community organizations after a communication gap and exploring new partnerships.
- Workday Implementation
 - a. Transitioning into Workday, a new software, for timekeeping, financial processes, recruitment and HR functions. The system will go live December 15, with training sessions wrapping up next week.

C. PUBLIC SERVICES & REPORT

Em DeMeester-Lane, Deputy Director, provided an update on:

- Work with Elections at 18 library locations, which also serve as training spaces.
- A new scheduling system is being introduced to better manage staff availability and shortages. Rollout planned for January.

D. SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT

Anthony Batchelder, Deputy Director provided the following highlights:

- Facilities updates, Bear Canyon (evaluation of building foundation) and Mission Libraries closed (renovation)
- Staffing and Vacancies, focus on refining the hiring process to reduce current vacancies and improve staffing across branches

Board members asked about the agreement between City and County. Anthony explained that complexities arise from dual partnerships. The IGA/MOU was previously provided to the Library Advisory Board.

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Sharon wants to know if there is a formal ask for City to make the repairs. Amber will talk to Jan Leshar to get a response to this question.

E. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Amber Mathewson, Library Director provided:

- Key points about ongoing efforts to reduce staffing issues.
- Provided the County Gift to Anna Sanchez for her board service.
- Discussed difficulty in covering lunches in small agencies and the resulting lunchtime closures.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Rebecca Peralta moved to adjourn meeting; Mary Ann O'Neil seconded. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Next Meeting: February 6, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Lopez, Administrative Specialist III