

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2025, 4:00 PM

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 John Halliday; Anna Sanchez, Maria Iannone, and Mary Ann O’Neil

Absent: Sharon Foltz

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, Library Services Manager , Alina Rowe Library Services Manager; Linde Furman, Library Services Manager; Ken Zambos, Library Services Manager, Monique Perez, Library Services Manager; Renee Bibby Library Services Manager; Holly Schaefer, Community Relations Manager; Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator; 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 February 6, 2025, meeting minutes, Mary Ann O’Neil seconded, motion carried.

4. INTRODUCTION

None

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

John Halliday couldn’t attend the Online High School graduation, but he is pleased to see that the newsletter includes advertisement for grads to apply for jobs with the library.

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

Penny Moreno from Friends of the Library announced they delivered the requested \$65,000 donation and expect to contribute more. They’ll have a booth at the book festival, a **member-only sale** on March 22-23, and **community sales** on March 28-31.

At the **Home Show on March 29-30**, they’ll introduce a new **Harry Potter-themed fundraiser, Clue Arizona**, to support the library.

Pima Library Foundation Update:

Melinda Gee-McDaniel, Board Member of the Pima Library Foundation, reports that the foundation is on target to meet its commitment to funding **15 Career Online High School scholarships** and providing **25 mobile hotspots**. Additionally, the foundation remains committed to continuing its scholarship program. Thank you for your ongoing support of our libraries and their initiative!

7. New Business

A. Voting for a new Vice Chair

Rebecca Peralta, who served as vice chair, and Craig Klein both resigned from their positions, leaving two open spots on the board. As a result, Mariana Padia nominated John Halliday to fill the vice chair role. Mary Ann O'Neil seconded the nomination, and with no additional nominations, John was elected as vice chair and will serve until the next election in a few months.

B. Voting Centers in Libraries - Gabriella Cazares-Kelly, Pima County Recorder and Constance Hargrove, Election Director

Gabrielle Cazares-Kelly shared a PowerPoint on how significant a role the library played in facilitating voter access. She discussed the pivotal role of libraries in enhancing voter access. Gabrielle highlighted that libraries serve as accessible points for voter registration and assistance. Additionally, the Bookmobile Initiative was discussed, emphasizing its success in reaching underserved communities, with one stop serving twenty families in a single hour. Ms. Cázares-Kelly expressed gratitude to the Library Advisory Board, noting their shared commitment to records retention and research, and plans to attend future meetings.

Constance Hargrove provided a PowerPoint presentation that showed the significant impact libraries have on elections and highlighted how they help manage logistics, training, and voter turnout in ways that benefit the community and ensure smooth electoral processes. This collaboration has alleviated the need for costly external venues and enhanced community engagement.

C. Staffing Tools – Em DeMeester-Lane

Em DeMeester-Lane provided a PowerPoint presentation providing an update from the September 2024 meeting. In summary, Pima County Public Library is proactively refining staffing models and engaging with the community to enhance library services and address current challenges.

Next Steps:

- March 20th Manager Retreat
- PCN asks for Spring 2025
- Creativity with positions
- Data-driven decision making
- Strategic expansion of hours

8. Unfinished Business

A. Continued discussion regarding Downtown Library Continued discussion – Pima County Facilities Construction and Design & Library Administration

Amber Mathewson explained that

Pima County Public Library (PCPL) is actively addressing the evolving needs of its community through various renovation and expansion projects. These initiatives reflect PCPL's dedication to enhancing library services through thoughtful renovations and active community involvement.

Martyn Klell, Deputy Director, Project Design & Construction highlighted

- PCPL is actively seeking community input to inform decisions about the potential renovation or relocation of the Main Library. The process is designed to be transparent and inclusive, ensuring that the library continues to meet the evolving needs of Tucson's residents.

Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator, expressed that:

Pima County is exploring its library system's future by considering both renovating current facilities and relocating to new spaces. The Library Advisory Board is integral in guiding these decisions, ensuring that community input—gathered through public meetings and surveys—is central to the process. Ultimately, the county aims to follow a transparent, community-driven process that meets Tucson residents' evolving need.

- B. Continued discussion regarding Proposed FY2026 Budget – Amber Mathewson & Anthony Batchelder

Anthony Batchelder, Deputy Director, stated that in a recent discussion, there was mention that libraries serving populations like PCPL typically operate with budgets around \$75 million. However, this figure may not accurately represent the broader landscape of library funding for large populations.

Anthony explained that the Pima County Public Library's budgeting process is a comprehensive and collaborative effort, involving detailed planning, community engagement, and careful consideration of financial resources to effectively serve the county's diverse population.

9. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager, shared upcoming events and initiatives:

- Tucson Festival of Books
- Women's History Month
- Spring Break
- Author Spotlight

B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT:

Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director of Community Engagement, had no other updates.

C. PUBLIC SERVICES & REPORT

Em DeMeester-Lane, Deputy Director, introduced the new Library Services Manager, Monique Perez.

D. SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT

Anthony Batchelder, Deputy Director provided highlights on:
Staffing and Vacancies,

- There are 6 vacant positions.
- Creating adjustments to a job requirement and title to fill the Salazar- Ajo position
- Awaiting the approval of additional positions to alleviate current staffing constraints.

E. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Amber Mathewson, Library Director provided:

- The listed library closures were not due to staffing
- Her retirement date is June 7, 2025

10. ADJOURNMENT

John Haliday moved to adjourn meeting; Mary Ann O'Neil seconded. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 3, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Lopez, Administrative Services Manager