

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 7, 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: John Halliday, Vice-Chair, Mariana Padias, Chair, Mary Ann O'Neil, Anna Sanchez,
Scott Lukomsi and Cam Juárez

Absent: None

Also Present: Marissa Alcorta, Interim Director; Em DeMeester-Lane, Interim Director; Anthony Batchelder, Deputy Director; Vicki Lázaro, Library Services Manager; Alina Rowe, Library Services Manager; Renee Bibby, Library Services Manager; Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, Library Services Manager; Monique Perez, Library Services Manager; Linde Furman, Library Services Manager; Ken Zambos, Library Services Manager; Beth Matthias-Loghry, Library Services Manager; Kate DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Sharla Ronstadt, Library Services Manager; Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager, Roberto Lopez, 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 moved to approve June 5, 2025, meeting minutes, Anna Sanchez seconded, Mariana Padias abstained, motion carried.

4. INTRODUCTION

Around the room, introduction of new Library Advisory Board members, Scott Lukomski and Cam Juarez.

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

Scott Lukomski attended Mega Mania. He found it interesting, well attended and there was a wide range of people attending.

Mary Ann O'Neil visits the Martha Cooper Branch, and it is always busy and full all the time.

Anna Sanchez visited the Valencia and South Tucson branches, and they are busy all day long. John Halliday stated that the Oro Valley Library is the same, with over 1,000 children there.

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

Penny Moreno, **Friends of the Library:**

- Still have tickets for the Harry Potter dinner on August 29th.
- Budgeted \$230,000 for the library. It is less than last year due to building issues.
- Member sales will be on September 6 & 7, and the Community sales will be on September 12 -15.

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- The search for a new Friends of the Library director will be in September or October because the current director, Libby Stone will be leaving in December. They hope to have a new director in December.

Karen Williams, **Pima Library Foundation Update:**

- In June we sent the remaining portion for FY2025 to Library, which funded mobile hotspots.
- The budget was approved and includes a slight increase from last year
- Provided Career Online High School scholarships and hotspots to four (4) Library staff members at \$2000 each.
- Recognized the library staff, Holly, Renee, Beth, and Anthony. For their helpfulness and support this summer.

7. New Business:

A. **Pima County Public Library Social Service Needs Analysis Final Report – Beth Wahler, Consultant.**

- Consultant Beth Wahler reported rising patron challenges (homelessness, mental health) straining staff and causing burnout.
- Staff need clearer roles, crisis support, and centralized resources.
- Recommendation: create two positions — one for staff support/wellness, one for community partnerships/resources.
- Leverage university partnerships, peer support, and ongoing evaluation for sustainability.

B. **Review Programming and Staffing Data – Em DeMeester-Lane**

Deputy De-Meester-Lane's provided a PowerPoint and discussed

- Staffing model tools to determine branch programming helped understand branch priorities.
- FY2024-2025 Programming budget is approximately \$208,000.
- Staffing and programming systems are well-established, equitable, and transparent, with ongoing adjustments to ensure clarity, consistency, and fairness across all branches.

8. Unfinished Business –Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator

- A. **New Director** - Tess Mayer - attended the meeting, virtually. She is excited to move here.
- B. **Downtown Library Update** – Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator mentioned that they should close on the deal for the Wells Fargo building in September and spoke about a question on the parking garage.

Em DeMeester-Lane, Interim Library Director, and Christine Russell, Main Branch manager, attended a Neighborhood Association meeting to provide an update on the downtown library. Staff engaged residents to gather feedback on programming and design as part of early planning, including consultant selection. Facility logistics, such as parking and building management, are being coordinated with the county and existing tenants. These efforts advance community engagement and prepare the library for future operations.

9. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT - Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager, provided an update on:

- Back-to-school book lists for young learners on mental health.
- *Books Invited to the Cookout* celebrates Black authors, with media coverage.
- Librarian Perry Pyle honored Southside neighborhood collaboration.
- Resources and updates available on the library website and blog.
- A press release was issued with plans to coordinate media coverage of Tess, when she is officially onboard.

B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT - Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director of Community Engagement, Deputy Alcorta shared:

- Mega Mania event on July 19 celebrated community engagement with cosplay, authors, and activities for all ages.
- Staff, including Lindsay Curley, were recognized for their contributions; planning for next year is underway.

C. PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT - Em DeMeester-Lane, Deputy Director,

- Hiring Pages is leading a new training course for Page supervisors at the end of the month, marking a first for this initiative.
- Anthony's HR team acknowledged for their efforts in supporting hiring and staff placements.
- Training and HR support highlight ongoing professional development and workforce management initiatives.

D. SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT - Anthony Batchelder, Deputy Director, provided update on:

- Budget approved with full support, including a 3.6% pay increase.
- Rapid hiring and strategic placements underway; retention improving.
- Page positions start at \$16.50/hour, must be 18+, with future hires done per location.

E. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Marissa Alcorta, Interim Library Director highlighted:

- Two LSTA Grants were awarded
- Focus groups
- Community forums
- Rolled out the multilingual pay for staff

ADJOURNMENT

Cam Juarez moved to adjourn the meeting John Halliday seconded. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 4, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Lopez, Executive Assistant