

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 4, 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, Mary Ann O'Neil, Chair Anna Sanchez, and Cam Juárez

Absent: Mariana Padias, Vice Chair

Also Present: Em DeMeester-Lane, Interim Director; Anthony Batchelder, Deputy Director; Vicki Lázaro, 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; Paula Maez, Library Services Manager, Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager, Roberto Lopez, Community Engagement 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.** The Board paused to honor the passing of Scott Lukomski, a recent Library Advisory Board member and longtime supporter of the library through the Foundation and Friends. Scott was remembered as a dedicated volunteer, musician, and friend whose unexpected loss is deeply felt. Members expressed gratitude for his many contributions and extended heartfelt condolences to his family, who are finding comfort in the recent birth of a granddaughter. Supervisor Rex Scott's office is moving quickly to fill the board vacancy.

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Anna Sanchez moved to approve August 7, 2025, meeting minutes, John Halliday seconded, motion carried.

5. INTRODUCTION

Around the room introductions.

6. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

John Halliday mentioned that books from the Cupcake event were recently featured on PBS's *Arizona Illustrated*, where librarian Jessica Pryde gave an excellent interview highlighting the library's work. Board members were encouraged to watch the episode, which offered a thoughtful spotlight on the library's work.

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

Pi Polletta, **Pima Library Foundation Update:**

- Summer has been relatively quiet, though planning is underway for a **fall donor event**.

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- The Foundation looks forward to meeting with Tess and library staff soon to determine upcoming funding priorities, noting the short timeline for the next fiscal year.

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

- First weekend reopening after summer closure (no July/August sales due to lack of air conditioning in Brae building)
- Celebrating **Hispanic Heritage Month** with a themed book display.
- Member sales will be on September 6 & 7, and the Community sales will be on September 12 -15.

8. New Business:

A. **Catalina and Oro Valley Branch Updates – Kaitlyn Sparks and Christine Dykgraaf**

They provided an update on programs and services at both branches.

- Popular staff-led programs and expanding Spanish collections.
- High library usage, Oro Valley has the highest annual circulation in the system
- They also share staff and schedules to support services.
- Growth in the area is increasing demand for library services.

B. **Welcome Tess – Tess Mayer**

Attending staff meetings and planning site visits to learn about communities and operations. Seeking input on community events, expressed gratitude to staff leadership, and committed to continued engagement.

C. **Pima Early Education Program Scholarships – Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator:**

- Reviewed library budget needs and secondary tax rate, discussed draft reserve policy and emergency funding options, and highlighted long-term planning and capital/10-year budget review to support future community growth.
- Suggestion to review the capital budget and 10-year plan to ensure libraries are funded to meet future community demands.

9. Unfinished Business –

A. **Downtown Library Update - Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator**

- Purchase closed; design planning and public input process to begin.
- Community engagement needed for mural placement decisions.
- Detailed updates at the next meeting.

B. **Survey Results Update – Em DeMeester-Lane**

- Additional analysis of survey results will be completed by next week.
- Staff are available to address any questions in the meantime.

10. LIBRARY REPORTS

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

- Homework help resources are available online and in-person; after-school snacks are offered at 13 libraries. Teachers can request school visits.
- New Writer-in-Residence, Sarah Dub, is hosting consultations, workshops, and meetups. Her novel *Burden with Benefits* is being adapted into a Hallmark movie premiering Sept. 27, with a new book out early next year.

B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT - Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director of Community Engagement. Em DeMeester-Lane updated:

- Promotions: Paula Maez (Adult Services/Community Engagement) and Heather Ross (Youth Services).
- Paula has long library experience, a PhD in Library Science, and recent work at the university. Training and HR.
- Working on Intergovernmental Agreements related to the Wells Fargo project. A full update will be shared next month.

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

- Public Services held an all-day workshop at Wilmot Library to train 61 new page supervisors, including team building and supervisory development.
- Hiring response was strong, with nearly all page positions filled.
- Branches will soon benefit from added staff support and renewed energy.

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

- Recruitment efforts are nearly complete, with most vacancies filled. Current focus is on adding part-time staff where branches need support most, moving toward more strategic, branch-specific hiring to reduce strain and strengthen community services.

E. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Em DeMeester-Lane, Deputy Director

- No additional information.

ADJOURNMENT

John Halliday moved to adjourn the meeting, Anna Sanchez seconded. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 2, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Lopez, Executive Assistant