

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 2, 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, Mariana Padias, Vice-Chair, Mary Ann O'Neil, Chair and Anna Sanchez

Absent: Cam Juarez

Also Present: Tess Mayer, Library Director; Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director; Em DeMeester-Lane, Deputy Director; Anthony Batchelder, Deputy Director; Vicki Lázaro; Library Services Manager; Adriana Saavedra; Heather Ross, Library Services Manager; Kate DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Linde Furman, Library Services Manager; Beth Mathias-Loghry, Library Services Manager; Renee Bibby, Library Services Manager. Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, Library Services Manager; Paula Maez, Library Services Manager; Holly Schaffer, 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:** Sharon Foltz, former Library Advisory Board member, thanked staff for increasing Storytime and toddler programming at the downtown library and other branches, noting its popularity.

Bonnie Bazata, District 3 and Steve Holmes, Deputy County Administrator, presented Sharon Foltz with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of her thoughtful contributions, guidance to the library director, and meaningful impact on the community.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

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

4. INTRODUCTION

Around the room

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

Anna Sanchez attended Quincie Douglas' Twentieth anniversary. Lots of folks and good speakers, event was very well prepared.

Mary Ann O'Neil visited Martha Cooper Branch before Toddler Story time, it was very busy.

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:**

- Welcomed Tess to their September Meeting, planning a tour of the facilities.
- The first \$60,000 payment to the library has been sent.

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- The next Members-Only Book Sales are scheduled for October 4th & 5th, with Community Sales on October 10 – 13.

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

- Donor meet-and-greet in late October
- Hired a consultant, Janet Hansel, Grant St Consulting to strengthen collaboration on behalf of the library.
- Funding priorities for donor request needs to be identified soon.

7. New Business:

A. Open Meeting Law – Kyle Johnson, Pima County Attorney

Kyle Johnson stressed the importance of complying with Open Meeting Law, noting that violations can lead to public distrust, civil penalties, and personal liability. He emphasized transparency, proper ratification of mistakes, and using available resources from the Clerk of the Board.

B. Review Draft Establishment of Reserve's Policy – Library Administration

Director Mayer stated that the purpose of the discussion is to gather feedback to clarify the draft policy and address questions or concerns. The policy will ultimately require Board of Supervisors approval, so the discussion also aims to anticipate potential issues and interests before submission.

8. Unfinished Business –Tess Mayer, Library Director

A. Downtown Library Update – Tess Mayer

County staff now have possession of the keys. The project will take at least two years, with architect selection, design, and contracting as next steps. Staff and public input will guide planning, including safety and logistics, and a board tour will be scheduled once new members join.

9. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT – Renee Bibby, Library Services Manager, highlighted:

- **Murphy-Wilmot 60th Anniversary** – Saturday, Oct 18, 3–5 PM: arts & crafts, portable planetarium, movie ("Herbie"), live music by Hardscrabble Rd. Trio, trivia, and more. Open to all.
- **Pride Author Talk** – Saturday, Oct 25, 3–4:30 PM at Murphy-Wilmot Library: Tucson Poet Laureate TC Tolbert will host a poetry reading, interactive activities, and book signing. Online registration required; ASL interpreter available.
- **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** – Library staff member Jessica Pryde curated a blog with fiction and nonfiction book recommendations, featured on the library website.
- A profile of **TC Tolbert** in Arizona Illustrated.

B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT - Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director of Community Engagement, had no further updates.

C. PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT - Em DeMeester-Lane, Deputy Director, provided an update on Staffing:

- New Library Services Manager role filled (Linde Furman) for safety, trauma-informed care, and social services.

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- Adriana Saavedra joins the team from Central AZ College, to enhance community engagement and library services.

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

- Wheeler Taff Abbett renovation set for late November.
- Library staffing improved, vacancies now 10% (below county average).
- Reviewing part-time/substitute roles to fill gaps.

E. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Tess Mayer, Library Director

- Staff and HR improvements have doubled recent hiring and promotions, reducing vacancies to county standard levels.
- Leadership and managers played key roles in this progress.
- Director continues branch visits and meetings to understand operations and staff work.

ADJOURNMENT

John Halliday moved to adjourn the meeting; Anna Sanchez seconded. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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

Submitted by: Laura Lopez, Administrative Services Manager