

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 3, 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; John Halliday Vice-Chair; Anna Sanchez, Maria Iannone, Mary Ann O'Neil, and Sharon Foltz

Absent: N/A

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, 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 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: None

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

John Halliday moved to approve March 6, 2025, meeting minutes, Sharon Foltz seconded, motion carried.

4. INTRODUCTION

None

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

Mariana Padias toured the Arizona Collection, located in the Main Library. The tour helped her prepare for this meeting and to understand the collection.

John Halliday and his granddaughter visited the Oro Valley Library and attended the "Read to a Dog" program, he was impressed by how well it was organized and attended.

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 updates:

- **Member-only sales** on April 19 - 20, and **community sales** on April 25-28.
- Fundraising Event "Clue Arizona: **August 29, "Harry Potter-Themed Dinner"**.
- Volunteer Appreciation and Member Luncheon: April 5
- Executive Director, Libby Stone is retiring after 18 years.
- Contributed \$125,000 to the library.

Pima Library Foundation Update:

Pi Poletta, Development Director of the Pima Library Foundation, reports that

- A check was issued to support 15 **Career Online High School scholarships**.
- By the end of June, the Foundation will issue a check to cover the purchase of **25 mobile hotspots**.
- Donor Engagement event is on April 22, Amber Mathewson is keynote speaker

Sharon Foltz mentioned there is a **Community Volunteer Event:**

Southern Arizona Volunteer Management Association (SAVMA) Volunteer Fair

- Reid Park Zoo on April 24, with free zoo admission.
- Carousel rides, and opportunities to connect with over 70 local nonprofits.

This event is a great fit for library outreach if not already participating.

7. New Business:

A. PCPL Special Collections – Kate DeMeester Lane, Casey Short and Perri Pyle:

The discussion centered on plans to increase public access to the Arizona Collection, which currently has limited visibility and use due to its in-library-only access policy. The goal is to circulate parts of the collection more broadly while preserving fragile and unique items.

B. Staffing Update and Hours Planning – Em DeMeester-Lane highlighted:

- Managers reviewed branch staffing needs on March 20.
- Library has lost 66 full-time positions since FY19–20.
- Hiring is phased to manage workload and resources.
- Recent recruitments drew strong interest (e.g., 150 LTA applicants).
- 10 new positions requested this month, with more possible based on need.
- Approval of 16 positions could add ~28 weekly public service hours.
- Community forums (not surveys) will help guide future service hour expansions.
- Programs significantly boost public engagement, especially on Saturdays.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Downtown Library Discussion Continued – Pima County Project \$ Design & Library Team:

The focus is on making informed decisions, keeping the public and stakeholders engaged, and ensuring the staff has good working conditions during the transition. There is also a call for a roadmap for community engagement, including gathering feedback about services and usage of the space. They want to ensure transparency, collaboration, and community engagement throughout the process.

The library staff and Business leaders sent letters in support of the purchase.

The Library Advisory Board agreed to speak to their supervisor regarding purchasing the Wells Fargo building

B. Preliminary Survey Results - Amber Mathewson

- The online survey, conducted from January 31st to March 17th, had 7,561 respondents.
- data is incomplete as over 200 paper surveys still need to be entered.
- The results so far show a demographic imbalance, with nearly 91% of respondents identifying as white and a large majority (73%) being women.

- The age group with the most responses is 60 to 64 years old, and a high percentage (30%) of respondents earn over \$100,000 per year.

There is an emphasis on the importance of inclusive engagement and the need for more targeted outreach to ensure diverse community input. A full consultant report will be shared once the paper surveys are processed, and the next steps will include further community engagement.

9. LIBRARY REPORTS

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

- The third round of Desert Streams – artist submissions through April 30th.
- Blog Series with artist Playlists – Artists create playlist featuring other artists.
- Collaboration with the Health Department – Blog series with topics like brain awareness, universal health coverage and heart disease
- Autism Awareness Blog – written by a team member sharing her personal journey
- Event Participation – NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health) will participate in Saturday's Walk.

B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT - Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director, of Community Engagement provided an update on:

- Community event – On Sunday, 4/12, in partnership with Galeria Mitotera, the Health Department and other community members. There will be special programming and book giveaways at library branches throughout April.
- The team visited Arivaca and Ajo libraries – conducted interviews for open positions.
- The library system is working on refining staffing hours for both permanent and intermittent staff.

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

- The team conducted site visits to the Arivaca and Ajo libraries, where they engaged with local staff.
- At the Salazar Ajo branch, we held interviews, leading to the successful hiring of an Administrative Services Manager I for Ajo.
- Fostered stronger connections with branch teams.
- Simultaneously, system-wide staffing adjustments are underway, focusing on refining schedules and budgets for both permanent and intermittent employees. A key part of this process involves collaboration with page supervisors to ensure staffing resources are distributed efficiently and appropriately across all library branches.

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

- Staff visited the Mission Library noting impressive progress
- Valencia Library will close briefly on Saturday, 4/7 – 4/28
- Kirk-Bear Canyon Library will close on 4/28 to prepare for a large-scale repair and renovation

E. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Amber Mathewson, Library Director's update on: The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) staff have been placed on 90-day administrative leave and issued termination notices. While this development will have

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minimal impact on Pima County—thanks to its primary funding from district taxes—it may significantly affect smaller Arizona counties that rely heavily on state and federal funding. Shared services, such as the statewide database package, could also be at risk. Additional details are expected following an upcoming county librarian meeting. The *5 Calls* app was mentioned as a tool for those interested in monitoring and engaging with related legislative developments.

ADJOURNMENT

Sharon Foltz moved to adjourn the meeting; Anna Sanchez seconded. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 1, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Lopez, Administrative Services Manager