

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2026, 4:12 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, Cam Juárez, Mary Ann O’Neil, Chair, Patrick Andrews, Katherine Thomson, Anna Sanchez, Mariana Padias, Vice Chair, and Frances Benavidez

Absent: None

Also Present: Tess Mayer, Library Director; Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director; Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, Library Services Manager; Adriana Saavedra, Library Services Manager; Ken Zambos, Library Services Manager; Renee Bibby, Library Services Manager; Kate DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager; Devin Robles, Applications Systems 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

Cam Juárez moved to approve February 5, 2026, meeting minutes, John Halliday seconded, motion carried.

4. INTRODUCTION: Around the room introductions.

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

Cam Juárez stated staff visibility in the community remained strong through multiple engagement events and outreach activities, with appreciation noted. He attended the final session of District 5, Supervisor Cano’s “Love of Lectura” session.

Anna Sanchez, visited the South Tucson Library and observed high public use, strong demand for computer access, and a positive energy surrounding the branch’s new manager.

Mariana Padias, Board member shared positive takeaways from the Tucson Festival of Books, highlighting the Learn Tent session and the well-attended discussion featuring Aladdin Raya and Luis Alberto Urrea, and noting strong community enthusiasm with books selling out quickly; she also commended staff for securing high-profile speakers.

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

Karen Williams, President, Pima Foundation:

Shared positive reflections on the Library’s presence at the Tucson Festival of Books, noting strong community engagement through book giveaways, a raffle, and high visitor interest in the booth. She also highlighted collaboration with the Friends of the Library and noted they are

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beginning a larger strategic planning process focused on strengthening future fundraising efforts for library support.

Penny Moreno, President, Friends of the Pima County Public Library

- Updated on Friends of the Library luncheon, including Tess's first speaking role as Library Director and an expected \$58K donation.
- Shared dates for upcoming book sales and noted appreciation for a large book delivery that is ready for processing.

New Business:

A. Pima Early Education Program (PEEP) – Nicole Scott, Program Manager, Pima County Community and Workforce Development Department provided a presentation on early childhood education advocacy, including regional collaboration, a \$19 million state childcare funding win, ongoing Supercharge PEEPS funding strategies, and county efforts to expand employee childcare support through a proposed stipend, expanded eligibility, and a navigation tool.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Downtown Library Update – Library Administration

Tess Mayer, Library Director, reported that the County has contracted with a firm, Line and Space, and is preparing a kickoff meeting to establish the project timeline and begin planning, with strong staff and community interest and upcoming engagement opportunities.

She also noted that the RFP process for selecting a construction firm is underway and nearing completion, with coordination and historic preservation considerations included in the selection process.

Director Mayer further suggested aligning the Library Advisory Board retreat with the new library project or strategic planning to support meaningful feedback and engagement.

8. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT - Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager, shared updates on current arts and cultural programming, including a call for artists, staff and student art exhibits, and Arab American Heritage Month highlights such as a featured book list and local artist interview.

B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT - Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director of Community Engagement, acknowledged the departure of Kate DeMeester Lane and expressed appreciation for her leadership, support of intellectual freedom, and significant contributions across collections, technical services, delivery, staff, and the broader community.

C. PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, Library Services Manager with additional duties assigned, provided updates on the tentative April 20, 2026, opening of the Richard Elías Mission Library, progress on the internal intranet transition, and ongoing branch safety and security assessments, with a fuller report to follow at a future meeting.

D. SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT – Isai Centeno, Deputy Library Director, Finance and Administration, shared an update on budget reporting improvements, including development of a simplified monthly financial snapshot to provide clearer visibility into budget, forecast, and actuals and strengthen ongoing financial oversight.

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

Shared positive reflections on the Tucson Festival of Books, highlighting strong staff effort, high community engagement, and well-attended programming, as well as support from partners and the Pima Library Foundation.

Director Mayer also reported attending the Public Library Association conference to explore emerging technologies and trends that will help inform future RFID and materials handling improvements at PCPL.

Deputy Alcorta shared plans for a community program Día de la Niñez/Día de los Libros (Children's Day/Book Day) at the Children's Peace Garden featuring story time and book giveaways, with plans to expand similar events in future years.

Director Mayer also distributed copies of the annual report and recognized staff contributions to its production.

ADJOURNMENT

Anna Sanchez moved to adjourn the meeting; Cam Juárez seconded. Mariana Padias abstained. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 7, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Lopez, Assistant to Library Director