

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2026, 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, Cam Juárez, Mary Ann O’Neil, Chair, Anna Sanchez, Patrick Andrews, Frances Benavidez and Katherine Thomson

Absent: Mariana Padias, Vice Chair

Also Present: Tess Mayer, Library Director; Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director; Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, Library Services Manager; Isai Centeno, Deputy Library Director; Vicki Lázaro; Library Services Manager; Heather Ross, Library Services Manager, Ken Zambos, Library Services Manager, Alina Rowe, Library Services Manager, Paula Maez, Library Services Manager, Renee Bibby, Library Services Manager; Tara Foxx-Lupo, Branch Manager; Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager; Devin Robles, Applications Systems Administrator

1. CALL TO ORDER: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

2. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: Judi Moreillon commented on secondary tax revenue being used for the PEEPS (Pima Early Education Program Scholarships) program; Sharon Foltz commented on the importance of increasing activities around literacy.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES
Anna Sanchez moved to approve April 2, 2026, meeting minutes, Cam Juárez seconded, motion carried.

4. INTRODUCTION: None

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS
Mary Ann O’Neil visited Richard Elías Mission Branch Library, it looked lovely with everything appearing shiny and new. Is excited about upcoming opening and dedication ceremony.

John Halliday shared positive feedback after visiting the newly reopened Richard Elías Mission Branch Library, noting that the branch feels open and welcoming and includes strong security features.

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

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

- Thanked the Library for promoting their recent sale on their website, noting increased attendance.
- Mailed donation check to Director Mayer.
- Member sales, May 16 -17 and community sales May 22 - 25.

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Pi Poletta, Director of Philanthropy, Pima Library Foundation, shared fundraising updates and highlighted a donation from an author who expressed gratitude after discovering his book in the library's collection and receiving a photo of it on the shelf from library staff.

7. New Business:

A. Martha Cooper Branch Library Update – Tara Foxx-Lupo, Branch Manager

shared a Power Point and she stated that the Branch is heavily used by neighborhood youth who often walk or scooter to the library, which also serves as an important community gathering and green space. Updates highlighted strong outreach efforts with nearby schools and community events, growing use by residents in surrounding transitional and group housing, high demand for study rooms, and ongoing evaluation of collection space to better meet community needs.

B. Branch Security Updates – Linde Furman, Library Services Manager shared a Power Point showing:

- Library system is using incident data to guide ongoing security and staffing decisions.
- Safety investments have increased since 2022.
- Early results show fewer incidents and better staff support.
- Security coverage is expanding, including new off-duty police presence at South Tucson branches.
- Board members discussed the nuances of police presence in public libraries.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Downtown Library Update – Tess Mayer, Library Director, commented that the Library renovation project has begun with kickoff meetings involving architects and county partners. Planning includes phased construction, scheduling, and coordination between design and construction teams. Staff/community engagement will occur in upcoming months. The condition of the new site will be assessed in the early stages of the project.

9. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT - Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager, shared several library programs and events:

- New writer-in-residence Jennifer J. Stewart begins May 21 and will run workshops through July.
- Library is holding a hygiene drive for Period Poverty Awareness Month through the end of May.
- Teens are leading a content “takeover” for Bright Futures communications.
- A public watercolor workshop is being offered at the Main Library.

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

- Cooling space program launched with health department support and runs through September.
- All branches (except Emmel) are participating with supplies and staff coordination in place.
- Libraries continue serving as heat relief centers with expanded resources and a stronger public health partnership.
- Summer Reading Program begins June 2 for all age groups with community-wide activities and outreach.

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C. PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT – Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, Library Services Manager with additional duties assigned provided the following updates:

- Richard Elías Mission Branch Library had a strong soft opening with high attendance, including many families and children.
- Community response was very positive, with notable enthusiasm from visitors at opening.
- A formal celebration honoring Richard Elías is planned for June 6 in coordination with the Elías family.

John Halliday asked about the new book vendor that replaced Baker and Taylor?

Marissa stated that the new vendor transition to Ingram Library Services is going well, with ongoing efforts to improve efficiency, streamline processing, and explore service enhancements like Lucky Day titles based on feedback.

D. SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT – Isai Centeno, Deputy Library Director of Finance/Administration provided a streamlined monthly budget report showing key spending categories (personnel, supplies, capital) and revenue, with projections compared to actuals for ongoing tracking and feedback. The report is supported for continued use, with finance staff explaining how estimates are calculated and refined through regular coordination and review. Revenue includes donations and parking lot income from Wells Fargo, which is balanced by required maintenance and infrastructure costs.

E. LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Tess Mayer, Library Director commented that the Strategic planning and facilities planning are being developed together to guide future direction. The system is rebuilding core services and preparing for community growth needs. Emphasis is on clearer budgeting, staffing investment, and long-term operational planning.

ADJOURNMENT

Anna Sanchez moved to adjourn the meeting; John Halliday seconded. Motion carried; meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Next Meeting: June 4, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Lopez, Assistant to Library Director