

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 4, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

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: Mary Ann O’Neil, Chair; Maria Iannone, Vice-Chair; John Halliday;
Mariana Padias and Sharon Foltz

Absent: Rebecca Peralta, Elizabeth Sotelo, Craig Kleine

Also Present: Amber Mathewson, Library Director; Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director; Karyn
Prechtel-Altman, Deputy Director; Jessica Thornburg, Deputy Director; Kate
DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Beth Matthias-Loghry, Library
Services Manager; Sharla Ronstadt, Library Services Manager; and Em
DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager

Guests: Pima County Safety and Security Manager - John Stuckey; Deputy County
Administrator - Dr. Francisco García, M.D., M.P.H.

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Mary Ann O’Neil and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mary Ann O’Neil read PCPL’s Land Acknowledgement Statement.

2. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public spoke.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING’S MINUTES

John Halliday moved, and Maria Iannone seconded approval of the March 7, 2024, minutes. Motion carried.

4. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made around the room.

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

- There were no updates.

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

Director Mathewson shared that the Pima Library Foundation Executive Director, Tom Cashman, resigned from the Foundation.

The Foundation donated \$5,000 to support the Nuestras Raíces tent at the Festival of Books this year.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Library Board Retreat— Director Mathewson shared that Deputy County Administrator, Dr. Francisco Garcia will attend the retreat, being held at Main Library, Tortolita Room. Topics of the day will include:

- State of the Library
- Futures Planning
- Advocacy
- Board, Friends and Foundation groups share-out

B. Discuss nomination for Library Advisory Board Chair and Vice-Chair

- Mary Ann nominated Maria Iannone as Chair.
- Asked if other members were interested in the Vice Chair role – none identified at this time.
- Voting to take place at the June meeting.

C. Discuss Library Advisory Board Members’ planned summer absences (if any) and Future Meetings

- Mary Ann will be unavailable in August.
- May board meeting will also be set aside for Board Retreat on May 4, 2024.

It was moved and seconded cancel May and July Board meetings.
Motion carried.

8. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager and Renee Bibby, Library Services Manager, shared the following highlights in addition to the written report:

- Launched Electric Library at Oro Valley Library
- Jazzy graphics up in April
- Heavy metal librarian, Charlie wrote a blog post on books that ended up as Oscar nominated movies.
- Plaza Mobile Market is going strong, they are at the Valencia Branch every week.

A question came up about signage in libraries and how families find out about special programs and services. Holly explained how promotional materials for services like Cultural Pass bookmarks help to spread the word.

Director Mathewson added that when new customers apply for library cards, the library staff explain what the library offers.

Holly mentioned that a patron who worked with the Writer in Residence had her book published.

B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Karyn Prechtel-Altman, Deputy Director of Community Engagement highlighted or added to her written report:

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- Attendance at Tucson Festival of Books - Library Programs were standing room only, every year attendance gets better.
- Summer Learning program provides free books to kids, they can take them home, however because of budget constrain fewer books will be given out this summer.
- Summer learning theme is The Adventure Begins!
- Partnership with Pima Animal Care Center and Pima County Communications to reach the Spanish speaking community is going well – there have been three events to promote partnership at Valencia, Mission and upcoming at Quincie Douglas; bringing awareness of PACC resources and to give away pet food, collars, beds, toys, name tags, and of course hot dogs courtesy of El Guero Canelo.

Sharon Foltz asked where the funding for the PACC outreach comes from. Deputy Prechtel-Altman explained that Communications Office received a grant to be used for marketing, El Guero Canelo is donating the hot dogs and donations from others, so there is no cost to the library.

John Halliday asked about the summer programs change that was mentioned in previous communications. Deputy Prechtel-Altman stated the library is revamping programs for 2025. Deputy Prechtel-Altman stated that we need to do something different, as we are not reaching families who don't already know about the library. Sharon Foltz stated that there she has found families in her neighborhood are not aware of library resources. Deputy Prechtel Altman said it's always a challenge, library keeps trying new things, such as billboards, bus benches and advertising on radio.

Sharon Foltz mentioned that many people are unaware of Libby and electronic resources. She suggested having the local basketball teams speak about the library at games. John Halliday recognized the increase in programs, and asked if the library is doing something different. Director Mathewson stated there are a greater number of programs happening. Deputy Prechtel-Altman stated that Literacy Connects, an English language program, is very successful and could be increasing attendance and library card signups.

C. PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT

Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director of Public Services/Customer Experience, highlighted and/or added to her written report.

- No additions to the written report as Deputy Director Alcorta was absent.

D. FINANCE AND FACILITIES REPORT

Jessica Thornburg, Deputy Director of Finance and Facilities:

Deputy Director Thornburg reported on recent and upcoming library closures.

- Santa Rosa closed due to a fire that happened on 3/27/24, no firm opening date at this time.
- Wheeler Taft Abbott library will be closed on April 26 for internal work.
- Miller Golf Links Library is closed April 1 – 19th for staff area construction.
- Martha Cooper will re-open mid-July after a remodel – has been closed for a year.
- Richard Elias – Mission Library closed on March 8th and will reopen July 2025.
- Meetings with the public regarding preliminary drawings from the architect regarding Himmel Branch have begun. The first public meeting is scheduled for Saturday April 6th at the Ward 6 office.

E. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Amber Mathewson, Library Director, highlighted and/or added to her written report.

Director Mathewson shared difficulties that have come about at the Oro Valley Library around petition passers and/or protestors, and the area in which they are allowed to utilize outside of the library building. The Pima County Attorney's Office and the Town of Oro Valley Legal representatives will meet to discuss options.

Director Mathewson shared information on emails that have been received and appear to be coming from individuals connected with a national movement to remove LGBTQ+ materials from public libraries. Some of the emails have been sent directly to the Library Advisory Board.

Director Mathewson introduced Deputy County Administrator, Francisco García. Dr. García talked about the support that County Administration has for the work that the library does and the importance of access to materials.

County Safety and Security Manager, John Stuckey also talked about his knowledge of events at libraries and received emails. He shared his expertise and how he supports the library in working through difficult situations.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the attention given to these issues and for the attendance of both Dr. García and Mr. Stuckey at the Library Advisory Board meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

John Halliday moved, and Sharon Foltz seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Next Meeting June 6, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Laura Lopez

Assistant to the Library Director