

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 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, Rebecca Peralta,
Sharon Foltz, John Halliday, Craig Klein and Mariana Padias

Absent: Elizabeth Soltero

Also Present: Amber Mathewson, Library Director; Marissa Alcorta; Holly Schaffer,
Community Relations Manager; Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, Library Services
Manager; Alina Rowe, Library Services Manager; Ken Zambos, Library
Services Manager; Kate DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Em
DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Laura Lopez, Administrative
Assistant.

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:0-42 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

Maria Iannone moved, and Rebecca Peralta seconded approval of the April 4, 2024, minutes. Motion carried.

4. INTRODUCTIONS

No introductions.

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

- Sharon Foltz – inquired if the Books Behind Bars was a program of PCPL.
- Mary Ann O’Neil – The Board Retreat was fun and productive, lots of work went into preparing for it.
- John Halliday – The Library Culture Pass program through ACT I is easy to use and is a money saver for families.

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 is searching for a new Executive Director.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Library Board members planned summer absences

- Mary Ann will be unavailable in August.

B. Library Advisory Board Members discuss and vote to cancel summer meetings

- Library Board made a motion to cancel July's board meeting
- Motion carried.

C. Nomination for Library Advisory Board Chair and Vice-Chair

- Mary Ann O'Neil nominated Mariana Padias as Chair and Rebecca Peralta as Vice-Chair. Sharon Foltz moved, John Halliday seconded, approval of new Chair and Vice-Chair, motion carried nominations approved.

8. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager, shared the following highlights in addition to the written report:

- Summer Learning Program underway
- New web page designed
- Library Staff Member Sara T. Dubbs will launch her new book on Saturday, June 22 from 3-4:30pm at the Woods Memorial Library – for her book Birding with Benefits.
- Matthew Landon won the Library Journal's Mover and Shaker Award in the Community Builders category <https://www.library.pima.gov/news/librarian-and-stigma-buster-earns-top-award/>
- Last year the Library agreed to work with the Health Department as a cooling center partner and will do so again this year. 23 of the 27 libraries are official cooling center sites.
- Cooling Centers will provide refillable water bottles, hand sanitizer and sunscreen as supplies are available.

B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Director Mathewson, stated that:

- Karyn Prechtel—Altman, Deputy Director, received a nice retirement send off.
- The Board of Supervisors presented her with a retirement award as well as a beautiful tile with the dome honoring her 33 years of service. Karyn's family attended as well.
- Breakfast was held for staff to commemorate her time as well.
- The library will post for the deputy director position left vacant by Karyn after July 1st.

C. PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT

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

- Currently interviewing for Librarian 1
- LTA positions are next for interviewing

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- Library Workers Day was celebrated in April during National Libraries Week. Administrators delivered cakes to all the branches. This is the second year the Library Administration honored staff in this way.
- The library experienced 2 fires, one at Santa Rose, a patron's device as left plugged overnight and caught fire. There was damage to shelving furniture, carpet and books, no staff or customers were hurt. The branch reopened after a 2 month closure.
- The second fire occurred on May 22 at El Rio Branch, a bad light fixture caught fire but within one hour it was cleaned up and the branch re-opened the following day.
- Deputy Alcorta is helping with retired Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman's duties until a replacement is hired.
- June is book give away month for youth participating in Summer Learning, please let everyone know.
- Deputy Director Prechtel and Deputy Director Alcorta were working with the Health Department on the Vaccine Equity Team. There is a mobile Health unit using libraries, setting up in the conference rooms. There is also another Health unit providing testing, this is a great partnership.
- Deputy Alcorta is joining the Literacy Connects board, she is excited to join.

Sharon Foltz asked if after the fire, is staff double checking so nothing is left on? Deputy Alcorta stated that they are. Mary Ann O'Neil asked if sprinklers and alarms went off, Deputy Alcorta stated only the alarms went off.

D. FINANCE AND FACILITIES REPORT

Jessica Thornburg, Deputy Director of Finance and Facilities:

- Director Mathewson stated a change from the written report. The completion of the Martha Cooper Branch Library has been pushed to August and planned to re-open the branch in early September.
- Director Mathewson drove by the Martha Cooper Library and the branch looks fabulous!

E. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

The library has aggressive plans to hire for HR, Accounting, Deputy Director, Collection Development, and Library Associate positions.

There was another complaint about the magnets in branches. Strong magnets can affect a few medical devices if they are closer than 6 inches. Mary Ann O'Neil asked if there are specific branches with this issue. Director Mathewson responded that it has come up at Wilmot, Main and Valencia. The Director of the Health Department provided a memo that explains that the magnets in our public spaces are incidental and should not cause harm. The County Attorney's office weighed in on this as well and indicated that we have not been in violation of any ADA compliance.

Director Matheson also stated there is a complaint about not highlighting Jewish History Month. The library did have a Jewish History Month blog post, online book lists and a social media post celebrating the month. Several branches did have displays, however not the branch from which the complaint originated.

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There was also one DVD complaint stating inappropriate content in the series The Great, which is about Catherine the Great, this was not a formal request for consideration.

Director Mathewson reported working Saturdays to get reacquainted with staff, to get a feel for how Saturdays are going at branches, and to help provide coverage. She has enjoyed these visits and to date has worked at Arivaca, Oro Valley, Flowing Wells, Valencia, Golf Links and Bear Canyon.

9. ADJOURNMENT

John Halliday moved, and Sharon Foltz seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Next Meeting August 1, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by:
Laura Lopez
Assistant to the Library Director