

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 1, 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: Chair; Mariana Padias, Vice-Chair, Rebecca Peralta, Sharon Foltz, John Halliday, Craig Klein, Maria Iannone and Elizabeth Soltero

Absent: Mary Ann O'Neil

Also Present: Amber Mathewson, Library Director; Jessica Thornburg, Deputy Director; Renee Bibby, Library Services Manager; Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager; Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, Library Services Manager; Ken Zambos, Library Services Manager; Vickie Lázaro, 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 4:00 p.m. by Chair, Mariana Padias and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mariana Padias 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 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

- John Halliday – Mega Mania was great! Packed with all ages, lots of games and great costumes. It was just tremendous!
- Rebecca Peralta – Went to the Plaza Mobile Market at Valencia. Everything was sold out except verdolagas (Perslane). Organizers ask to “Thank” the library. Rebecca also has been using Desert Streams. “It is a great resource, and I really enjoyed it.”
- Elizabeth Soltero notified members of her departure from the Board. She hopes a new member is chosen soon.

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 hired a new Development Director, Pi Polletta. She worked in the past for Gabriel's Angels. Director Mathewson knows her from Literacy Connects.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Library Advisory Board survey

- Amber met with Mariana Padias and Rebecca Peralta to discuss the survey, to find out what the Board members' skills are, what expertise they might have. Laura and Director Mathewson will work on a survey and send it out in the next week or so. Director Mathewson asked for any ideas for the survey.
- Sharon Folz asked what are the individuals' community connections.
- Mariana Padias – What skill set does the library need help with what resources. How can the Library Advisory Board help?

8. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

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

- Desert Steams is live with 20 plus artists, multiple genres.
- Mega Mania was very well attended. Approximately 800 people attended.
- New library card design contest. Accepting submission through August 14. Holly issued a press release.
- Visted Arivaca library, interviewed teens. Jasmine, one of the teens, designs all their book nooks to spruce up the shelves. She uses found materials. Jasmine creates wonderful little scenes.

B. PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT

Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director of Public Services/Customer Experience was absent. Director Mathewson responded to questions in this report. Lots of staff are present as well to respond.

- Sharon Foltz asked why there is a huge variation between libraries and the activities they have available for the public at each location.
- Director Mathewson responded that all libraries have different amounts of staff and resources for programming. Staff have put together a staffing tool that allows Library managers to put in the number of staff, number of staff we expect to be out sick, the number of hours it takes to produce a program. This will help managers make decisions on staffing.
- Craig Kleine asked why the library was not at the Pima County job for with all our job openings? Amber responded that we receive ample response when positions are posted.

C. FINANCE AND FACILITIES REPORT

Jessica Thornburg, Deputy Director of Finance and Facilities:

- It's been a summer of transition for the Finance and Facility team.
- The County went through a transition for both Finance and Facilities systems. There was a blackout period from the end of June to mid-July, which was very challenging for the team. The team is currently hiring and onboarding and working through a new financial system due to the loss of an accounting specialist, hiring a new administrative specialist and the retirement of one of the Facilities specialists.
- The team is taking time to improve the processes and create efficiencies in our Finance and Facilities.
- Working with central County teams like procurement, finance and facilities to better understand their expectations of Library.
- Visiting all the branches to better understand their facility's needs.
- Working with John Stuckey, Facility Safety & Security Manager, to make branches safer, adding mirrors and cameras.
- Martha Cooper Branch opening has been delayed further, will open closer to mid-September.

D. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- When pandemic ended, we had 80 vacancies, we are down to about 43 and we have two recruitments going, looking to hire 15 Librarians and 13 Library Technical Assistants. This will bring down our vacancies. Previously had 400 FTE staff but now we are down to 343 FTE, which includes the current vacancies, this is a significant number. Dr. Garcia asked the Leadership team, over a year ago, to work on Future Planning.
- Director Mathewson explained that the Main Library will close for either renovations or relocation. Main Library building needs a lot of work. The elevators need to be replaced, the outside marble has been falling for at least 12 years, which is very dangerous. Estimated costs for renovation have been estimated at \$90 Million to fix everything. After decisions have been made, the library may not be in this exact spot but there will always be a downtown library. It is possible that a multipurpose facility would be considered. All options have yet to be explored. A report on the status of Main Library will be coming soon.
- Craig asked that updates on the Main Library be given at each monthly board meeting going forward.

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: September 5, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Lopez, Assistant to the Library Director