

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 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, Elizabeth Soltero, and Mary Ann O’Neil

Absent: Maria Iannone

Also Present: Amber Mathewson, Library Director; Jessica Thornburg, Deputy Director; Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director; Renee Bibby, Library Services Manager; Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager; Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, Library Services Manager; Ken Zambos, Library Services Manager; Vicki Lázaro, Library Services Manager; Em DeMeester-Lane, Library Services Manager; Sharla Ronstadt, Library Services Manager; Alina Rowe, Library Services Manager, Margot Natividad, Technical Services Manager; Devin Robles, Applications Systems Administrator; 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

- Logan Phillips – Supports keeping Santa Rosa and Main Libraries open
- Jo Riestler – Against closing libraries. Questioned Budget, Facilities and Safety. Doesn’t understand the recommendation to close the most visited library facility. COVID is no longer an excuse for reduced hours. Please restore Saturday, Sunday and evening hours.
- Marly May Webster - Supports keeping libraries open.
- Susan Anderson -Supports keeping El Pueblo open.
- Carlos Doniz – Closing libraries and opening new won’t help the communities of closed libraries. Not the right choice to make.
- Rachel Shoop – Need changes on hiring qualifications for Librarians.
- Amanda Castillo – Do not make rash decisions. Take time to listen to the Community.
- Margot Natividad – Explained some of the content in the draft plan, the staffing issues, the building needs, where the funding for new branches came from. As a staff member and community member approves of the plan.
- Carl Furtle – Crisis management – Learn what the Librarians need to be productive and stay safe.
- Kristin Tovar – Think creatively to solve the problem without closing libraries. Consideration of the Community should be paramount.
- Tom Farmer – More time is needed to get community input.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Sharon Foltz questioned agenda items 7A and 7B, why are they in the August minutes? Stated that Libraries of future document was not presented at August meeting. Staff explained the agenda items not part of the August minutes, but the next pages of the packet.

Rebecca Peralta, Vice Chair, moved, and Craig Klein seconded, motion to approve the August 1, 2024, minutes passed 7-1 with Sharon Foltz, opposing.

4. INTRODUCTIONS

No introductions.

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

None

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

- Karen Williams, new President of the Pima Library Foundation introduced Pi Polletta, the new Director of Finance for the Library Foundation. Ms. Williams stated they gave \$25,000 to the Pima County Public Library of which \$20,000 was for the wellbeing and resilience of staff, ensuring the need to heal and thrive in the working environment. The other \$5000 went to sponsor the Library venue at the Tucson Festival of Books.
- Penny Moreno, new President of the Board of the Friends of the Pima County Library. She commented on the Members sales happening on Saturday and Sunday. The Friends of the Library donated \$260,000 to the library last year and hope to at least donate that much this year.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of County Administration Libraries of the Future Memo and accompanying draft plan.

- Amber and her team provided a power point regarding the Libraries of the Future. The Team provided an overview of what the future planning is, provide insight and answered questions.
- Renee Bibby, Library Services Manager, highlighted Learning and Stories
- Kate De-Meester-Lane, Library Services Manager, Collections & Technology – Highlighted the quickly growing digital circulation and the decline of physical use of the branches.
- Marissa Alcorta, Deputy Director of Public Services – Highlighted Community needs, resources close by to branches, staffing and ongoing facilities and maintenance costs and security and safety for all.
- Paulina Aguirre-Clinch, Library Services Manager, explained how the Community Engagement Hub will provide services to the community.
- Alina Rowe, Library Services Manager – Highlighted the partnerships with local organizations and coalitions and what they accomplish. Catalina, El Pueblo and Santa Rosa branches run programs in nearby community centers. She talked about all the Library provides and will continue to provide.

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- Em De-Meester-Lane, Library Services Manager – Explained how they analyze staffing, using a staffing tool that helped them understand the workflow and how much the Library is understaffed.
- Director Mathewson asked the Library Advisory Board member to please read the draft plan, it is long but tells the story. She asked the members to ask our staff first, if they have questions. Advocate for change and tell us what they are hearing.

Chair Padias opened it up to the Board for discussion. A summary of the discussion:

- Draft plan went out too early.
- Ask for input. Let Community decide what they want.
- Put the information out through public media, radio, interviews, TV and paper.
- Explain the budget.
- Explain if the New Downtown Library and Administration would move into a rented space or County owned property?
- Regarding closures. Don't make promises we can't keep.
- Asked for more concreteness of what the community can expect. A timeline of the changes.
- Board should be careful what they say out in the community.

8. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded to move the remaining agenda items to the October meeting and adjournment of the meeting. The motion passed 7-1.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Next Meeting: October 3, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Laura Lopez, Assistant to the Library Director