

PIMA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2021 4:00 p.m.

Meeting conducted virtually via Microsoft Teams

Present: Nancy Puckett, Chair; Nubia Valentino, Vice-Chair; Beverly J. Bannon; Edward Buster; Barbara A. Escobar; John Halliday; Maria Iannone; Cheryl Langer; Betsy Shepard; and Elizabeth Soltero

Absent: None

Also Present: Amber Mathewson, Library Director; Karyn Prechtel-Altman, Deputy Director; Michelle Simon, Deputy Director; Kate DeMeester, Library Services Manager; Beth Matthias-Loghry, Library Services Manager; Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager; and Ken Zambos, Workforce and Economic Development Program Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Nancy Puckett and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No members of the public were in attendance.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING’S MINUTES

Barbara A. Escobar moved and Cheryl Langer seconded approval of the December 3, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

4. INTRODUCTIONS

There were no introductions.

5. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS BY LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

Board members updated on what library related activities they have been doing since the last meeting. Some of the responses included:

- Nancy Puckett continues to work with the Pima Library Foundation in their efforts to generate funding for performance space at the Sahuarita Library. She also recently attended a virtual Friends of the Green Valley Annual Meeting.
- Elizabeth Soltero virtually checked in with Heather Ross, Himmel Park Library Manager. She is scheduled to meet with Alina Rowe, Richard Elías-Mission Library Manager.
- Edward Buster recently attended the Annual Meeting and January meeting of the Friends of the Gibson-Esmond Station Library. Newly appointed Branch Manager Mary McKinney attended. New officers were appointed. To date, they have received over 500 book donations. Anne Gibson wrote an article in The Vail Voice that featured the new Manager, Mary McKinney: <https://www.thevailvoice.com/potpourri-librarian-mckinney-serving-esmond-station/>

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

Nancy Puckett informed that in addition to working on funding for the performance center, the Pima Library Foundation has been reaching out to work with La Posada Senior Living center.

7. LIBRARY REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY RELATIONS REPORT

Holly Schaffer, Community Relations Manager, highlighted and/or added to her written report:

- Beginning February 4, 2021, PCPL has a new Writer in Residence, Gregory McNamee. He will be part of an upcoming Pima Library Foundation Author Salon. <https://www.library.pima.gov/news/meet-our-newest-writer-in-residence/>
- In 2020, PCPL had more than 1,000,000 e-Books and audiobooks checked out.
- February is Black History month, and PCPL has added a lot of content on the Kindred page: <https://www.library.pima.gov/kindred/>.
- The 2021 Southwest Books of the Year list is now available digitally, and will be available by print soon. <https://www.library.pima.gov/news/a-new-year-a-new-southwest-books-of-the-year/>

B. LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

From December 21st—January 10th, Pima County was under a Stay at Home order, and Library staff worked halftime in order to help reduce Covid-19 numbers. On January 11th, holds pickup and Grab-N-Go Food! resumed at 22 locations.

On January 14th, the Library started helping with the Covid-19 vaccination registration line. It has since moved over to a newly formed call center that is being run from the County Recorder's Office. Deputy Director Simon continues to help manage it.

The W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library was recently named; the Sahuarita community will be asked to submit suggestions for naming. The Library Board will then make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. There has been some discussion about naming the El Pueblo Library after the late Manager, Frank De la Cruz. He had worked for the Library system 35 years, and was integral to both El Rio and El Pueblo Libraries.

The Library was poised to start hiring Library Technical Assistants last March, but Covid-19 resulted in a hiring freeze. In December, the position was posted again, but two days before it closed, the Stay at Home order was put in place and there was a hiring freeze again. The applications that had been submitted were allowed to be held. The Library recently received permission to move forward with the process again. There were many Library staff who had not submitted their applications before the deadline in December, so the position will be posted again for one week.

John Halliday asked if the County had plans to bring the vaccine to Library staff. Director Mathewson replied that all County employees are in group 1.B.2.a and would probably get vaccines closer to the end of February or beginning of March. County Administration recently

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issued an update on Covid-19: [1-29 COVID-19 Pandemic Update for Feb 2, 2021 BOS Meeting.pdf \(pima.gov\)](#)

Barbara Escobar asked if the Library was treating the job hiring as two separate recruitments, or the same. Director Mathewson replied that it is the same recruitment, and that they would soon start processing the people from the original recruitment.

Nancy Puckett asked if the survey to rename the Sahuarita Library would happen before it opens. Director Mathewson replied that it doesn't have to happen before it opens as signs can be changed, and the goal is to get something that appeals to the population of the region. She recommended having 3-4 suggestions for the community to consider.

Nancy Puckett asked why the process for naming El Pueblo was different. Director Mathewson said that the naming request may be coming from the Board of Supervisors, and that the community will most likely support their choice as Frank De la Cruz was beloved by them.

C. PUBLIC SERVICES REPORT

Karyn Prechtel-Altman, Deputy Director of Public Services & Community Engagement, highlighted and/or added to her written report:

Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman informed that the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library's Branch Manager, Mary McKinney, has a team of about 6-7 people working to get ready for the opening. The goal is to provide outdoor service starting on February 16th. Services include hold pickups, print, copy, scan and fax services, and outreach. Since the building won't be open to the public at this time, a virtual tour is in the works. The Library will provide services outdoors, from 10-5 at this time. There won't be a lot of publicity until the day of the opening.

PCPL has a new Affinity Team, Biblio Lotus, which will focus on reaching out to and serving the Asian-American communities in Pima County.

There will be 25 Career Online High School students who will graduate next week. In-person graduation is not possible, but they will receive their caps and gowns and gift bags.

Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman was recently chosen to be the Board President for Make Way for Books for the next two years. Make Way for Books is a literacy agency that focuses on early childhood development and uses a two generational model. <https://makewayforbooks.org/>

D. SUPPORT SERVICES REPORT

Michelle Simon, Deputy Director of Support Services, highlighted and/or added to her written report:

Deputy Director Simon informed that before the vaccine registration call center was set up, PCPL had assisted over 11,000 people on the phone. Staff is still helping with calls, and to date, over 21,000 people have been assisted on the phones. Mr. Huckelberry's memo on Covid-19: [1-29 COVID-19 Pandemic Update for Feb 2, 2021 BOS Meeting.pdf \(pima.gov\)](#)

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The County is currently prioritizing people over the age of 75, and beginning next Monday, people over the age of 70 will be prioritized, along with educators, childcare workers, law enforcement, and other essential infrastructure employees.

In addition to the W. Anne Gibson-Esmond Station Library opening and the Sahuarita Library building coming along, the Martha Cooper Library is in process of designing the renovation. An architect has been chosen for the Richard Elías-Mission Library.

Elizabeth Soltero gave the staff kudos for organizing the registration phone line, since it involved so much time and work. Deputy Director Simon said it would not have happened without the help from Tenecia Phillips. Tenecia has also been simultaneously providing support for staff by managing a self-service food pantry at the Main Library. Food and household items have continued to be stocked and are provided anonymously.

Cheryl Langer asked when people will be able to get into libraries for copying and to use computers again. Director Mathewson responded that the Library is waiting for the Covid-19 numbers to go down. Ideally there would be less than 1,000 cases in Pima County and they are still around 4,000. Deputy Director Simon said that time and occupancy limits would stay in place for a while, and that a lot more people would need to be vaccinated in the community. Deputy Director Prechtel-Altman added that the Salazar-Ajo Library is currently providing copy service - valet style.

Nancy Puckett asked where the food is coming from for the staff pantry. Deputy Director Simon responded that PCPL received an in-kind donation of shelf-stable food from the Community Food Bank. And through the Community Food Bank, in coordination with the National Guard, PCPL receives produce. Staff also donated items. Director Mathewson added that staff was furloughed at various times, some have experienced loss of household income, or had to feed kids who weren't going to school. She said that it was a labor of love by staff, and shows how library staff members take care of each other.

Deputy Director Simon said the group of staff members who organized it consisted of Tenecia Phillips, Kate DeMeester, Em Lane, Victoria Salajko, Anna Sanchez, Sandra White, and Caitlin Burns.

Nancy Puckett commended the Library for taking the registration calls, noting that when something needs to be sorted, it is the Library that figures it out and gets it done. She added that it was a great accomplishment.

Nubia Valentino asked if Matt Heinz has reached out to Board or the Library. She hasn't been able to reach him yet. Director Mathewson said she plans to reach out to all of the new Supervisors. She will send the Library Board members list to them as well.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Edward Buster moved and Cheryl Langer seconded adjournment of the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Next Meeting: March 4, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. Meeting will be held virtually, with instructions on the agenda.

Submitted by:
Judy Moses
Special Staff Assistant - Senior