



**City of Scottsdale  
Library Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025  
Civic Center Library  
Platinum Room  
3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Chair Dr. Freda Hartman, Vice-Chair Enid Seiden, Board Members Sam Campana, Natalee Esposito-Holliday, Roselyn O’Connell (arrived at 3:03 p.m.), and Janice Shimokubo

**ABSENT:** Board Member Leslie Totten

**STAFF:** Kira Peters, Senior Director; Mike Beck, Library Director; Mike Murphy, Business and Analytics Manager; Ed Kiang, Library Branch Manager; Javier Mendoza, Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order**

Chair Hartman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members present as listed above.

**Public Comment:**

No members of the public were present.

**Minutes – January 8, 2025**

Chair Hartman noted her name was misspelled on page 3.

BOARD MEMBER SHIMOKUBO MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 8, 2025, LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN, VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN, AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, ESPOSITO-HOLLIDAY, AND SHIMOKUBO VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### **1. Patron Comment Report**

Michael Beck, Library Director, provided an overview of patron comments received over the last month. Patrons utilized comments to provide feedback and suggestions for the recent Sourdough Program at Civic Center, technology, and magazine donations. Mr. Beck advised they are seeing increases in non-resident library patron registrations that helps determine our Library Assistance Program funding allocation for the Maricopa County Reciprocal Borrowing program. Further, they are exploring ways that patrons may digitize their library cards using retail apps. A discussion ensued related to the use of the website for preregistration for programs.

### **2. Civic Center Library Highlights**

Ed Kiang, Branch Manager, shared highlights for Civic Center Library that included the announcement of the new lead librarian, the success of the Books 2 Boogie Program, as well as the summer reading program and adult programming. Staff have been rotating adult novels, non-fiction DVDs, and new release Blu-Ray movies for circulation. The water fountains will include a new bottle refilling station. The Coffee Shop has added bagels and croissants, as well as limited salad and sandwich options, to their menu. Finishing touches are being done to the Calming Corner and the College and Career Corner. A new information desk has been ordered and should be installed by the end of the fiscal year.

### **3. SPL Quarterly Report Update**

Mike Murphy, Business and Analytics Manager provided an overview of Q2 for FY2024-25 that included trends in library statistics compared to previous years. Overall, the numbers are increasing, which reflects a healthy library system. Mr. Beck discussed the “New Mover service”, started in November 2024, which identifies new Scottsdale residents and provides them with library information which has created large increases in the number of new library patron card registrations.

In response to Board Member questions, Director Beck discussed the many programs and services the libraries offer for the collective good, which have contributed to the increased attendance. A new door counter system went into effect on January 1, 2025, which will eventually be automated. Director Beck provided an overview of how the Ask a Librarian and Call Center programs work. A discussion ensued regarding volunteers and having a table at the farmer’s market(s).

### **4. FY2025-2026 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Project Budget and Public Comments, Draft Review**

Michael Beck, Library Director, noted there have been no changes to the decision package submitted on December 17, 2024. Replacing the sorter at Appaloosa Library and the new northwest adult restrooms at Civic Center Library continue to be supported. Plans to paint and refresh Mustang’s building exterior next year, as well as a restroom renovation project at Mustang Library in two years, are also being supported. Mustang’s story room project is not affiliated with the budget because it is grant-funded but will be completed this year as well.

Mr. Murphy noted Council implemented a Budget Oversight Committee which is made up of citizens to review the budget and make recommendations to Council. This adds another oversight step but does not change the budget schedule.

Board members reviewed and discussed the draft public comment letter prepared by Chair Hartman. The most relevant statistics to support the replacement of the sorter at Appaloosa Library are the age equipment, which at fifteen years has been recommended for replacement by staff and the vendor, the circulation numbers for the past three years, and the minimization of the risk of having to implement a costly manual process. Regarding the restroom at the Civic Center Library, the current restroom is on the east side, and the additional restroom is proposed for the west side, and there is a necessity with the number of families and children utilizing the library. Chair Hartman will prepare a final draft for review and action at the March meeting.

## **5. SPL Technology Current Highlights and Future Trends**

Michael Beck, Library Director, noted that the library is very technologically driven and discussed current technological changes within the library system, the first being the redesign of the website that includes the feasibility of including a Chatbot. There is a potential development of a phone app and digitizing library cards. The mezzanine area at Civic Center Library could become a maker space for projects such as VR/AR headsets, 3D printers, Cricut's, sewing machines, and podcasting. Other library branches that are limited in space are considering mobile opportunities. The AV equipment in the meeting rooms needs to be evaluated and upgraded using the Library Services and Technology Act Grant. Work is still being done on how to implement AI within the library.

In response to Board Member questions, Mr. Beck explained there have not been a lot of residents that have inquired about AI, but some of the challenges would be training staff and being able to discern that the information provided was obtained from a credible source. The Scottsdale Library System does not currently have a plagiarism policy, but if AI were implemented, something may be needed. Mr. Murphy stated the Chief Information Officer for the City has a team considering how the City can utilize AI, which will include policies and suggestions on implementation. A brief discussion ensued.

## **6. Director's Report**

Michael Beck, Library Director, provided the Library Board with a summary of library events:

- He reviewed the MAX program
- Author Programs
- Prada del Sol, recognizing Board Members Shimokubo and O'Connell for attending.
- Bonanza (April 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.)
- Spirit of Literacy Awards (April)
- Rio Montana, recognizing Board Member Totten for attending.
- Senior Expo (February 12, 2025)
- Ryan Dowd, Homeless Training

## **7. Board Member's Report**

- Board Member Shimokubo spoke of her attendance at Appaloosa's Books 2 Boogie event that had 55 attendees. Appaloosa will have a new branch manager at the end of February.
- Chair Hartman
  - Spoke of the partnership with the College and Career Corner which is currently vetting potential counselors to work with high school students in applying and preparing for college.
  - Scottsdale Sister Cities Association will hold a member event on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at the Stilman Railroad Park from 4:00 to 6:30 p.m. (more details to come).
  - February is National Library Lovers Month, and National Library Lovers Day is Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **8. Identification of Future Agenda Items and Future Meetings**

Future Meeting agenda items could include:

- Hours of operation concept

Library Director Beck introduced Senior Director, Kira Peters, who will be overseeing Human Services, the Housing and Community Assistance Office, and Libraries.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2025, at 3:00 pm at Arabian Library.

## **9. Adjournment**

BOARD MEMBER ESPOSITO-HOLLIDAY MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN, VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN, AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, ESPOSITO-HOLLIDAY, O'CONNELL, AND SHIMOKUBO VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

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