



**City of Scottsdale  
Library Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
Arabian Branch Library  
Program Room  
10215 E. McDowell Mountain Ranch Rd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

**PRESENT:** Chair Dr. Freda Hartman, Vice-Chair Enid Seiden, Board Members Roselyn O’Connell, Janice Shimokubo, and Leslie Totten

**ABSENT:** Board Members Sam Campana and Natalie Esposito-Holliday

**STAFF:** Kira Peters, Senior Director, Libraries and Human Services; Mike Beck, Library Director; Tamera Norwood, Senior Manager; Louise Aikin, Arabian Branch Manager; Raven Creech, Appaloosa Branch Manager; and Javier Mendoza, Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order**

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

Director Beck introduced Raven Creech, the new Branch Manager for Appaloosa.

**Roll Call**

Members present as listed above.

**Public Comment:**

No members of the public were present, and no comment cards were submitted.

**Minutes – February 12, 2025**

Chair Hartman noted the word “to” is missing from the second line on page 3.

VICE CHAIR SEIDEN MOVED TO APPROVE FEBRUARY 12, 2025, LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. BOARD MEMBER SHIMOKUBO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN, VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN, AND BOARD MEMBERS O’CONNELL, SHIMOKUBO, AND TOTTEN 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 CD collection, Wi-Fi hotspots, the forensic program at Mustang Library, and the \$43 fee for a non-resident card. Mr. Beck advised that changes are being made to the Collection Development Policy, including accepting donations, which will be presented at the next Board meeting. The Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant is being considered for technology upgrades and to create a makerspace at Civic Center Library. The E-Rate Federal funding is also being considered addressing internet and Wi-Fi connectivity concerns.

### **2. Arabian Branch Library Highlights**

Louisa Aikin, Branch Manager, shared highlights for Arabian Library that included the announcement of the promotions, retirements, and addition of three volunteers to library staff, the success of the Seed Library, the possible addition of two Nooks with LSTA grant funding, and staff helping at Westworld. The Spirit of Literacy Awards with the Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library will be held at Arabian Library on April 10, 2025. The Arabian Library was used as a backdrop in a promotion campaign for a large technology company. Board members were pleasantly surprised by the disco ball in the conference room. A discussion ensued regarding enthusiasm and team environment at Arabian Library, including how well the children that come after school are engaged.

### **3. FY2025-2026 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Project Budget Revised Public Comment, Draft Review**

The Board members reviewed and discussed the three-minute version and one-minute version of the draft public comment prepared by Chair Hartman. It was noted they are awaiting statistics from quarter 3 to add to the comment. The Board members shared recommendations for modifications to the comment to include stating how long the Chair has been a member of the Board, using an opening statement that is promotional and sets the stage, to include that the library is an anchor to the community or center of the community, glowing patron comments, and consolidating some of the information. A discussion ensued regarding the elimination of the three-minute version of the public comment.

BOARD MEMBER TOTTEN MOVED THAT THE ONE-MINUTE VERSION BE ADDED TO WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS AND THAT THE CHAIR MAY MOVE FORWARD WITH THE FINAL VERSION TO PRESENT TO THE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE BUDGET REQUESTS. VICE CHAIR SEIDEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN, VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN, AND BOARD MEMBERS O'CONNELL, SHIMOKUBO, AND TOTTEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

BOARD MEMBER TOTTEN MOVED THAT THE THREE-MINUTE VERSION OF DRAFT PUBLIC COMMENTS BE REVISED WITH INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE BOARD MEMBERS, THE AMOUNT OF DATA BULLET POINTS BE REDUCED, AND THAT THE CHAIR MOVE FORWARD WITH THE FINAL VERSION TO PRESENT TO THE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF THE BUDGET REQUESTS. VICE CHAIR SEIDEN SECONDED THE MOTION,

WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN, VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN, AND BOARD MEMBERS O'CONNELL, SHIMOKUBO, AND TOTTEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

#### **4. SPL Website Update**

Michael Beck, Library Director, provided an overview and discussed the status of updates to the Library's website redesign project. Weekly meetings occur with the City Communications and IT departments to provide a different frame for the website that will be mobile-friendly. Additional improvements highlighted include potentially adding a Chatbot, having more graphics than text, incorporating Google translate, and ensuring the system is secure so residents of another state cannot access the Library's free services.

Board Member Totten suggested breaking down the youth classification so that children would be classified as between birth to twelve years old, and youth would be twelve to eighteen years old. Vice Chair Seiden suggested using an access code to ensure only cardholders are accessing the website and resources. Chair Hartman suggested making the Library Board more visible on the website.

#### **5. Library Policy Review**

Tamera Norwood, Senior Manager, reviewed and discussed the Interlibrary Loan (ILL) and MAX policies. The ILL is a nationwide program that allows patrons to borrow material outside of the Scottsdale Public Library system. The MAX program is a Maricopa County program that allows patrons to borrow books from libraries outside of the Scottsdale Public Library but within Maricopa County.

Board member Totten noted some typographical errors and inquired whether the MAX policy could be a subsection of the ILL. Ms. Norwood explained the importance of keeping the policies separate to avoid any confusion. Board Member Shimokubo suggested adding "the" to indicate Scottsdale Library or staff. Vice Chair Seiden inquired whether the MAX program would have a special area on the new website. Ms. Norwood advised it would stay as part of the drop-down menu for borrowing. Chair Hartman suggested defining MAX for the public.

#### **6. Advocacy, Intellectual Freedom, and National Library Week**

Chair Hartman reviewed and discussed the Arizona Library Association (ALA) Advocacy Committee meeting highlights including intellectual freedom. The Library Bill of Rights was briefly reviewed so Board members could understand them and what libraries are charged to do. Advocacy, which means storytelling, was a topic discussed at the ALA Committee meeting, and the theme of the National Library Week is indicative of that.

There is pending legislation in the Arizona Legislature related to libraries. Information, including sponsors and the status of these bills, can be obtained at [azleg.org](http://azleg.org) or [azla.org](http://azla.org). Chair Hartman advised the Board members it is important for them to be informed of legislation being considered and to advocate for the library to legislators and other stakeholders.

In response to the questions, Chair Hartman noted she believed Board members could make comments representing themselves as Scottsdale residents. Ms. Peters suggested making a disclosure about being on the Library Board but making it clear that the comment is not being

made on their behalf. Director Beck advised them that it is a good idea to mention the legislative bills to the Friends of the Library to ensure they are aware of them. Ms. Peters agreed to have the Scottsdale Legislative Representative speak to the Library Board. A follow-up answer will be provided regarding the entire Library Board becoming an advocacy group on behalf of the Library and going before the State to see if it is possible for Scottsdale to host a gathering of other Library Boards to start building relationships, share ideas, and fellow advocates. A discussion ensued and included Ms. Peters sharing the Library Board's bylaws.

Chair Hartman noted the week of April 6 through 12, 2025, is National Library Week and the theme is "Drawn to the Library". It is a time to recognize the library management, staff, and teams for the services they provide. Board members should be thinking of the best ways to do that. It was suggested to take a boots-on-the-ground approach and speak to patrons during this week about why they are at the library to obtain something that can be utilized to advocate before the City Council. Further suggestions included using a whiteboard or comment cards to answer the question.

## **7. Director's Report**

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

- Adding a water bottle refill station at Civic Center Library
- Working with an outside partner on the Calming Corner
- Working on the College and Career Corner
- Introducing the new branch manager at Appaloosa
- Staff scheduling and modeling initiatives
- Bunnanza on April 19, 2025
- Seed Swap program on April 3, 2025
- Volunteer Appreciation on April 25, 2025

## **8. Board Members' Report**

- Vice Chair Seiden spoke about attending the Garden Club exhibit that was tied in with the Sister Cities Association at Mustang Library
- Board Member Totten:
  - Provided an update on the Friends of the Library, noting they gave \$3,000 to the Family Read Aloud Program and \$10,000 to the Summer Reading Program.
  - Spoke about attending the film "Wicked" at Mustang Library.
  - Suggested a reading or literacy program during spring break
- Chair Hartman Scottsdale advised that 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.

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

Future Meeting agenda items could include:

- Government Relations Advocate
- Gathering with other Library Boards

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 3:00 pm at Civic Center Library.

## **10. Adjournment**

VICE CHAIR SEIDEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BOARD MEMBER SHIMOKUBO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN, VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN AND BOARD O'CONNELL, SHIMOKUBO, AND TOTTEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Recorded and Transcribed by eScribers, LLC.