



**City of Scottsdale  
Library Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, April 9, 2025  
Civic Center Library Branch Library – Platinum Room  
3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251

**PRESENT:** Chair Dr. Freda Hartman, Board Members Sam Campana (departed at 5:12 p.m., rejoined via Teams), Natalee Esposito-Holliday (via Teams) (departed at 4:27 p.m.), Roselyn O’Connell, Janice Shimokubo (departed at 4:42 p.m.), and Leslie Totten

**ABSENT:** Vice-Chair Enid Seiden

**STAFF:** Kira Peters, Senior Director, Libraries and Human Services; Mike Beck, Library Director; Tamera Norwood, Senior Manager; Alicia Brillon, Senior Manager; Sarah Kaufman, Senior Manager; Alexis Skidmore, Librarian; Javier Mendoza, Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order**

Chair Hartman called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Members present as listed above.

**Public Comment**

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

**Minutes – March 12, 2025**

BOARD MEMBER SHIMOKUBO MOVED TO APPROVE MARCH 12, 2025, LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. BOARD MEMBER TOTTEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, ESPOSITO-HOLLIDAY, O’CONNELL, SHIMOKUBO, AND TOTTEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

### 1. Patron Comment Report

Library Director Michael Beck acknowledged National Library Week and shared positive feedback from patrons about staff providing exceptional customer service. He also addressed patron comments mentioning parking challenges caused by spring training events, with Senior Manager Alicia Brillon also explaining that parking varies, with one level offering a three-hour limit and other levels providing unlimited parking.

Beck highlighted the success of the "I Love the Film" series at Mustang Library and shared plans to transform a former office into the "Calming Corner," an idea discussed during a Youth Services meeting to better support patrons' needs. In response to Member Shimokubo's inquiry, he explained that comment cards are available both physically at all library branches and online. Appaloosa Library's higher number of physical submissions was attributed to Pony Express.

### 2. Celebrating National Library Week

During a discussion celebrating National Library Week, Chair Hartman encouraged members to express their appreciation for libraries. A comment board at the Civic Center Library was made available for patrons to share their reasons for visiting, and displays were set up at all libraries.

- **Member Campana** reflected on her background as a school librarian and her commitment to supporting libraries during challenging times.
- **Member Esposito-Holliday** shared her lifelong passion for libraries, beginning as a volunteer at age 11, and her wish for 24/7 library access.
- **Member Totten**, with a master's in early literacy, highlighted libraries' role beyond books, her habit of visiting libraries in new towns, and her enjoyment of patron feedback.
- **Member O'Connell** appreciated libraries providing a safe, free space and commended Library Director Michael Beck and staff for their efforts.
- **Chair Hartman** emphasized the enduring importance of libraries as free, inclusive spaces and advocated for bringing people together through storytelling and shared resources.
- **Member Shimokubo** recalled her weekly childhood library visits, the 14 library cards she had, and her family's continued use of libraries as safe community spaces.

Director Michael Beck praised the Library Board and staff for their creativity and dedication, expressing gratitude for their contributions to Scottsdale's outstanding libraries. Senior staff, including Ms. Brillon, Tamera Norwood, Sarah Kaufman, Javier Mendoza, and Kira Peters, reflected on their pride in the library system, its collaborative environment, and its value recognized even by non-users.

### 3. Government Relations

Library Director Michael Beck announced that Government Relations Director Dale Wiebusch was unavailable due to an emergency, and they will reschedule this item for the May or June meeting.

#### **4. Library Policy Review**

Senior Manager Tamera Norwood presented a revised library Collection Development Policy, condensed from nine pages to three for public accessibility, transitioning from an internal guide to a forward-facing document. Member Totten praised its conciseness and objectivity but noted an inaccessible link with the CREW method, which Library Director Michael Beck explained is a standard for evaluating and weeding outdated materials.

The policy, was last revised in 2011, underwent necessary updates, including minor tweaks to the patron request form, which addresses reconsideration requests (averaging one or two per year). The reconsideration process involves an initial review by senior library staff, with appeals handled by the senior director or City Manager. Staff emphasized that decisions align with policy criteria, focusing on diverse and reputable materials. Chair Hartman and members discussed the handling of collective concerns and large-scale challenges, noting responses would remain individualized.

Ms. Norwood clarified that the policy evaluates individual submissions rather than corporate or organizational input. Member Totten highlighted the policy's prohibition against excluding works based on controversial content. Staff assured the Board that materials are selected with a commitment to inclusivity and professional standards, using diverse reviewing sources like library journals and reputable book reviews, excluding opinion reviews.

The Board discussed ensuring transparency through quarterly reports on submitted forms, as requested by Member Shimokubo. Senior Director Kira Peters affirmed reliance on library professionals' expertise for appeals and decision-making.

#### **5. SPL 2025-2026 LSTA Grant Cycle**

Senior Manager Sarah Kaufman reviewed the recently submitted Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant applications, highlighting their purposes and expected outcomes. Due to an executive order affecting the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), LSTA funding, library leadership is exploring alternative solutions such as tribal grants, foundations, and internal funding. Internal resources and General Fund monies may support technological initiatives like hotspots and virtual reality equipment, while other projects need alternative funding, such as the Friends group.

Member Campana expressed concern about the broader community impact of diverted funds, suggesting external opportunities to fill funding gaps. Chair Hartman emphasized raising awareness through newsletters, the library website and proposed public engagement, though she clarified the initiatives were unrelated to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Member Campana suggested messaging should focus on library users rather than the City Council.

Director Beck referred to advocacy resources from the American Library Association and recommended consulting Mr. Wiebusch on City advocacy efforts. Senior Director Kira Peters suggested the Board could receive information about the Government Affairs Office. Senior Manager Tamera Norwood noted that the Arizona Library Association has a lobbyist. Chair Hartman added that Mr. Wiebusch could provide additional insights into Scottsdale's interests.

**NOTE: Due to time constraints and the Teen Advisory Board's limited availability, the Library Board Chair requested to discuss agenda item 5 (SPL 2025-2026 LSTA Grant Cycle), after agenda item #6 (SPL Teen Advisory Board). This will be reflected in both the marked agenda, minutes, and audio recording.**

## **6. SPL Teen Advisory Board**

Librarian Alexis Skidmore and members of the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) presented a slideshow highlighting TAB's activities, growth, and accomplishments, including increased TAB membership at Appaloosa Library from 6 to 24 members. TAB members shared their volunteer experiences and the benefits of participating in the program, offering recommendations for future participants, such as exploring diverse activities, building connections, and balancing volunteer work with school.

Chair Hartman and Member Campana praised the TAB members for their leadership skills and articulate communication, describing them as future ambassadors for libraries. Library Director Michael Beck highlighted the potential for TAB volunteers to transition into library careers upon qualifying for employment at age 18 and thanked them for their contributions. Ms. Skidmore also encouraged participation in the upcoming Presidential Volunteer Service Ceremony on April 26.

**NOTE: Due to time constraints and the Teen Advisory Boards limited availability, the Library Board Chair requested to discuss agenda item #6 (SPL Teen Advisory Board) before agenda item #5 (SPL 2025-2026 LSTA Grant Cycle).**

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

Library Director Michael Beck announced the County will make up the \$400,000 difference for e-resources that were previously funded through the State Library of Arizona and Institute of Museum and Library Services. The loss of that funding will negatively impact the State Library. He noted the Appaloosa Library sorter will be funded through other means, but the Civic Center Library bathroom renovation project has been tabled to the next budget cycle. He encouraged members and residents to attend the Bunnanza event on April 19 and the Spirit of Literacy event on April 10.

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

Board Member Totten discussed a Friends of the Library meeting she attended, noting they are waiting to hear back on grants for which they've applied. She promoted an ice cream fundraiser for the Friends of Scottsdale Public Library coming up on May 1.

Chair Hartman sought input on the contents of a statement the Board might make to the City Council. She read a statement from Enid Seiden regarding a DEI Transition document that was sent to all City employees and the benefits of multicultural books. She spoke about the Scottsdale Sister Cities Organization's picnic event and praised the organization for promoting peace and fellowship.

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

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 14th, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at the Appaloosa Library.

## **10. Adjournment**

MEMBER TOTTEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BOARD MEMBER O'CONNELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS O'CONNELL, TOTTEN, AND CAMPANA VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Recorded and transcribed by eScribers, LLC.