



**City of Scottsdale  
Library Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, May 14, 2025  
Appaloosa Branch Library – Program Room  
7377 E. Silverstone Dr.  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

**PRESENT:** Chair Dr. Freda Hartman, Vice-Chair Enid Seiden, Board Members Sam Campana, Janice Shimokubo, and Leslie Totten

**ABSENT:** Board Members Natalee Esposito-Holliday and Roselyn O’Connell

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

**Call to Order**

Chair Hartman called the meeting to order at 3:02 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 – April 9, 2025**

VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN MOVED TO APPROVE APRIL 9, 2025, LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. BOARD MEMBER CAMPANA SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN, VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN, AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, SHIMOKUBO, AND TOTTEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

**1. Patron Comment Report**

Library Director Michael Beck reviewed comments 1, 2, 11, 17, 21, and 23 as listed in the agenda packet. The help line is being reevaluated based on one of the comments, as is the library’s process for scanning. He pointed out the library has study rooms that are quiet and free of charge,

and Appaloosa Library has a space that can be closed off, though its open floorplan can create challenges.

In response to Board Member questions, Mr. Beck replied that homelessness is one of the reasons why the Library and Human Services work closely together. He recognized the challenge of being a heat relief station and a welcoming place for everyone, including homeless individuals. He spoke about resources the library offers to those experiencing homelessness, adding that the Code of Conduct spells out ways to address nuisances or public complaints.

Kira Peters, Senior Director, Libraries and Human Services, spoke about Human Services' contract with housing navigators, mentioning that Library staff can always call Vista del Camino to get direct services. She noted some heat relief locations will stay open later, but she was unsure whether the Phoenix Library System itself will be open for library purposes or just for heat relief. Discussion ensued about which Phoenix-area libraries will stay open until 10:00 p.m. Mr. Beck said he will follow up to get more information.

Member Totten wondered about the library's ability to track people's reading history. Mr. Beck said the program could be promoted in the newsletter. He said he would explore how far back the program can track and report on it at the next meeting. Patrons must click the "Maintain reading history" box to initiate the program.

In response to additional Board Member queries, Mr. Beck stated the Code of Conduct is the guiding policy regarding unhoused individuals, which addresses behavior, not types of patrons. Ms. Norwood explained how Library employees enforce the Code of Conduct. Nobody is asked to leave for sleeping in the library, but they are woken up every 15 minutes. Repeated Code of Conduct violators may be asked to leave, though individuals are never signaled out for being homeless. Chair Hartman suggested expanding the notes on the comment report when follow-up occurs on an incident even if staff did not follow up directly with the complainant.

## **2. Government Relations**

Dale Wiebusch, Government Relations Director for the City of Scottsdale, reviewed his professional and lobbying history. He said the Scottsdale Government Relations Office was one of the original ones in the state, and it tracks approximately 400 bills each year, noting Governor Hobbs has vetoed nearly as many bills as she has signed. He explained what happens to resolutions and bills after they are passed by the chambers, many of which will come to a vote to bypass the Governor. He discussed how the legislative agenda is created with the City Council each session, giving him, along with two other individuals, permission to take positions on bills in certain categories.

Mr. Wiebusch spoke about Senate Bill (SB) 1090 and provided a brief background Senator Jake Hoffman, the bill's sponsor. He thought SBs 1090 and 1099 would be vetoed by the Governor if they make it that far, but that is unlikely as many in the majority party do not want to get involved with them.

He explained the intent of House Concurrent Resolution 2021, the food tax bill, which would not impact the City due to the size of their tax rate. However, smaller communities would need to disincorporate if this passed because they do not have opportunities for other revenue. He confirmed this was being monitored because the food tax provides revenue for rural libraries, but he did not anticipate any movement on the resolution. He spoke about a loss of revenue which

resulted when the city lost the ability to tax residential rentals, and he did not think the Legislature would take away any more revenue.

In response to Board Member questions about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), Mr. Wiebusch said the DEI program was removed at the city. He believed there will be a DEI task force to examine issues, though he has no specific information about the effort. Discussion ensued regarding whether the city has taken action to rescind the city's anti-discrimination ordinance. He said Senator Hoffman tries to pass bills like SB 1090 and 1099 every year but is thwarted by the Governor. He did not have additional information about the DEI task force. Library Director Michael Beck said he will obtain more information about an initiative to flag children's library accounts prohibiting certain materials.

Chair Hartman spoke about concern within the community that the elimination of the DEI programs amounts to censorship. She asked for guidance on how the library should respond to the community. Mr. Wiebusch said he may be able to present some options to the Board once more knowledge is available. Chair Hartman described the appointment of a task force as a step in a process, but she felt public input needs to be included in that process, so the Board knows how to proactively respond to concerns.

Vice-Chair Seiden expressed faith in Mr. Beck. Member Totten encouraged citizens to participate in City Council meetings. Kira Peters, Senior Director, Libraries and Human Services, urged caution because she was uncertain whether the task force had been officially assigned, and she would try to get more information about it. Mr. Wiebusch expressed gratitude for anyone wanting to serve on a board or a commission. Chair Hartman praised volunteers for wanting to be part of a solution.

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

Business & Analytics Manager Mike Murphy conducted a slideshow presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: YTD – Gate Count History; YTD Attendance by Library; All Libraries Digital Gate Count; and Library Card Holders.

Library Director Michael Beck noted that many new initiatives take place at Civic Center Library, though all branches are experiencing higher attendance. In response to Board Member questions, Mr. Murphy said cameras are in place at Civic Center, and he will explore whether they can break down gate count by day of week and time of day. Vice-Chair Seiden described the library as a beautiful addition to the civic mall. Member Shimokubo wondered whether the Civic Center Library could be considered as more of an attraction than just a library.

Mr. Murphy continued the presentation by reviewing slides with the following titles: Card Holders by Library; New Card Holders by Month; Internal Usage History; Remote Usage History; and Total Usage – All Libraries.

Mr. Beck pointed out that anyone living in Maricopa County can get a Scottsdale Library card. He noted the library system just received a \$505,000 allocation from the County's Library Assistance Program Fund, benefiting all cardholders. Chair Hartman inquired about the percentage of library patrons that use library cards to check out books. Mr. Murphy said he will try to obtain those statistics. Mr. Beck said that statistics are not tracked on the public library data report, but unused library cards are eventually expired. Discussion ensued about the feasibility of tracking that data and what different patrons use the library for. It was pointed out that attendees to library events do not need library cards.

Mr. Murphy concluded the presentation by reviewing the following slides: Total Collection; Total Circulation; Physical Circulation vs. E-Circulation; YTD – Fill Times; Fill Times by Month; Youth Programs and Attendance; Youth Programs and Attendance Trends; Adult Programs and Attendance; Adult Programs and Attendance Trends; Wi-Fi and Computer Usage; Library Shop Revenue; Seed Catalog; and Volunteer FTEs.

Mr. Beck noted the figures in the presentation are just for Scottsdale's public libraries, but staff try to maintain fast fill times so patrons do not need to go elsewhere for books. The programming team is trying to ensure the programs they host are programs the community wants. He reviewed marketing methods, which he believed have not seen any changes. Member Shimokubo proposed expanding the Civic Center Library's shop given the substantial traffic there. In response to further questions, Mr. Beck said the library does not receive direct revenue from the café except for a small amount to cover utilities. There are plans to expand the online bookshop. He discussed the popularity of the seed program.

Member Totten thought this data can be used to make decisions about technological needs, programming, and Wi-Fi usage. Mr. Murphy anticipated better Wi-Fi response times, which may increase usage. He said they try to make data-driven decisions. Member Campana wondered about the number of households that have library cards. Mr. Beck spoke about the Library IQ system which might be able to provide heat maps of library card users. Chair Hartman felt that if demographic data becomes available, the library can plan strategically for growth areas. Mr. Beck indicated he would explore whether Library IQ can provide that level of detail.

#### **4. Appaloosa Branch Library Highlights**

Library Branch Manager Raven Creech noted Appaloosa Library is the only one to have Pony Express, the early hour self-service system. She expected that system to have had 1,500 visits by the end of the month. She provided details about a new art installation and a project to resurface the parking lot. She said toys are provided to redirect children from climbing around the patio. She spoke about a new high-visibility keyboard and the conversion of three desks into one service desk, which will help when hours are expanded. She mentioned increasing shelving for the biography section, a history of the Arizona highways event, upcoming youth programs, and a new sensory table will be available for children. Lastly, she announced the open-page position will be filled next week.

In response to Member Shimokubo's request, Ms. Creech reviewed her professional background. Board Members praised her and looked forward to hearing more of her ideas.

#### **5. Intellectual Freedom and Advocacy**

Chair Hartman indicated she received key talking points from the AzLA Advocacy Committee about libraries, which she will circulate to the Board. She thought today's discussion will help guide where the Board needs to look over the next 6 to 12 months. She believed there may be opportunities to speak to the City Council as a board on certain issues, adding that she provided public comments at the May 6 meeting, which she said were well received. The Council, she continued, expressed appreciation for keeping them informed. She summarized the comments she made about the additional restroom at the Civic Center Library, noting that a member of the public agreed that a space of that size requires a second bathroom. She relayed her request that the Council consider and approve the matter.

Chair Hartman inquired whether the Board should move ahead with additional public comment before the Council, either individually or on behalf of the Board, and what topics should be addressed. Member Shimokubo thanked Chair Hartman for the public comment she made. Chair Hartman said she would include an item on June's agenda to discuss possible future public comment ideas.

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

Library Director Michael Beck announced that, based on data accumulated over a year, the library will expand its hours to 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday at all four locations starting July 1, and 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Fridays. This will provide an \$850,000 benefit to citizens but at no additional General Fund cost. He listed some of the benefits of these new hours. Chair Hartman expected the new hours should lead to increased Library metrics.

Mr. Beck indicated the summer reading program typically drew 6,000 to 7,000 participants each year. He discussed the temporary injunction on the executive order eliminating funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and ways the library plans to continue funding projects in this situation. He will learn more about the IMLS at tomorrow's Maricopa County Library Board meeting.

Mr. Beck provided attendance statistics for the Bunnanza event. He mentioned the opening of the Calming Corner at the Civic Center Library, the first in the county, and described some of the amenities that will be featured in the room. He promoted events being discussed for the fall, including a program that will address how to pay for college or buy a home, and another regarding financial literacy. He mentioned collaborative efforts to market the College and Career Corner and a partnership with the Friends of the Library regarding author programs.

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

Member Campana stated many people mistakenly thought that books can be checked out of the Library of Congress. Library Director Michael Beck said those issues were unrelated to local Library issues. Discussion ensued regarding the termination of the Librarian of Congress.

Member Totten expressed excitement for the Kids Café program restarting and spoke about a lighted bookmark initiative. She relayed patron feedback about how one family uses the library in lieu of buying books. Vice-Chair Seiden spoke about visiting the Story Board. She asked how the summer reading program was advertised, recommending traveling to the schools themselves to promote it. Mr. Beck said he will follow up appropriately.

Member Campana said everyone should support the Friends of the Library and hoped some of their events could become a little more high profile. Member Shimokubo spoke about introducing Mr. Beck to the Program Director of the Japanese Friendship Garden, as well as visiting several organizations to try to work on cross-promotion of the library because those areas are in a library desert.

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

Chair Hartman requested a future agenda item regarding the Kids Café.

The next Library Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 11, at 3:00 p.m. at Civic Center Library.

## **9. Adjournment**

MEMBER TOTTEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN, VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN, AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, 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 5:13 p.m.

Recorded and transcribed by eScribers, LLC.