



**City of Scottsdale
Library Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 11, 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, Roselyn O'Connell, Janice Shimokubo (via Teams, departed at 4:30 p.m.), and Leslie Totten

ABSENT: Natalee Esposito-Holliday

STAFF: Mike Beck, Library Director; 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

Dr. Tina Drews, Chairperson of the Human Relations Commission, spoke about a women's empowerment and gender parity event held in partnership with the Library. She asked the Library Board to partner with the Commission on inclusivity and diversity and invited Board Members to attend Commission meetings. Administrative Assistant Javier Mendoza encouraged anyone with questions about Commission meetings to contact him.

Minutes – May 14, 2025

Chair Hartman requested the following changes to the minutes: substituting "the Board" for "she" in the last sentence of the first full paragraph on page 3; substituting "restroom" for "bathroom" in the second-to-last paragraph on page 4.

VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 14, 2025, LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. BOARD MEMBER CAMPANA SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SIX (6) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN, VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN, AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, 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 reviewed comments 3, 5, 6, 7, and 13 as listed in the agenda packet. He explained that Library staff sometimes adds second impromptu programs directly after events where more patrons attend than can be accommodated.

Regarding the phone system, a new feature was added informing callers where they are in the queue. Vice-Chair Seiden expressed frustration about being caught in a phone tree loop when she last called the library. Mr. Beck indicated he will follow up to determine what happened. He believed the phone system has an option for callers to leave a callback number instead of waiting on hold. Member Campana recommended that the library show the PBS program "Free for All: The Public Library" on a loop.

2. Kids Café

Jennifer Ayala, Lead Librarian of Civic Center Library, noted Kids Café is part of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) which assures children can receive meals during summer months and is qualified for the SFSP program through 2029. She discussed the hours of the program and the number of meals requested during different days of the week. The Scottsdale Unified School District (SUSD) provides meals and refrigeration, she noted, and the program is run primarily by volunteers. 574 meals were distributed in the first week of the program, which she said helps connect kids to resources and contributes to kids' health.

In response to Board Member questions, Ms. Ayala said volunteers can sign up through the City's volunteer website. She clarified that Navajo Elementary School qualified for the program. Kids do not need to be residents of Scottsdale to attend the program as long as they attend any SUSD school in the district and meet the age requirement. Siblings can also receive meals with no questions asked. Board Member Totten extolled the program for being welcoming and allowing food choice and socialization. Ms. Ayala mentioned that meals cannot be provided to adults because the program is funded for the 0 to 18 age group, but that is communicated to families.

Ms. Ayala explained that an agreement is in place with SUSD to review the number of meals provided over a couple of weeks and adjust that number if necessary. Backup meals are also considered in the event they run out. Some days result in more meals than visitors, but SUSD takes back leftover meals to repurpose or, if nonperishable, bring back another day. She did not know the status of potential changes to federal funding but had not heard of any issues. After brief discussion, it was determined that individual Members should draft letters of gratitude to the SUSD rather than the Board composing a single letter. Further discussion ensued regarding the types of information to include in the letters to have the greatest impact, and the Board agreed the letters would be sent to Superintendent Dr. Scott Menzel.

3. Scottsdale Public Library Strategic Plan Update

Library Director Michael Beck conducted a slideshow presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Strategic Plan – 4 Goals; Goal 1 – Increase Library Service Access; Goal 2 – Educate the Community about SPL; Goal 3 – Invest in Library Staff Development; and Goal 4 – Innovate Library Services. He confirmed they are currently about to finish year two of the Strategic Plan's five-year scope.

Mr. Beck discussed the different requirements to erect a little library in an outdoor setting. The reciprocal borrowing agreement, he continued, results in a \$505,000 savings due to the City's partnership with the County. He discussed demos of new technology done by the Library regarding inventory controls, which he expected to have a great impact. He spoke about changes to the library's website to include more graphics and streamline the program calendar. He anticipated that the mover service will be provided either semi-annually or quarterly. The Library currently has 61 partnerships, he commented, nine of which are new this year.

Mr. Beck reviewed the efforts undertaken to encourage staff development, training, and career advancement. Succession planning will home in on area-specific training, covering employees who want to do everything from cataloguing to becoming a library director. An application was made for a Library Services and Technology Act grant for makerspaces at the Civic Center and Mustang Libraries. He hoped to have a large author event in July of 2026. He spoke about the benefits of both the Better Impact software and Unique Management Services, the latter which has saved taxpayers \$20,000 each year.

In response to Board Member questions, Mr. Beck said he would research whether rental units are included in the new movers program, as well as whether the Library Department can work with individual owners of little libraries. In general, volunteers are always needed at libraries, though they try to recruit for specific needs, such as the large number of teens needed for the summer reading program. He offered to have the employee responsible for little libraries look into the process for starting one. Regarding partnerships, the Library has program presenter policies, and they try to identify needs through things like patron comments and certain metrics. They seek partnerships, such as with Blue Zones, that fill certain library needs. He mentioned that the Library has a budget item specifically for presenters.

Mr. Beck believed a detailed survey of library patrons was done in 2022, and the Strategic Plan was created in response to that direct feedback. Chair Hartman discussed the forums held during that time, which provided very different feedback than is typically received from the patron comment cards. Commissioner Shimokubo wanted a more metrics-based survey and wondered whether there is a uniform survey used by libraries around the country. Chair Hartman wondered whether now is an appropriate time to send out another survey to gauge patrons satisfaction.

Mr. Beck said the library system has about 120 employees, so there is usually some level of vacancy due to promotions. He said about half the staff was positively affected by a recent class and compensation study. He believes there are about seven or eight current vacancies. He anticipated topics like story times, the history of the library, and ghost stories at Halloween would be topics for a potential podcast. An item will be placed on the September agenda to discuss the podcast further.

Mr. Beck clarified that the reallocation of library programming dealt with outreach, especially in areas too far from physical library branches. He noted that input about the library website was gathered from the Library Board two separate times, and Members can always provide additional input as residents. Mr. Beck said feedback can be left based on the current Scottsdale Library website. Chair Hartman wanted the opportunity to provide input on the website as it currently looks, and suggested that an item appear on the September agenda to address that.

Mr. Beck assured the Board that new goals will always be added as Strategic Plan goals are completed.

4. Intellectual Freedom and Advocacy

Chair Hartman spoke about a meeting she had with the City Manager where they discussed some of the Library's largest priorities, and she looked forward to positive things happening about the need for an additional restroom at the Civic Center Library. She noted none of the bills in the Arizona Legislature that were tracked by the Board made it out of committee, though House Bill 2112, one which was not tracked, was passed.

Chair Hartman discussed an Arizona Library Association conference in October where she anticipated individuals getting together to informally discuss advocacy and potentially exploring the possibility of lobbying the State Legislature for additional library funding. She mentioned she has signed up to attend an upcoming United for Libraries meeting as well as the American Library Association Conference in Philadelphia.

5. Scottsdale Public Library Community Partnerships

Library Director Michael Beck reiterated that the Library has 61 partnerships, among them a financial organization with whom they hope to offer financial literacy classes. He discussed other new partnerships, including the BASIS Charter School, Blue Zones, the Library Speakers Consortium, and Scottsdale Community College, with whom he hoped to offer a series of training events in September dealing with federal student aid applications. Other partnerships include Grand Canyon University, Scottsdale Unified School District, Education Forward Arizona, the Tempe Public Library, Mesa Community College, the Arizona Board of Regents, and the Museum of the West, among others.

Responding to Vice-Chair's question about Dr. Drew's earlier public comment, Mr. Beck said he could reach out to her about potentially filling a void since the Office of Diversity no longer exists. He pointed out the library system runs more than 1,800 programs on a wide variety of subjects catering to all demographics, and metrics are gathered about attendance. He anticipated information about fall programming to be released within a few weeks.

6. Director's Report

Library Director Michael Beck reviewed two slides entitled Regular Agenda Item 6. The change to operating hours, he noted, will result in a taxpayer credit of almost \$850,000 recurring annually. He announced the summer reading program saw more than 5,000 registrants in its first week, and there is a friendly competition between libraries to see who can have more registrants complete the program. He said the State library still intends to review the City's grant applications, and he should know more about that by next week.

Mr. Beck indicated two 3D printers should be delivered to Civic Center and Mustang Libraries any day. He noted the Friends of the Library held elections yesterday where Sheila Reyman was elected president and Janet Smigielski as vice president. He expected the Friends' 24-hour donor challenge would take place on the third Wednesday in October with the goal of raising \$20,000.

7. Board Member's Report

Vice-Chair Seiden lauded the sound-healing meditation provided at Arabian Library, noting the host provides these at many local libraries. Member Totten felt free activities at the libraries are recessionproof and wondered how those programs could be better communicated. She mentioned a discussion with a library security guard and relayed the gratitude of an unhoused individual to the rest of the Board. Member Campana spoke about the involvement of two former Library Board Member with Friends of the Library. Member O'Connell suggested "So much more" as the Library's tagline.

8. Identification of Future Agenda Items and Future Meetings

In addition to the items mentioned earlier by Chair Hartman, Member Totten requested more information about the Library Department's staffing structure. Member Campana requested that the Board Members receive reports over the next two months when meetings are not scheduled to keep them up-to-date. Administrative Assistant Javier Mendoza responded that staff can send updates as long as Board Members do not respond to everyone.

Member O'Connell requested another presentation from Government Relations Director Dale Wiebusch on upcoming legislative items. Discussion ensued regarding when the best time for that presentation would be.

The next meeting is Wednesday, September 10, at 3:00 p.m. at Civic Center Library.

9. Adjournment

MEMBER O'CONNELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED (5) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN, VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN, AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, O'CONNELL, 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 4:56 p.m.

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