



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

- PRESENT:** Chair Dr. Freda Hartman, Vice-Chair Enid Seiden, Board Members Sam Campana, Roselyn O'Connell, Monica Sonnenklar, Janice Shimokubo, Leslie Totten
- ABSENT:** None
- STAFF:** Michael Beck, Library Director; Mike Murphy, Business & Analytics Manager; Louisa Aikin, Arabian 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

There was no response to the call for public comment.

Minutes – October 8, 2025

Board Member Shimokubo suggested the following changes: that “fare” be changed to “fair” on page 2; that the sentence on page 3, “Mr. Beck noted the Library is paying the presenter for a Japanese friendship garden program”, will be rephrased to reflect that organization will be paid for a presentation; and that “Board Member” be changed to “Board Members” on page 5, paragraph 2.

Vice-Chair Seiden suggested that “overtime” be changed to “over time” on page 5, paragraph 4.

VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 8, 2025, LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. BOARD MEMBER SHIMOKUBO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN, VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN, AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, O'CONNELL, SONNENKLAR, 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, 7, 8, 11, and 15 as listed in the agenda packet and any responses made by Library staff. He discussed the contract the library has for security services, saying staff try to let people use the libraries if they are using them constructively.

In response to Board Member questions, Mr. Beck spoke about partnerships two of the libraries have with Phoenix Rescue Mission and the City's Human Services department to connect unhoused individuals with services. Flyers and field cards are also available for people to take to help connect them with services. Administrative Assistant Javier Mendoza added that pamphlets are available near the café as well as on the wall next to the computer stations.

2. Library Leaders' Summit and Advocacy Updates

Chair Hartman indicated the Advocacy Committee for the Arizona Library Association meets monthly to discuss ongoing library issues. She spoke about an annual conference held in Tucson where, among other things, the topic of dealing with historical materials and artifacts was discussed. She reviewed some of the other topics addressed at the conference.

Library Director Michael Beck noted the library partners with Blue Zones on food education classes, but there is no program focused on food preparation and dissemination. Discussion ensued about the feasibility of Scottsdale libraries hosting such a program. Board Member Campana wondered whether that was a good use of Library resources. Board Member Totten wanted to ensure that any potential program be inclusive of the food-insecure population. Additional discussion ensued about hosting something like a tea-tasting program, with Mr. Beck pointing out that the library recently partnered with Spice and Tea Exchange on a tea-tasting event.

Chair Hartman brought up a large American Library Association (ALA) convention she attended over the summer which featured over 500 exhibitors; more than 35 hotels were booked for the conference. She thought those conventions targeted people who work in libraries more than people who advocate for them. She encouraged all advocates in the community to voice their support for the advancement of libraries. She believed there would always be opportunities for anyone who wants to help.

Chair Hartman mentioned United for Libraries, an organization she felt was geared more towards library advocates. She opined that there is a lot more out there which could be interesting for the Library Board. The work of library advocates is important, she stated, now more than ever.

Mr. Beck discussed representing Scottsdale Public Library and the City at the Library Leaders' Summit. He relayed that each dollar spent on libraries resulted in a \$6.48 return on investment to the community in terms of programs and amenities. Partnerships with Maricopa County have resulted in them paying for a lot of databases for the Scottsdale community. Certain initiatives were discussed at the summit, he continued, including ones on storytelling and advocacy, continuing education, homelessness, artificial intelligence, and resource sharing. He noted that the State Library had \$1.2 million in grant requests, \$916,000 of which was awarded. Scottsdale received five grants totaling \$50,000 when the average agency received only two grants.

In response to Board Member questions, Mr. Beck explained the nature of the Maricopa Library District, including its 14 physical libraries and its funding structure. He confirmed the hierarchy of libraries consists of the State Library System, the Maricopa Library District, and the Scottsdale Public Library, though other municipalities have their own library systems. He spoke about the benefits of partnering with other municipalities' systems. Maricopa County has libraries in unincorporated areas of the county, some of which they lease out, some they run, and some they manage on behalf of the smaller municipalities. There are multiple levels of communication between the three levels of library system, he continued, including attending bimonthly meetings. Each level of library system has things to teach the other levels.

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; Count by Branch; Appaloosa Library; Arabian Library; Civic Center Library; Mustang Library; Year to Date – All Libraries Digital Gate Count; Library Card Holders – All Libraries; Card Holders by Library; New Card Holders; Internal Usage...; Remote Usage...; Total Usage – All Libraries; Total Collection; Total Circulation; Physical Circulation vs Digital Circulation; YTD – Fill Times; and Fill Times by Month.

Discussion ensued regarding the different spikes in times when each library experienced the most visitors. Mr. Murphy said staff could use this data to help with staffing decisions. Board Member Shimokubo pointed out that Civic Center Library saw 25 percent of its weekly attendance come on the weekends, which was higher than other libraries. Further discussion ensued regarding the potential value of gathering demographic data about library attendees.

Mr. Murphy indicated that 95 percent of Scottsdale Library's cardholders come from Arizona. He clarified that the percentage of the Scottsdale population with library cards is lower than 39.4 shown in the presentation; that figure compares all cardholders to the Scottsdale population.

Responding to Board Member questions, Mr. Murphy indicated he would follow up about cardholder statistics related to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community. Library Director Michael Beck discussed some of the factors that go into having the proper inventory of books to keep fill times down. He confirmed that e-books go away once the time limits for them elapse.

Mr. Murphy concluded the presentation by reviewing the following slides: 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 remarked that money raised from the Civic Center book sale goes directly back into the library's special revenue book account. Given the success of the event, Library staff is planning to schedule another physical book sale in spring, not only to generate revenue but to promote literacy. He added that preparations are underway for an online book sale, and he expected that to take place in the spring once some financial components are finalized. He talked about the way the physical book sale works.

4. FY2026-27 Library Budget Update

Business & Analytics Manager Mike Murphy discussed the budget timeline, noting that the process begins tomorrow. Library Director Michael Beck said Library staff is planning to submit decision packages for the following items: a sorter for Mustang Library, audio/video equipment for Appaloosa Library, and a customizable telephone app for the entire system. Mr. Murphy added that it may be possible to fund the app internally without a need to go through the decision package process.

Mr. Murphy stated a new restroom will be built, the only capital improvement project for the library system, and one that has been recognized by the city manager. The Library and Human Services department only have two proposed projects, which should work in the library's favor. Chair Hartman said the Library Board should reinforce support for the bathroom project once it comes up on the capital improvement project list.

In response to Board Member questions, Mr. Beck said upgrading the exterior of Mustang Library is a project earmarked to be completed this year by the Facilities Department. He spoke about a contract with Honor Health which allocated 40 library parking spots, but those spots will revert to the library once the project is complete. He noted the Appaloosa Library's parking lot has been regraded and is safe.

5. Arabian Library Highlights

Louisa Aikin, Arabian Branch Manager, shared the vision statement for Arabian Library, which she described as a social, neutral, and accessible space for everyone. She provided an update on plans to expand the exterior patios and add shade and misters to the area. Library Director Michael Beck commented that the project is in a holding pattern because misters were added to the project. Business & Analytics Manager Mike Murphy noted that doing the project in phases may enable the library to fund some of it internally.

Ms. Aikin spoke about an initiative to replace chairs that are nearly 20 years old and starting to fail, which will be part of her budget request for next year. She discussed repurposing the collaboration room into a space for children to play group games, including purchases of a Nintendo Switch 2 and soundproofing equipment. It could also be used as another study space for groups of students. She brought up a pollinator garden that is recently underway. In response to Board Member questions, Ms. Aikin said video games would be on a cart and could be wheeled in and out of the game room when needed; otherwise, it would be a multi-functional space.

Ms. Aikin highlighted a new program, Music Under the Stars, which saw 35 people attend its first event. She promoted an upcoming event on December 16 at 6:30 p.m. She noted 218 people participated in the Halloween Family Fun Night and spoke about a neighborhood block party recently attended by 93 people.

Vice-Chair Seiden offered to share information with Ms. Aikin about a neighbor in the area who owns a misting company.

6. Library Board Retreat

Chair Hartman wanted more time to discuss the possibility of holding another retreat and what topics could be discussed if one were held. She noted the last retreat was three and a half hours and it was held at another facility.

Chair Hartman invited each Board Member to vote on one of three options for holding a retreat: 1) yes, we should have a retreat; 2) no, we shouldn't have a retreat; and 3) neutral, we need more information. All Board Members voted for option 3, noting that a retreat would be nothing more than an extended meeting. Dr. Hartman acknowledged that retreats must be published with public meeting notice and have an agenda, but the style of dialogue is more like an open dialogue than a typical meeting.

In response to Board Member Campana's comment that multiple members would be terming out soon, a brief discussion ensued regarding the need to capture important Library Board history for future members as a possible retreat topic. Vice-Chair Seiden stated that a specific topic was needed in order for a retreat to take place. Chair Hartman noted that minutes would be taken for the retreat.

Given that everyone felt neutral about holding a retreat, it was decided that this item would be added to the next meeting, and the Chair suggested that Board Members think about topics that would merit holding a retreat and parameters that would make it more successful.

7. Director's Report

Library Director Michael Beck provided the following updates on items listed in the Director's Report:

- A \$25,000 grant was received for the Library Makerspace, and he described how the building was repurposed to achieve the space.
- He noted the largest library book retailer has gone out of business, but multiple vendors were awarded bids. Some funds typically allocated for physical materials can be shifted to digital resources.
- He announced that the Friends of the Library raised \$23,000 with their 24-Hour Donate Challenge, an increase of \$9,000 over last year.
- He promoted the Ultimate Family Play Date event on December 6 and discussed some of the attractions expected at the event.

8. Board Member's Report

Vice-Chair Seiden spoke about appearing on the Today and Tomorrow podcast to talk about the library as well as her attendance at the Mayor's Reception. Board Member Shimokubo discussed a painting class she attended at Appaloosa Library. Board Member O'Connell indicated that the book *That Librarian* contains a chapter all about advocacy and ways to be supportive of libraries.

Board Member Campana discussed the Friends of the Library (Friends) upcoming book sale, noting there was a significant increase in the number of people who donated. Board Member Totten spoke about the Music Under the Stars event and a Blue Zones presentation held by the

Friends at Mustang Library. Board Member Sonnenklar suggested having an astronomer attend Music Under the Stars events with a telescope.

Chair Hartman spoke about national events taking place in the month of November. She noted that each library liaison plans something special during the holiday season to celebrate staff at their branches. She encouraged Board Members to think about things they have done over the last year that they wish to have recognized in the Department of Public Libraries' annual report for discussion at the next Library Board meeting. She added that she spoke at Staff Recognition Day, where she conveyed recognition from patrons of each of the libraries.

9. Identification of Future Agenda Items and Future Meetings

Vice-Chair Seiden requested an agenda topic guiding Board Members on how to use the telephone app when it is ready. Chair Hartman indicated that a demo on the 3-D printer is scheduled for the next Library Board meeting.

The Board's next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. at Mustang Library.

Board Member Shimokubo noted that the Board had previously discussed endowment giving, and she wanted the legal department to weigh in. That item could be added to a regular meeting agenda or be suggested as a retreat topic.

10. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER O'CONNELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR HARTMAN, VICE-CHAIR SEIDEN, AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, O'CONNELL, SONNENKLAR, 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 5:06 p.m.

Recorded and transcribed by eScribers, LLC.