



**City of Scottsdale  
Library Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, February 11, 2026  
Arabian Library - Program Room  
10215 E. McDowell Mountain Ranch Road  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

**PRESENT:** Chair Enid Seiden, Vice-Chair Janice Shimokubo, Board Members Sam Campana, Dr. Freda Hartman, Roselyn O'Connell, Monica Sonnenklar, Leslie Totten

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** Michael Beck, Library Director; Mike Murphy, Business & Analytics Manager; Sarah Kaufman, Sr. Library Manager; Javier Mendoza, Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order**

Chair Seiden 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 – December 10, 2025, and January 14, 2026**

Vice-Chair Shimokubo noted that approval of the December 10, 2025, minutes was continued so the minutes could be evaluated for accuracy. She expressed concern that the City Attorney's statements at the 1-hour and 43-minute mark were not reflected in the minutes. Library Director Michael Beck responded that minutes are intended only to be a high-level overview, and Library Board minutes are more detailed than those of most boards and commissions. The written minutes are prepared by an unbiased third party and are intended to be a synopsis of the audio, which interested parties can listen to at any time.

Board Member Hartman indicated that the City Attorney has not provided the feedback she said she would. She wondered whether the Board should make a motion that the minutes be more specific when dealing with the comments of City officials. A brief discussion ensued regarding the purpose of the City Attorney's attendance at the December 10 meeting. Mr. Beck noted that City staff do not always give advanced notice when they plan to attend Board meetings. He reiterated that minutes are not supposed to be verbatim recaps of meetings.

Vice-Chair Shimokubo clarified that the minutes did include the City Attorney's offer to provide suggestions to the language of the appendix, but no suggestions were ever received. Mr. Beck pointed out that the City Attorney's first recommendation was not to approve the appendix at all, but he felt that since the Board voted not to include the appendix, the matter was moot at this point. Board Member Hartman confirmed that no suggestions were received by the City Attorney.

Board Member Hartman said previous attendance by the City Attorney was always conveyed in advance to the Chair of the Board. She thought it was unusual for the City Attorney to attend a meeting of her own volition. She and Board Member Sonnenklar had requested feedback from City Attorney Angela Calabresi about the problematic language in the appendix. Director Beck reiterated that the matter was moot at this point.

A motion to approve the December 10, 2025, Library Board meeting minutes was made, lacking a mover and a second on the vote. Administrative Assistant Javier Mendoza pointed this out during the motion to approve the January 14, 2026, meeting minutes. In light of this omission, both motions to approve minutes were integrated into one motion for minute approval.

VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO MOVED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 10, 2025, AND JANUARY 14, 2026, LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. BOARD MEMBER TOTTEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR SEIDEN, VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, HARTMAN, O'CONNELL, SONNENKLAR, AND TOTTEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

Board Member Totten noted the January minutes were more abridged than previous minutes. Mr. Beck mentioned that it may be a result of the new reporter for the Library Board meetings.

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

### **1. Patron Comment Report**

Library Director Michael Beck reviewed comments 2, 6, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 19 as listed in the agenda packet and any responses made by Library staff. He noted the Library currently works with local authors, and the Friends of the Library are currently working with an author on a book signing. He discussed some of the ways patrons, including local authors, can reach out to Library staff. He pointed out that the Library highlights a local author collection as well.

Board Member Totten wondered whether there could be another way to exit the Civic Center Library without having to pass the book drop-off. Mr. Beck admitted that there could be an inconvenience if cars were backed up for people to drop off books. Regarding comment 16, he noted the Library has Rocket Languages among its digital services. He said the Library's Wi-Fi bandwidth and speed are currently between four and six times higher than they were last year.

Responding to Board member questions, Mr. Beck assured the Board that the Library welcomes all patrons, and they address patron issues according to the Library's code of conduct. He was unsure of the basis of the complaint in comment 13. He described the *Arizona Republic* as an underperforming digital resource, and given that its cost was also

increasing, the Library decided to use those funds for other purposes. However, the Library still offers print subscriptions. Given that the *Arizona Republic* was a local paper and interest in the digital version had been trending upward, Board Member Hartman wondered whether staff would reconsider reinstating it. Business & Analytics Manager Mike Murphy noted that 3,000 was the lowest subscription option, so the Library was paying for 3,000 subscriptions when only 1,000 were used. Board Member Hartman suggested that Library staff try to negotiate costs.

Regarding comments about difficulty in navigating the website, Board Member Hartman asked whether staff tracked specific complaints. She thought doing so would allow staff to document the improvements they made. Mr. Beck said any comments received are routed to the appropriate department or senior manager. Staff have the oversight to keep track of complaints, though the Library collaborates with the City communications team on website matters.

Board Member O'Connell requested that the reports be printed using a larger font. Mr. Beck responded that he will work with staff on that. Regarding additional Board member questions, he said Library programs were free to the public. He noted that the Library pays for all supplies for their craft programs, so attendees do not need to.

With respect to comment 8, Mr. Beck spoke about the illustrations in the book *It's Perfectly Normal* and the selection criteria utilized by the Library when selecting books to stock. He said he did not know exactly what was conveyed to the commenter who had concerns about the book. Patrons have the ability to provide feedback about books and where they are shelved within the library. Discussion ensued regarding *It's Perfectly Normal*, the Library's selection process for books, and the book's location in the youth section. Mr. Beck noted that the location of books in the library is determined by the age appropriateness assigned to the books by cataloging records, and not by staff recommendation.

Board Member Campana echoed the desire for patrons to have local information available through the *Arizona Republic*, even if it needed to be subsidized. Mr. Beck noted that the *Republic* routinely gets 1,000 views while publications like the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal* get hundreds of thousands of views, justifying keeping those publications. He said he would explore resubscribing to the *Arizona Republic*. Board Member Hartman suggested that the Friends of the Library might be able to fund it.

## **2. Library Programming Partnerships**

Sarah Kaufman, Sr. Manager of Programs, Outreach, and Training, introduced Jared Swerzenski, Director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) with Arizona State University (ASU). Mr. Swerzenski indicated that information about the program is available at Mustang Library and the Scottsdale Civic Library. He described OLLI as a gateway to lifelong learning, and the program is one of 123 around the country and one of two in Arizona. ASU's program focuses on the academic aspect in partnership with university professors, and it is a membership organization. He spoke about the origin of OLLI, noting that it is supported by ASU but not funded by them; rather, they are funded by endowments from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

Mr. Swerzenski said OLLI had a staff of nine and 1,900 members, of which 150 were online members only. OLLI offers approximately 130 offerings per semester, 60 percent in person

and 40 percent online. He was proud of the partnership with Scottsdale Public Library and praised staff for their preparation and understanding of what they wanted. He reviewed the three programs OLLI offered in the fall and the number of attendances for each, as well as the first event held in the spring. He promoted a program about Alfred Hitchcock and Cary Grant to be held in April. He discussed the reason for only holding two events in the spring. All programs are free, he announced, and walk-ins are welcome. He said all professors are vetted and receive an honorarium for their work on the programs.

Responding to Board member questions, Library Director Michael Beck indicated there should be a link on the Library's website connecting to OLLI to register for their events. Board Member Totten suggested that the events be publicized in Scottsdale *Life* and the e-newsletter. Mr. Swerzenski stated that OLLI tries to keep membership costs as low as possible. They offer six to seven free classes and charges \$35 for a membership from January to May, or \$75 for an annual membership. Membership allows individuals access to even more free opportunities, Arizona State events, and partnerships with other institutions around the valley. Classes are around an hour and a half long, and their average cost is around \$19. OLLI is attempting to work with other OLLIs to give local members access to other institutes' events, but right now that occurs on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Beck assured Board members that OLLI's fall and spring events were publicized, but there were no events to advertise in the winter edition. The programs held at the library are free to the public.

Mr. Swerzenski noted that OLLI does not have a target age demographic, and nobody is turned away from programs. They tend to program for the 50 plus age range, but many attendees come with their children and grandchildren. He said he handles the curriculum, and he encouraged anyone with ideas for a program to speak with him. He remarked that the programs offered through OLLI's partnership with Scottsdale Sister Cities are provided for free to those members. Board Member Campana requested a presentation about travel opportunities offered by OLLI. Mr. Swerzenski said he would put that together and make it available to the public. He said the institute provides an opportunity for attendees to evaluate programs.

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

Business & Analytics Manager Mike Murphy conducted a slideshow presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles or descriptions: YTD Attendance; YTD Attendance by Library; three graphs; Appaloosa Library; Arabian Library; Civic Center Library; Mustang Library; Year to Date – All Libraries Digital Gate Count; Library Card Holders; 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; 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.

In response to Board member queries, Mr. Murphy believed that the slight decline in attendance this fiscal year might be eliminated since the third quarter is typically the busiest one. Library Director Michael Beck was unable to point out a specific reason why attendance was down. Mr. Murphy believed that as more data was compiled regarding gate counts, times of day, and days of the week, more trends will be identified. He remarked that the current gate counters were more accurate than the prior ones.

98 percent of all library cardholders, Mr. Murphy continued, are from Arizona. A brief discussion ensued regarding the total number of cardholders at the end of 2025, with Mr. Murphy saying he would confirm the correct number. Mr. Beck pointed out that there has been consistent growth in new cardholders, and that figure does not include cardholders with expired cards who were deleted from the system quarterly. He indicated that staff could identify the platform digital users utilized, but for confidentiality reasons, staff do not ask what digital users are looking up specifically. As Library Director, it was less important for him to know whether people preferred their resources digitally versus physically as long as the resources were available to them. Board Member Hartman thought it was important to know what digital resources were being used to ensure proper resources were allocated to those areas.

Mr. Murphy attributed the significant increase in fill times to the closure of library book distributor Baker & Taylor in October. It was an industry problem he expected to continue for some time. However, other vendors have begun providing what the Library needs. Mr. Beck said staff were currently working with three smaller companies, Libraria, Ingram Content Group, and Brodart Co. Board Member Totten praised Mustang Library staff for their responsiveness to patrons' requests for new books.

Board Member Totten wondered whether the increase in program attendance signaled a need for more programs. Mr. Beck felt the increase was because staff listened to feedback about what patrons wanted out of the programs. A brief discussion ensued regarding the career fair held in September. He confirmed that attendance for events for which library space is rented is not included in the program attendance figures, though collaborative programs did count.

Mr. Beck commented that the Library recently hired a new Volunteer Coordinator who was expected to start in the position next Monday. Mr. Murphy said program attendance statistics are not broken down per library, though he could try to include percentages if they are available.

#### **4. Bookmobile Feasibility**

Library Director Michael Beck stated he was directed to conduct a bookmobile feasibility study, and vendor meetings are underway with an internal team he created. He expected to hold a meeting with the Deputy City Manager and the Fleet Director to figure out logistics. He hoped for a bookmobile that could hold 1,000 to 2,000 volumes and have storage for pop-up tents. Consideration was also being given to it serving a hybrid function. His team was trying to fast-track the project, and there might be opportunities to partner with the Friends of the Library. He encouraged Board members to provide feedback at any time, listing Farber and Matthews Specialty Vehicles as two of the larger vendors for those kinds of vehicles. He wanted a vehicle that could fit in the Civic Center's loading dock for security purposes.

## **5. Director's Report**

Library Director Michael Beck provided the following updates on items listed in the report:

- Facility and building project updates, including improvements at the Mustang parking lot, flooring replacement at the College and Career Corner, and the Civic Center bathroom expansion project
- Request for proposal updates for book distributor vendors
- Upcoming Friends, Library, and outreach events

Mr. Beck conducted a Fiscal Year 2024-2025 accomplishments slideshow presentation and reviewed slides with the following titles: Collection – Assets; Facility; Partnerships; Programs; Services; and FY 2024-25 Library Statistical Review.

Mr. Beck announced that the Scottsdale Library had a net increase of 5,500 non-Scottsdale-resident cardholders year over year, which might result in an increase in the County's LAP allocation. A previous year's increase of 2,000 cardholders resulted in a \$40,000 increase in allocation. He said approximately \$15,000 was saved by switching from Patron Point to Unique Services. He announced a book sale planned for the Mustang Library in April.

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

Chair Seiden noted she walked in the Parada Del Sol event. She expressed concern about a proposed Arizona bill that would restrict minors' access to sexually explicit materials and could result in felony charges for librarians who offered those materials. Board Member Totten recommended a related documentary called *The Librarians*, and Board Member O'Connell suggested that members read *That Librarian*, a book on the same topic. Board Member Sonnenklar conveyed praise she received from her son about the ease with which interlibrary loans can be requested online and how quickly the books are made available. She liked that renewals could be easily done online as well.

Vice Chair Shimokubo spoke about attending Parada Del Sol and a Japanese Friendship Garden presentation at Civic Center Library. Board Member Campana thought an item could be agendaized to reconsider committee assignments, requesting a breakdown of all available committees and the terms of current liaisons. She noted that 25 percent of all sales at Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. would go to the Library. Board Member Totten lauded the work done on the parking lot at Mustang Library and discussed a McDowell Sonoran Preserve Conservancy presentation about pollinators, which she thought would be valuable for youth as well. She announced that the Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library was designated as a certified Blue Zone participating organization. She wondered whether Scottsdale Ambassadors knew all the services offered by the Civic Center Library and encouraged staff to attend a network meeting with them.

Board Member Hartman talked about her work on the AZLA Advocacy Committee and one of its subcommittees, through which she would try to get more information about the bill mentioned by Chair Seiden. Board Member Sonnenklar said bills like that were why she thought messaging from Library staff about those issues needed to be clear.

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

Chair Seiden repeated the previous request for an item to discuss the Board's committee assignments.

Board Member Hartman requested an item for the Board to discuss the proposed Library budget. Board Member Campana wanted statistics regarding the number of Scottsdale residents served by other libraries and their programming. She asked for a presentation about the Library's courier vans route, as well as one regarding the Spirit of Literacy Awards.

## **8. Adjournment**

BOARD MEMBER TOTTEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BOARD MEMBER O'CONNELL SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR SEIDEN, VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, HARTMAN, O'CONNELL, SONNENKLAR, 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 5:14 p.m.

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