



**City of Scottsdale  
Library Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, March 11, 2026  
Mustang Book Discussion Room  
10101 N. 90th Street  
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

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

**ABSENT:** Board Members Sam Campana, Roselyn O'Connell, and Monica Sonnenklar

**STAFF:** Michael Beck, Library Director; Alicia Brillon, Senior Manager; Raven Creech, Interim Mustang Library Branch 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 – February 11, 2026**

Vice-Chair Shimokubo suggested that guests be listed on the first page of the minutes. Administrative Assistant Javier Mendoza indicated the minutes are based off a City template, but he will verify whether guests can be listed on the first page under the Board and Staff attendees. Mr. Mendoza also noted that staff members who attend meetings but do not speak as part of an agenda item or public comment are not usually announced. Library Director Michael Beck added that staff members who make presentations are listed as speakers under the item during which they speak.

Vice-Chair Shimokubo suggested adding the language, "and provide a summary of the evaluations to the Board" to the last sentence of Agenda Item 2. Mr. Beck pointed out that this should be on the audio recording already, staff would have to verify, otherwise it might be duplicative to also include it in the minutes. In response to a Board question, Mr. Beck stated he would follow up with the ASU presenter regarding the agenda item, its survey results and return to the Board with that information.

Board Member Hartman thought the Board should consider making a motion indicating that the Board has no objection to staff members attending Board meetings. Mr. Beck thought these suggestions would be more suitable under the Board Comments and Suggestions section later in the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding Board Member Hartman's motion suggestion.

VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 11, 2026, LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. BOARD MEMBER TOTTEN SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). CHAIR SEIDEN, VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, AND BOARD MEMBERS HARTMAN AND TOTTEN VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

## **REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

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

Library Director Michael Beck reviewed comments 2, 7, 9, 10, and 13 as listed in the agenda packet and any responses made by Library staff. He indicated that staff uses an inventory wand to cut down on instances where people may have returned books that didn't get checked in properly.

Responding to Board member questions, Interim Mustang Library Branch Manager Raven Creech said she hoped the chairs at her branch would be reupholstered by the end of the month. Regarding Scottsdale Library's title reservation system, Senior Manager Alicia Brillon said titles only appear in the catalogue when staff place an order for them. Patrons can place holds on items that have been ordered but have not yet arrived.

With respect to the Library's website, Mr. Beck indicated it is common for staff to assist patrons who have bookmarked specific website pages which have moved by helping them locate the new pages and bookmarking them again. He described the City processes by which Library staff pass along recommendations and requests for the website. A brief discussion ensued about the various ways patrons can contact Library staff for assistance.

### **2. Spirit of Literacy – Friends of SPL**

Shiela Reyman, President of Friends of the Scottsdale Public Library, promoted the Spirit of Literacy event and noted that one business and four individuals would be recognized as recipients. She encouraged Board members to attend the event, adding that Civic Center Library would not be open during that time. She remarked that the recipients are not currently serving on the Library Board or the Friends Board.

Ms. Reyman spoke about an April 18 event featuring Dolan Ellis, Arizona's official balladeer. The event will be a joint fundraiser with the Scottsdale Historical Society and proceeds from ticket sales will be split between the two organizations. Hardcover and paperback copies will be available for sale, with \$5 from each purchase going to the fundraiser.

Ms. Reyman discussed how the Friends try to obtain grants when the Library needs funding for something, and she listed some of the initiatives the Friends financially supported this year. She said the Friends raised \$23,085 during their donor challenge, an increase from the previous year. She reviewed several affiliates who donate portions of their sales to the Friends. All affiliates are listed on the Friends' website. She mentioned that the Friends are

currently securing grants to purchase AWE Afterschool Edge computers and showed the Board their new Friends Brochures.

Responding to Board Member Totten's query, Ms. Reyman stated the Friends' current balance totals just over \$48,000.

### **3. Collection Development**

Senior Manager Alicia Brillon said the Library's collection development focuses on the principles of fiscal responsibility, professional standards, and respect for all community members. Regarding the first principle, she described how the Library's tools prioritize materials that will be used by specific patrons and support lifelong learning and recreational reading for citizens. Items that are outdated, inaccurate, or those in poor physical condition are regularly removed from the collection.

With respect to professional standards, Ms. Brillon indicated the Library prided itself on carrying a balanced collection with varied points of view. She said staff considers national awards and general interest materials when selecting items for the collection. Additional copies of titles are purchased when the hold lists for them become long.

Ms. Brillon said the principle of respecting community members resulted in the Library offering some high-quality materials that reflect patrons' experiences and others that provide opportunities to enlarge perspectives. Staff do not endorse any viewpoints. The Library respects parents' rights to direct their children's reading habits. She said patrons make between 75 and 100 purchase suggestions a month, which the Library endeavors to purchase. Feedback is also sought about material that patrons consider objectionable, which triggers a staff review. She went into greater detail about the features of the Library's inventory wand and how staff use it to keep information about the catalogue up to date.

Chair Seiden asked about the section placement of the book *Perfectly Normal* in the library. Ms. Brillon stated Library staff relies on publishers' and reviewers' recommendations about reading level and the appropriateness of age to determine where books should be placed in the library. Mr. Beck added that most books come with cataloguing details which contain information about recommended shelf area placement. Libraries also have local control, allowing them to locate materials in a series or a particular section. Ms. Brillon confirmed that *Perfectly Normal* is housed in the Library's juvenile section.

Responding to additional questions, Mr. Beck explained that professional library staff works with book sale volunteers to review older titles to determine which could be sold in the Library book shop, proceeds from which go into the Library's special revenue fund. The bookshops generate around \$100,000 a year. Regarding purchase suggestions from patrons, Ms. Brillon indicated that Library staff do not generally notify patrons when the titles they requested have come in, but the Library typically purchases more of those requests than not.

Board Member Hartman inquired about the process for handling patrons' requests to relocate inappropriate books to other sections. Ms. Brillon replied that was not a common occurrence, but those requests would use the Library of Congress's recommendation to determine the appropriate section. Mr. Beck noted that Library has a \$1.1 million budget

from all means, including LAP funding, with which to purchase books requested by patrons, among other things.

#### **4. Spring Book Sale – Mustang**

Library Director Michael Beck indicated bookmarks promoting the sale are available to members of the public. He said bags of books will cost \$10 on the Sunday of the event, and all books at the event will cost \$3 or less. Each book sale event generates around \$2,000. He noted the Library has a new volunteer coordinator, and the event will feature books and mixed media. He spoke about the decision to hold the event at Mustang Library, adding that the sale will take place during normal library business hours. He encouraged Board members to promote and attend the event.

#### **5. Branch Liaisons and Assignments**

Noting that three of the Board members were not present, Library Director Michael Beck said the Board could wait until everyone was present or discuss whether any of the present members wanted to change their assignments since the Board had quorum. The current liaison positions were discussed, and it was noted that Board Members Campana and Hartman will leave the Library Board in October.

After Board discussion, the following assignments were decided:

- Chair Seiden would be the liaison to staff and administration.
- Vice-Chair Shimokubo would be the liaison to Appaloosa Library.
- Board Member O’Connell would be the liaison to Arabian Library.
- Board Members Sonnenklar and Campana would be the liaisons to Civic Center Library.
- Board Members Totten and Hartman would be the liaisons to Mustang Library.

Member Hartman noted that a document exists laying out the expectations for liaisons, and she asked that Board members review it. Liaisons are not expected to bring snacks to regular meetings at their assigned libraries. Typically, this is done during the holiday season only.

#### **6. Director’s Report**

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

- Facility and building project updates, including a new water bottle refill station at Appaloosa Library, new flooring in the youth bathrooms at Mustang Library, the new makerspace, and mobile hotspots.
- Board member follow-up questions included the approval of all Library budget supplements for final City Council consideration; one-on-one tutoring opportunities with published author Betty Webb for writing guidance and tips and tricks in the publishing industry; and marketing efforts for the Japanese Friendship Garden program.
- The Summer Reading Challenge, including increased incentives for adult service participants, the theme for the program, and the County’s decision to shorten the duration of the challenge to better coincide with the beginning of school.
- The bookmobile feasibility study and the upcoming Bunnanza event.

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

Chair Seiden spoke about the City Council meeting where all Library fees were approved. She also inquired about being previously added to the Library e-newsletter. Responding to her question, Administrative Assistant Javier Mendoza said Board members were added to the mailing list for the Roundup newsletter, and he would follow up about them receiving the Library's e-newsletter via email also.

Vice-Chair Shimokubo spoke about the Japanese Friendship Garden event and noted the Desert Foothills YMCA agreed to participate in the summer reading program. She planned to buy boxes of 4th, 5th, and 6th grade books at the book sale to give to the Desert Foothills YMCA.

Board Member Totten stated the Scottsdale Friends of the Library was officially certified as a Blue Zones supporting organization. She lauded Library staff who received internal promotions, and she promoted a McDowell Sonoran Conservancy presentation on bird migration.

Board Member Hartman discussed several bills being considered during Arizona's legislative session, all of which carried over from their original houses to the other for consideration. These included Senate Bill (SB) 1435; House Bill (HB) 2133, which deals with the use of inappropriate AI-generated depictions; SB 1567 about inappropriate materials; and HB 2008 which talks about providing financial support for libraries. Most of these bills were heard in prior sessions, and updates on them can be found at [www.billtrack50.com](http://www.billtrack50.com). She also spoke about an exchange of delegations of high school students between Scottsdale Sister Cities and several foreign agencies. She hoped that pictures of these visits could be displayed in the libraries. Sister Cities International will celebrate its 70th anniversary this summer in Washington D.C., and she noted she is on the committee planning the event.

Chair Seiden expressed concern about the pending legislation and recommended that Board members watch the movie *The Librarians*.

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

Chair Seiden mentioned that the bookmobile will be discussed at a later date. Board Member Hartman wanted the topic of the Arabian Library patio enhancements to remain on Board members' minds for future updates. She was glad the Civic Center Library restroom project was approved to move forward pending Council approval.

## **9. Adjournment**

BOARD MEMBER TOTTEN MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO SECONDED THE MOTION. CHAIR SEIDEN, VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO, AND BOARD MEMBERS HARTMAN 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 4:31 p.m. Recorded and transcribed by eScribers, LLC.