



**City of Scottsdale
Library Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
Civic Center Library – Platinum Room
3839 N. Drinkwater Boulevard
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Janice Shimokubo, Board Members Sam Campana, *Dr. Freda Hartman (arrived at 3:13 p.m.), Roselyn O’Connell, and Patricia Pellet

ABSENT: Board Members Monica Sonnenklar and Leslie Totten

STAFF: Michael Beck, Library Director; Sarah Kaufman, Senior Manager; Alexis Skidmore, Librarian I; Steve Redmond, IT Department Systems Analyst/Programmer III; Javier Mendoza, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

Vice-Chair Shimokubo 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 – March 11, 2026

Vice-Chair Shimokubo requested that references to “Desert Foothills Library” in the Board Members Report be changed to “Desert Foothills YMCA”. Library Director Michael Beck responded to the Vice-Chair’s question by saying that the bookstores at Scottsdale’s libraries generate \$100,000 a year, and that total is different than the annual books sale events.

BOARD MEMBER O’CONNELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 11, 2026, LIBRARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FOUR (4) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, O’CONNELL, AND PELLET VOTED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. THERE WERE NO DISSENTING VOTES.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

1. Patron Comment Report

Library Director Michael Beck reviewed comments 4, 5, 6, and 8 as listed in the agenda packet and any responses made by Library staff.

Responding to Board member queries, he said the Library accepts donated books, which are tax-deductible. Some donations are added to the collection while others are sold at the shop, the proceeds from which go to a library special account. He explained that volunteers price out the donated books, and rare or vintage books are sold for just a little lower than market price. The Library offers to provide tax deduction forms for any donations. He reviewed the Library's policy on donations of books by local authors, which he noted is different than the general book donation policy.

Mr. Beck stated that the Library offers one-time three-month visitor cards. After that, the Library requires proof of Maricopa County residency for a card, or non-residency cards could be obtained for a \$43 fee. Member O'Connell discussed her experience obtaining a visitor card in Colorado.

Mr. Beck explained the Library's policy on posting flyers for local, state, or federal government activities in the facilities, noting that they are displayed in the libraries' public literature racks.

Mr. Beck spoke about a request for a journal article, saying there is no prohibition on those requests; it is up to the lending organization as to whether to charge a printing fee for those articles. He added that most libraries keep rare and new materials for their own residents. He confirmed that someone responded to the requester, whose request came from the City of Scottsdale's Library Board website, not the Library's patron comment website. Administrative Assistant Javier Mendoza explained how he responds to comments that come through the Library Board website. Discussion ensued regarding whether comments from sources other than the patron comment portal should be included in this report and how patrons are educated about alternate ways to submit feedback. Member Hartman wondered whether it would be worthwhile for the Board to make a motion that all patron comments be included in the report, regardless of how they are submitted.

Citing the request for Library staff to visit a school, Member O'Connell offered to attend events if Library staff could not. Member Campana suggested that Library staff reach out to the whole Library Board if similar requests are made. She did not think the Board needed to see every comment, such as routine matters like comment 11.

2. Library Technology Update

Steve Redmond, IT Department Systems Analyst/Programmer III, spoke about a recent upgrade to the internet connection at all four library branches, resulting in significantly faster wireless speeds. He noted the Library received eight mobile hotspots from Verizon in March, and they have been configured and packaged and will be available soon. He discussed the features of the hotspots. Responding to the Vice-Chair's questions, he said the hotspots will be available for check-out by patrons. Library Director Michael Beck indicated that staff is drafting policies and procedures, which he will work with Vice-Chair Shimokubo to place on a future Library Board agenda. Member Hartman thought issues like that should be addressed with the chair. She and Vice-Chair Shimokubo agreed that the Chair should be involved with the policy and the Board should be able to review it.

Mr. Redmond said a new RFID shelf management wand and a laptop were received and configured. There was only one wand for all four libraries, he noted. Mr. Beck added that, given the \$5,000 cost for these wands, the Library is starting with one as a trial, and it can easily be shared among the branches. Staff will determine whether there is value in getting more of them. Member Hartman suggested that Mr. Beck ask other library directors what they are doing in that regard. He reviewed some of the types of information provided by the wand and its uses, remarking that it saves a significant amount of staff time. Wands are used both in the regular course of business and as a troubleshooting tool. He said many library tools were expensive because they were technology-based, but there were no ongoing maintenance or subscription costs related to the wand.

Mr. Redmond mentioned that the Library has obtained Meta Quest virtual reality headsets, games, and accessories, along with a one-year subscription for the Horizon+ membership. Staff have been trained on the headsets, which will be available only for in-library use. Mr. Beck said they were purchased using a grant award, and he discussed some of their features.

Mr. Redmond announced that Appaloosa Library's new sorter machine is scheduled for delivery on May 18. He reviewed some of the new technology at the libraries: two new 3D printers and the pilot 3D printing program for Mustang Library's makerspace, two new public-use computers, and a new MacBook Pro. Staff is waiting for a quote on a new HP laptop, which will also be used for makerspace programs. The Library's credit card machines reached their end of life on April 1, and seven new ones have been ordered. Discussion ensued regarding how the Library handles different end-of-life issues, which can vary by the specific technologies.

3. SPL 2026-27 LSTA Grant Cycle

Senior Manager Sarah Kaufman reviewed the following Library Services and Technology Act grants for which the Library applied, their potential uses, and their benefits:

- a grant for a story walk at Appaloosa Library
- a grant to expand the Library's mobile hotspot collection from 8 to 18
- a second writers-in-residence grant for fiscal year 2026/27
- a grant for a multi-person booth at Arabian Library

Responding to Board member questions, Mr. Beck indicated the multi-purpose booths are portable and could be used for study. He discussed some of the topics that could be focused on during writers-in-residence programs and spoke about previous events the Library has held with writers.

The total value requested by the Library for these four grants, Ms. Kaufman indicated, was approximately \$46,200. Mr. Beck stated the Library received five grants this year totaling around \$49,000, which was a lot considering that typical years saw around \$25,000 in grants. He expected to know by the end of May. Ms. Kaufman broke down the specific estimated amounts for each of the grants.

Member Hartman thought some of these requests may require new policies, and the Board could compile a list of them. Ms. Kaufman indicated the Library has a policy for 3D printers, which can be modified as new equipment is obtained.

4. Bookmobile Feasibility Update

Library Director Michael Beck said staff is considering three options: retrofitting an existing City vehicle, a step van, or a coach bus. He stated vendor information was available on the Library's website. He discussed some of the amenities the Library feels it needs for the multipurpose bookmobile and the Library IQ software, which he said can help identify the locations of cardholders to better plan Library events. He expected to return to the Board in May or June with additional information. Staff is working on other considerations, such as storage of the vehicle for safety and the types of generators that might be used. He talked about some potential fundraising ideas.

In response to Board member questions, Mr. Beck said the cost of this vehicle would likely need to be included in the Library's budget, though there could be opportunities for public-private partnerships and grants. He reviewed some of the types of programming that could be implemented if the bookmobile were to become a reality. He hoped to make it available in the community four days a week during Scottsdale's busy events season. He expected to make a budget request during the City's next budget cycle, and he would need to evaluate whether additional staffing would be necessary. After the feasibility study is completed, City administration would decide whether to forward it to the City Council for review. He encouraged the Board to review the public information on this topic and provide feedback.

5. SPL Teen Advisory Board

Several members of the Teen Advisory Board (TAB) introduced themselves. A slideshow presentation was conducted, and the following slides were reviewed: Teen Advisory Board; Teen Summer Volunteers, and Teen School Year Volunteers.

TAB members provided information about the following:

- folding 1,000 paper cranes for World Peace Day
- TAB's mission statement, which the TAB helped write
- arranging books based on topics and creating one display a month
- creating a self-service resource for teens to help themselves on a variety of topics
- the Summer Reading Challenge
- how Reading Buddies were trained to work with 1st grade students
- story and craft events for kindergartners
- assembling the seed packets for the Seed Library
- an egg hunt event
- a display intended to promote poetry
- podcasting about the TAB
- delivering free books to elementary schools
- Library outreach and playdates

Library Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions throughout the presentation. TAB members informed the Board that they meet the first Thursday of every month for two hours. Alexis Skidmore with Civic Center Library noted the TAB members present were specific to Civic Center Library and constituted a small sample of the TAB program. Each TAB member spoke about how they discovered the TAB Board, why they decided to join, and which schools they attended. Library Director Michael Beck reviewed some of the methods the Library utilized to recruit students to the TAB.

6. Director's Report

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

- Facility and Building Project updates, including beautification projects at Civic Center Library, a sound wall and new paint at Mustang Library, and open office hours at the makerspace
- 3D printing requests
- the departure of Board Chair Enid Seiden, which will result in a new election for a chair at the Board's May meeting, along with a potential election for a new vice-chair
- the Bunnanza event
- upcoming Friends, Library, and outreach events, including the semi-annual book sale at Mustang Library and the Spirit of Literacy event at Civic Center Library

7. Board Member's Report

Vice-Chair Shimokubo welcomed Board Member Pellet, who provided a brief personal and professional history, as well as discussing her family.

Member Campana promoted a Friends of the Library fundraiser event at Jenny's Ice Cream and an event featuring Arizona's official balladeer at Mustang Library. She spoke about the daughter of a pioneer family who planned to give an 11-acre property to the community, on which her personal library of more than 2,000 books is housed. Tours of the library will be available by appointment only, and she encouraged people to visit.

Member Hartman promoted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Horses Help, a nonprofit assisted therapy program. The ceremony will be to unveil a Zen garden that was created in collaboration with Scottsdale Leadership. She talked about the fundraising challenges some of these organizations face.

8. Identification of Future Agenda Items and Future Meetings

Future agenda items suggested included:

- voting on potential changes to patron comments
- policies related to hotspots and the makerspace
- the election of the chair
- updates on courier routes
- an update on the Library budget

9. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER O'CONNELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BOARD MEMBER PELLET SECONDED THE MOTION, WHICH CARRIED FIVE (5) TO ZERO (0). VICE-CHAIR SHIMOKUBO AND BOARD MEMBERS CAMPANA, HARTMAN, O'CONNELL, AND PELLET 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.

Recorded and transcribed by eScribers, LLC.