

Action Minutes
Library Advisory Board Meeting
160 W Central Ave, Coolidge, AZ 85128
July 20, 2023

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Shasta McKinney at 6:04 p.m.

Attended in Person: Janell Alewyn
 Linda Heath
 Shasta McKinney
 Brenda Mitchell
 Kevin Todd

Absent: Monte Allen
 Andrea Hille-Andrews

Staff: Joyce Baker

Public:

Approval of Minutes

May minutes were distributed. Brenda Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes and Linda Heath seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Library Manager's Report

- Joyce reported that the library loaned out 6,552 items in June. This was a record!
- The Beanstack online reading app is going well. It is very popular and easy to use. It allows people to record their reading record right from their phone rather than keeping track of a paper reading log.
- The Summer Learning Program in partnership with Kids Kamp was a success with 250 participants in June. There will be another 125 participants in July.
- It has been one year since the City Council approved the waiver of late fees on children's materials.
From May 2021 to May 2022 (before the waiver), 105 items were not returned
From May 2022 to May 2023 (after the waiver), 47 items were not returned. This confirms the Library's theory that waiving fees would **not** result in the loss of more materials but rather encourage people to return them. The number of items not returned dropped by more than 50% with the absence of late fees.
- The Summer Learning Program Kickoff Block Party was held outside the library. 13 organizations hosted games and activities. Twice as many community partners hosted a table this year as last year.
- The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service offered two programs: Anne LeSenne gave a workshop on "Thrillers, Fillers, and Spillers," instructions on container gardening and a second workshop focused on healthy eating and financial literacy.
- Spirit Week was a success. The theme was "All Together Now." The library offered two musical bingos in June: one on the Beatles and one on Disney classics. The library also hosted Learn with Aloha. They offered hula lessons at the Coolidge Rec Center.

- June's FRANK TALK on Why Pronouns Matter: He/She/They was the most highly attended FRANK Talk of the year. Regrettably, a planned FRANK TALK on Artificial Intelligence had to be cancelled due to a power failure at the library.
- Upcoming events – July "Kindness Rocks Garden" Participants will paint rocks for the kindness garden.

Business

Date Change: Joyce asked that the September meeting be moved to one week earlier than scheduled, to September 14. Kevin Todd made a motion and Janell Alewyn seconded the change. Motion carried.

Summer Learning Program successes: Joyce will provide a full report on the Summer Learning Program at the September meeting. However she shared some preliminary numbers on the success of the program: The completion rate far exceeded previous years. 61% of teens, 53% of adults, and 68% of children completed the program. July saw the best door count in a long time. 978 people visited the library from July 10 – 14. 434 unique children picked up coupons offered by local businesses through the Friends of the Library program.

2023-2024 Budget Updates:

City Council approved a 10% raise for all full-time staff. There will be a slight increase in the book budget. The City approved a position for a third page but the salaries will come out of a county grant, not city funds.

Hotspot Lending:

20 hotspots were originally acquired through ARPA funds (no longer available). The county will continue to pay for the WIFI signal for this program. However, only 11 hotspots remain and four of those are disconnected. The four have been returned and the library is waiting for the county to turn the T-Mobile service back on. Therefore, only seven are in service and there is a waiting list of 13.

The Police asked the Library to turn off the Wi-Fi from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. for security purposes.

Staff Updates:

Rebecca no longer works for the library. Two new pages, Judy Ferguson and Grant Price, have been hired and will join Lauren Smith as pages. Brittany is on FMLA through the summer. We hope she will return in August.

Progress on 2023 goals:

Joyce reported that, in partnership with Central Arizona College, ESL classes will be offered at the Library if 8 people or more sign up. CAC will offer registration at the library two weeks before classes start on 8/14.

There will be an eclipse during Coolidge Days Carnival. The library hopes to distribute 1,000 pair of eclipse glasses during the carnival. Staff have requested an additional 500 pair of glasses. The library is on a wait-list for them. The library has also applied for a \$4,000 grant which will provide for the purchase of a telescope, thermometer, and other equipment for the eclipse and for use in future Library events/programs.

Brenda and Linda visited with Library employees in March. Janell visited in June. The visits allow Advisory Board members to be more familiar with staff and their jobs. Andrea is planning to visit in August.

The library will soon offer Culture Passes. They give patrons, on a first-come, first-served basis, free access to zoos, gardens, arts centers, and other places of interest. The advisory board had asked staff to add this program.

Call to the Board: None

Call to the Public: None

Next meeting date: **September 14, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.**

Adjournment

Kevin Todd moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. and Janell Alewyn seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.