

Action Minutes
Library Advisory Board Meeting
160 W Central Ave, Coolidge, AZ 85128
May 18, 2023

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Andrea Hille-Andrews at 6:05 p.m.

Attended in Person: Janell Alewyn
 Andrea Hille-Andrews
 Linda Heath
 Brenda Mitchell

Absent: Monte Allen
 Shasta McKinney
 Kevin Todd

Staff: Joyce Baker

Public:

Approval of Minutes

Linda Heath made a motion to approve the March minutes. Janell Alewyn seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Library Manager's Report

Joyce asked if the members find the statistical reports valuable. All said they appreciate the data and would like to keep receiving it. Interestingly, it shows that physical items continue to be more popular than digital content.

The Stuffed Animal Sleepover, which was held in March, was a big hit with participants. Watch the video of the stuffed animal's antics at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCl4IFExiZI&t=2s>

Joyce noted that the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension provides monthly screening programs (hearing and vision) for preschool children. Anne LeSenne from their agriculture department presented two excellent programs on preparing your soil for planting and irrigation basics. She returned in April to teach a workshop on Pollinators in the Garden. She offered an opportunity to sample various types of honey.

AZ Speaks offered two programs. Southwestern Rock Calendars with Alan Dart about archeology of the Casa Grande Ruins Picture Rocks. Jay Marks led a talk, Jerome: Too Stubborn to Die about Jerome's history.

Community News

- Dani connected with about 50 families at a West School Dr Seuss event.
- A special shout-out to Mayor Thompson for issuing a proclamation for National Library Week in April.
- The April Red Cross Blood Drive collected 24 pints of blood, much more than previous blood drives.

- AZ @ Work held a job fair for Blattner Energy. Sixteen attended and there are five pending job offers.

Business

Website format

Questions arose about the navigability of the library's website at a previous meeting. The pages seem too wordy. Apparently the current layout is necessary to serve users with visual challenges. The text format must continue. Dani and Joyce are working with the web designer to reduce the text-heavy content when possible.

2023 Summer Learning Program and Friends of the Library's support

The theme of this summer's learning program is *All Together Now*. There is a robust selection of activities, including music (The Beatles) and hula lessons at the Coolidge Youth Center. The Friends will not provide school supplies this year. Instead they are paying for the hula lessons and providing 150 coupons for children each week: two weeks of pool passes, two weeks of popsicles, and two weeks of ice cream cones.

How the library is providing services to people who do not have a home

The library is a safe space for those experiencing homelessness. The library offers a cooling station, free bottled water (in partnership with CAHRA), unlimited access to computers, phone charging stations inside and outside, plus wi-fi. Some of the challenges include people falling asleep, which is not allowed; multiple bags of personal belongings stashed around the library; overuse of the restrooms (bathing). It is challenging to find a balance between being a welcoming space showing respect and dignity while maintaining a space for all users.

How community partnerships have impacted programming

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Service has been a wonderful partner offering numerous programs. Other partners include Hope International. They give the library hygiene packs and food for those who are without a home. The library will partner with Pinal County Voter Outreach, Child and Family Resources, and, again, the UA Cooperative Extension at the Summer Learning Program Block Party on May 31.

Staff Updates

Amanda Mattingly (front desk) and Lisa Brady (page) left. Macie Ward joined the staff as a full-time Library Clerk. The library is advertising for three part-time page positions, with initial interviews mid-May.

Progress on 2023 goals

Joyce reviewed the status of Library Advisory Board Goals for 2023.

- The Memorandum of Understanding for ESL and GED classes is signed. CAC is looking for a teacher.
- Many community partnerships are attending the Summer Learning Block Party (see above). The library created an Amazon wish list. Both Proctor and Gamble and the Pinal County Federal Credit Union used the list to support summer programming. Other businesses may opt to use this resource too.
- The library staff set up a NextDoor account, per Andrea's suggestion. They post about twice a week.
- Brenda and Linda visited with most staff members in March. Other board members are invited to do so.

- Other goals still being pursued, include how to further share library programs through word-of-mouth and partnerships with teachers to see if they can offer extra credit when students attend library programs.

CALL TO THE BOARD

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Items raised under this portion of the agenda cannot be responded to by the Coolidge Public Library Advisory Board until the provisions of the “Open Meeting Law” have been complied with.

Next meeting date: July 20, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Janell Alewyn moved to adjourn the meeting, Brenda Mitchell seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.