

Action Minutes
Library Advisory Board Meeting
160 W Central Ave, Coolidge, AZ 85128
September 14, 2023

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Andrea Hille-Andrews at 6:07 p.m.

Attended in Person: Monte Allen
 Linda Heath
 Andrea Hille-Andrews
 Shasta McKinney
 Brenda Mitchell

Absent: Kevin Todd

Attended via Zoom: Janell Alewyn

Staff: Joyce Baker

Public:

Approval of Minutes

July minutes were distributed. Brenda Mitchell made a motion to approve the minutes and Monte Allen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Library Manager's Report

Joyce described the library's most recent outreach efforts: Dani participated in "Read Under the Stars" at Imagine School, which drew about 100 attendees. She will visit Heartland Ranch in October, and return to Imagine School in November.

Summer Learning Program / Kid's Camp: The summer reading program with Parks and Rec drew 375 children who read 100 minutes in two weeks. The Poolapalooza was stretched over two days this year and a change was made in how prizes were distributed. Instead of giving out prizes at the event, certificates were presented to each winner and they could come to the library later to pick up their prizes.

Culture Passes – Culture Passes are now available to library patrons. One pass admits two people to an event. Patrons can check out 2 per month (one at a time). Passes are good for 7 days.

Friends of the Library – Friends of the Library provided coupons for pool passes, popsicles, shaved ice, and ice cream. 433 children received coupons. The next Friends meeting is October 19.

ESL classes – 12 students are attending the first 8 week session; 24 will attend the next 8-week session which starts October 11. On-site registration will be on September 20.

Banned Book Week will be October 2-6.

Solar Eclipse coincides with Coolidge Days, October 14. The library has acquired 1000 pairs of eclipse glasses. Staff will hold several hundred aside for the April 2024 eclipse but at least 500 will be given out before the parade at the Coolidge Days Carnival (see more under Grants).

Business

Review Library Advisory Board terms: In January 2024, Janell Alewyn, Monte Allen, Andrea Hille-Andrews, and Shasta McKinney are up for renewal. Any sitting board member who doesn't plan to return should let Joyce know. Joyce will advertise for openings if someone decides they don't want to continue.

Library Advisory Board meeting dates 2024: Group agreed to tentatively keep the Thursday 6 p.m. meeting day and time. We need Kevin's input so will review this at the November meeting. Monte Allen motioned and Linda Heath seconded to *tentatively* set Thursdays at 6 p.m. as the 2024 meeting time. Members voted unanimously to approve this tentative schedule.

Review Summer Learning Program statistics: Joyce described how 2020 saw a decline in numbers due to COVID-19. 2022 saw a boost in numbers due to the large grant the library received. 2023 numbers are back to normal. 1,474 people attended programs this year between May 31 and July 19. The number of registered readers for the Summer Learning Program was higher this year than last year (despite the 2022 grant). Total minutes read went from 243,000 to 394,000. Joyce attributed this to the Beanstack app which makes it much easier to track minutes.

Discuss new grants: Now that the library is fully staffed, Joyce applied for three grants; two have been granted and one is pending. The library received a NASA grant (one of 50 libraries to receive this grant nationally). It will provide hands-on activities and books in English and Spanish, plus a small telescope and other equipment to monitor the October 2023 eclipse and the April 2024 eclipse.

The second grant is from the Department of Health at the U of A, and AZ Library Association. It awards \$4,000 to create a new service. The library will support mental health and wellbeing by expanding the number of toys it provides for children with coordination challenges, including modified Grab N Go craft bags. The grant may provide for the hiring of speakers to help the parents of a child or children with challenges, focusing on the needs of the parent(s).

The third grant (pending) is "Thinking Money for Kids" and provides for the hosting of programs and launch pads to teach children about money. A summer 2024 component to this grant is an Intergeneration Town where children will have responsibility for running their own business.

Discuss staff updates: The library is finally fully staffed.

Discuss progress on 2023 goals: The library has fostered new partnerships: ESL classes, activities related to the eclipse, and Imagine Coolidge's Read under the Stars events. Dani will be at four other events in October.

Andrea mentioned she has not seen the library mentioned on NextDoor lately; Joyce will check with Dani about that.

Next meeting will be November 16 at 6 p.m.

Adjournment

Brenda Mitchell motioned to adjourn and Linda Heath seconded it. Meeting adjourned at 7:08.