

CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission
16755 W Vereda Solana Dr.
Surprise, Arizona 85387

Thursday, August 14, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Asante Library

Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

Chair Kady McCarthy, Vice Chair Tomasina DiCapo, Commission members Annie Ansell, Deborah Gentry, Desiree VanLoon and Mark McCall

Absent: None

Staff: Ashley Ware – City Librarian and Kelsey Lamphier – Director

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Ware reported on the following items:

- Summer Reading was amazing!
 - First time registrations 3195
 - Finishers 3121
 - All registrations 5733
 - Surprise patron completion rate: 55%
 - Entire County overall completion rate: 49%
- City Intern program during the summer
- Paid Library Internship (Fall Semester); Closes 8/16/2025
- Hollyhock new staff are getting geared up for new programs
- Stars & Stories Kick Off and Reading Program
 - Challenges
 - Read to 1776 minutes
 - Special speaker series
 - Kick Off party is October 4th
 - Awesome prizes
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E. Library Commission Agenda

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Discussion and action pertaining to the selection of the Library Advisory Commission Chair.

Commissioner Gentry nominated Commissioner Van Loon as Chair of the Library Advisory Commission.

Vice-Chair DiCapo nominated Chair McCarthy as Chair of the Library Advisory Commission.

1st Vote

(VanLoon, McCall, DiCapo) For Commissioner McCarthy
(McCarthy Ansell Gentry) For Commissioner VanLoon

2nd Vote

(Ansell, McCarthy, Gentry, McCall) For Commissioner Van Loon
(VanLoon and DiCapo) for Commissioner McCarthy

Chair McCarthy moved to select Commissioner VanLoon as Chair of the Library Advisory Commission. 6 Yes votes. Motion carried.

2. Discussion and action pertaining to the selection of the Library Advisory Commission Vice-Chair.

Chair McCarthy moved to select Vice-Chair Tomasina DiCapo as Vice-Chair of the Library Advisory Commission. 6 Yes votes. Motion carried.

3. Presentation by City staff regarding the American Library Association 2025 Conference.

City Librarian Ware and Library Coordinator Dillard presented the Commission with a recap of the American Library Association 2025 Conference:

- Sessions attended:
 - Analyzing the Public Value of Public Libraries
 - Innovative Library Capital Funding
 - Navigating Difficult Situations in Public Libraries: trauma informed strategies for de-escalation
 - Library Advocacy: Ways to Support Libraries
 - Staff Debriefing

4. Presentation and discussion pertaining to general advocacy for the Library Advisory Commission.

City Librarian Ware led a discussion with the Commission addressing advocacy for the community and the library as a newer City Commission where she addressed the following topics:

- Advocacy definition
 - Outreach
 - Volunteering

- Other commissions
- Politics
- Other non-profits or foundations
- Community based
- Presenting to the Library Advisory Commission

- Other organizations
- Community based
- Commissions

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

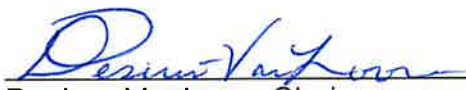
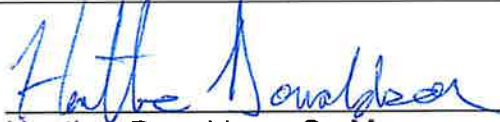
- Budget Update – How does it work? What does it look like? (VanLoon)
- Working Group for Advocacy (McCarthy) Latte with Library.
- Rules of Engagement – What can or cannot be done as a commissioner? (Gentry)

G. Current Events and Reports

- Commissioner McCall gave kudos for Summer Reading Program.
- Vice Chair DiCapo and Commissioner McCarthy attended the Police Chief interview panels.
- Commissioner McCarthy loved Summer Reading, enjoyed the community partners.

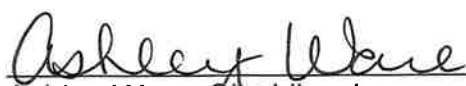
H. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn at 8:14 pm – Commissioner McCarthy made a motion to adjourn. Chair VanLoon 2nd. 6 Yes votes. Motion Carried.

	 _____ Desiree VanLoon, Chair
ATTEST:	 _____ Heather Donaldson, Sr. Management Analyst

CERTIFICATION:

I, Ashley Ware, City Librarian for the City of Surprise Library Department, Maricopa County, Arizona, do hereby verify that these are the true and correct minutes of the Library Advisory Commission meeting held on August 8, 2025.

	 _____ Ashley Ware, City Librarian
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