



CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission
 16089 N Bullard Ave
 Surprise, AZ 85374
 Thursday, March 12, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
 Surprise Regional Library

- A. Call To Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Pledge of Allegiance
- D. Staff Reports
- E. Library Commission Agenda:

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

INSTRUCTIONS: In order to address the Board\Commission, you will need to fill out a Call to the Public Form available at the front counter, and then turn it in to the Secretary before the meeting begins.

Note: A.R.S. 38-431.01(H) - During this time members of the public may address the Board\Commission only on issues within the jurisdiction of the Board\Commission which are not an item on the agenda. At the conclusion of the open call, the Board\Commission may respond to criticism, may ask staff to review the matter or may ask that the matter be put on a future agenda. No discussion or action shall take place on any item raised.

CONSENT AGENDA:

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

- | | | | |
|----|----------|--|---------|
| 1. | Citywide | Consideration and action pertaining to the February 12, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes. | Library |
| 2. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion pertaining to new programs, initiatives, and staff successes at the Surprise Regional Library. | Library |
| 3. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion on the successes and feedback on the Mayor’s Literacy Challenge 2026. | Library |
- F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items
 - G. Current Events and Reports
 - H. Adjournment

KRISTI PASSARELLI, CITY CLERK

POSTED: Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026 @ 2:00 PM

SPECIAL NOTE: PERSONS WITH SPECIAL ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS, INCLUDING LARGE PRINT MATERIALS OR INTERPRETER, SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK’S OFFICE @ 623.222.1200 OR CLERK@SURPRISEAZ.GOV, BY NO LATER THAN 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING TIME.



**CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission**

Council Meeting Date: March 12, 2026
Submitting Department: Library
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Consideration and action pertaining to the February 12, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

I move to approve the February 12, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Background:

Not applicable.

Objective Analysis:

Not applicable.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with city and council policies.

Financial Impact:

This item does not have a financial impact.

Budget Impact:

This item does not impact the budget.

FTE Impact:

This item does not change the full-time equivalent count.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 021226 LAC Meeting Minutes DRAFT
-

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

Thursday, February 12, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Asante Library

Meeting Minutes

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

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

Absent: Commission Member Annie Ansell

Staff: Ashley Ware – City Librarian, Heather Donaldson – Senior Management Analyst and Kelsey Lamphier – Director

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Ware reported on the following items:

- Mayor's Literacy Challenge has been amazing!! We have over 4 million minutes read by 2,442 participants. We have over 46% of participants have achieved their goal of 700 minutes. For context we only had 1,682 participants last year and over 1.1 million minutes read.
- Books and Baseball month is coming! We have some fun programs planned, storytimes at the stadium, and spring training right next door to use your MLC ticket prizes.
- We are excited to be able to send three people to the Public Library Association Conference in Minnesota. They will be presenting to the Library Advisory Commission when they return.
- We have partnered with Sports, Entertainment, and Culture for new artwork to be installed at Asante Library. The installation which included programming and community fun will be done on Saturday, February 28th.

E. Library Commission Agenda

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Consideration and action pertaining to the January 8, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Vice Chair DiCapo moved to approve the January 8, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner McCarthy 2nd. 6 Yes votes. Motion carried.

2. Presentation and discussion on the Maricopa County Library Council and how Surprise Public Library collaborates with libraries around the Valley.

Ms. Ware led a discussion with the Commission regarding the Surprise Public Library System having been a member of the Maricopa County Library Council since its inception in July of 2023. The purpose of the presentation was to gain a larger understanding of how SPLS collaborates with the larger library field in Maricopa County. Ms. Ware addressed the following topics:

- Maricopa County Library Council (MCLC)
- MCLC Committees
 - Continuing Education
 - Outreach
 - Tech Talk
 - Electronic Resource User Group (eRug)
- Scholarships
- Citizen Advocate

- F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

- Chair VanLoon offered to turn the Commissioner pins into a magnet if they would like it.
- Chair VanLoon asked if all library events are themed around books and baseball. Ms. Ware advised that a few of them are, not all of them. Next year will be bigger because of America 250 this year.

- G. Current Events and Reports

- Commissioner Gentry advised that she and Chair VanLoon attended a tour of the new library (Multi-Gen Center).
- Commissioner McCall inquired about the Learning Tree art piece. Ms. Ware advised that it is undergoing routine maintenance.
- Chair Van Loon inquired as to when the new Library would be open (Hollyhock Library will move). Ms. Ware advised that once the Senior Center is moved then the Hollyhock Library will also be moved at the same time, and we have not received an exact date as of yet.

- Chair Van Loon asked how the new book vendor situation is going with the Baker and Taylor bankruptcy. Ms. Ware advised that we are working with the new vendors, CLS, interfiling, etc. Vice-Chair DiCapo asked if we are on backorder with Brodart and if there is a team in place to help with cataloging. Ms. Ware advised that we pre-planned for this so at this time we are not on backorder, and there is a plan in place for staff and volunteers how to help processing, cataloging, etc. with the new books.

H. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 6:40 pm – Commissioner Gentry made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair DiCapo 2nd. 6 Yes votes. Motion Carried.

	<hr/> Desiree Van Loon, Chair
ATTEST:	<hr/> 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 February 12, 2026.

	<hr/> Ashley Ware, City Librarian
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CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: March 12, 2026
Submitting Department: Library
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion pertaining to new programs, initiatives, and staff successes at the Surprise Regional Library.

Motion:

No motion.

Background:

Surprise Regional Library is the largest branch within the Surprise Public Library System.

Objective Analysis:

To learn about the new programs, initiatives, and staff successes at Surprise Regional Library.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with city and council policies.

Financial Impact:

Budget Impact:

This item does not have a financial impact.

FTE Impact:

This item does not change the full-time equivalent count.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. SRL Commission
-

Surprise Regional Library

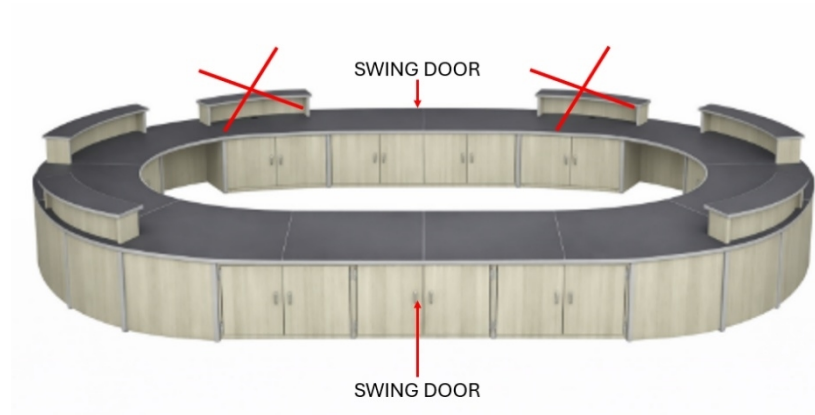
March 12, 2026

Building Updates

- New automated material handler
- New printer/copier
- New furniture
 - Soft seating
 - Benches
 - Tables

Coming Soon!

- New service desk
- New furniture for youth area



Public Art

Art Restoration



- Vaya con Dios
- The Learning Tree
- Reflections of Surprise
- The 5 C's of Arizona

Staffing

Adult Volunteers



- Meredith Stahl retired November 2025
- Hailey Meyers promoted December 2025
- Chanee Baker promoted January 2026
- Akayla Dolezal hired January 2026
- Sophia Duhon hired February 2026

Volunteers

Adult Volunteers



- 15 current volunteers
- 2,248 volunteer hours in 2025
- \$75,757.60 value*

*Independent Sector (independentsector.org)

Teen Volunteers



- 18 current volunteers
- 2,964 volunteer hours in 2025
- Summer volunteer recruitment beginning in March

Programs and Services

Programs



- Stars & Stories
- Bad Art Night
- Seasonal Herbs
- Sparkle That
- Baby's First Artwork

Programs continued



- Art & Possibilities
- Mindful Boxes
- Disney Trivia
- Fancy Tea Party
- Stuffed Animal Sleepover
- Scary Fort Night
- How to be a Prince/Princess
- Teddy Bear Picnic
- Glow in the Dark Dance Party
- Lady Bug Release

Services



- City employee hold delivery service launched November 2025
- 88 patrons utilizing WoW service



surprisepubliclibrary.gov
library@surpriseaz.gov





**CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission**

Council Meeting Date: March 12, 2026
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Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

Consent: No Regular: Yes Public Hearing: No Report/Discussion: No

Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion on the successes and feedback on the Mayor's Literacy Challenge 2026.

Motion:

No motion.

Background:

This is the third year the Surprise Public Library System has ran the Mayor's Literacy Challenge.

Objective Analysis:

To discuss success and feedback for the Mayor's Literacy Challenge 2026 and how the reading program went for the community.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with city and council policies.

Financial Impact:

This item does not have a financial impact.

Budget Impact:

This item does not impact the budget.

FTE Impact:

This item does not change the full-time equivalent count.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. MLC 26 Presentation Library Commission
-

MAYOR'S LITERACY CHALLENGE

Description



- MCLD had the Winter Reading program – only for adults.
- COS Parks & Recreation had the Mayor’s Literacy Challenge for Surprise school children ages 5-11 years.
- In 2023/24 when we transitioned from a county to a city library, we combined the two programs.

A Bit About Them:



- MCLD Winter Reading Program had limited reading prizes.
- Mayor's Literacy Challenge varied from year to year. Kids could earn a class pizza party and frequently could earn books for the classroom.

What We Did



- Combined them into one program for all Surprise Residents.
 - Continued with the class pizza party
 - Added a traveling trophy
 - Included teens and prereaders
 - All kids continue to earn a book – but for their homes
 - For continuity, use the same reading program software as in the summer
 - **MORE PRIZES!**

Yearly Stats



- 2023 – 401 (MCLD & Parks & Recreation)
- 2024 – 1073 Registrants
- 2025 – 1682 Registrants
- **2026 – 2479 Registrants**

PRIZES



PARTNERS



- Surprise Sports & Tourism
- Culver's
- Raising Cane's
- Torchy's Tacos
- Texas Roadhouse

PRIZES



	100	200	300	400	500	600	700
Prereader	Baseball Ticket Bookmark Raffle Ticket	Baseball Ticket Prize Pick	Baseball Ticket Culver's Scoop Raffle Ticket	Baseball Ticket Torchy's	Baseball Ticket Prize Pick Raffle Ticket	Baseball Ticket Raising Canes	Baseball Ticket Book Culver's Kids Meal Raffle Ticket
Kids	Baseball Ticket Bookmark Raffle Ticket	Baseball Ticket Prize Pick	Baseball Ticket Culver's Scoop Raffle Ticket	Baseball Ticket Torchy's	Baseball Ticket Prize Pick Raffle Ticket	Baseball Ticket Raising Canes	Baseball Ticket Book Culver's Kids Meal Raffle Ticket
Teens	Baseball Ticket Bookmark Raffle Ticket	Baseball Ticket Swag Pick	Baseball Ticket Culver's Scoop Raffle Ticket	Baseball Ticket TX Roadhouse	Baseball Ticket Concrete Mixer Raffle Ticket	Baseball Ticket Straw Topper	Baseball Ticket Squishmallow Culver's Value Meal Raffle Ticket
Adult	Baseball Ticket Bookmark Raffle Ticket	Baseball Ticket Swag Pick	Baseball Ticket Culver's Scoop Raffle Ticket	Baseball Ticket TX Roadhouse	Baseball Ticket Concrete Mixer Raffle Ticket	Baseball Ticket Straw Topper	Baseball Ticket Pen/Journal Culver's Value Meal Raffle Ticket

PRIZES



- Pizza Party – Mountain View Elementary 3rd grade
- Traveling Trophy – Paradise Honors Elementary
- Raffle Prizes – Polaroid Camera, Nintendo Switch Lite, Board Game Night, Toniebox, Record Player, & Samsung Galaxy Tablet