

**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.


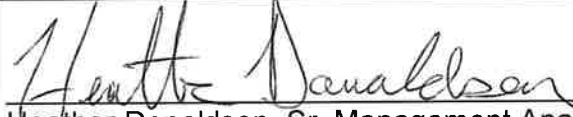
G. Current Events and Reports

- 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.

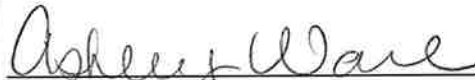
H. ADJOURNMENT:

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

	 _____ Desiree Van Loon, 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 February 12, 2026.

	 _____ Ashley Ware, City Librarian
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