

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

Thursday, April 9, 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, Annie Ansell, Kady McCarthy and MaryAnne Riodique

Absent: Commission Members Deborah Gentry and Mark McCall

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:

- There is a new room reservation stat added to the performance dashboard. We are 44% up in room reservations since last year.
- We have VOX books! They are awesome audio included books. Our first round was picture books but we'll have teen and adult books and playaways coming soon.
- We have almost hired two interns for our collection project. I can officially say Alyssa Aey will start at the end of April and we are working with the second intern.
- We are going to hit a million visitors in April! We are planning a little bit of fun for our patrons. That will be announced soon.
- Summer Reading is coming! We will start registration on May 1st. The theme this year is Unearth a Story which is all about dinosaurs and community stories.

E. Library Commission Agenda

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING:

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

Vice Chair DiCapo moved to approve the March 12, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner McCarthy 2nd. 5 Yes votes. Motion carried.

2. Presentation and discussion on the Asante Library's performance and future direction and service enhancements.

Bambi Shelby, Asante Library Branch Manager, provided the Commission with a presentation about the Asante Library which is a key component of the Surprise Public Library System designed to serve a growing population in the northern portion of the City. She addressed the following items:

- Asante Library Team
 - 6 Full Time / 2 Part Time
 - 5 Teen Volunteers / 8 Adult Volunteers
- Community Engagement
 - Patron Experience
 - Storytimes
 - Unique Programs
 - Programs
 - School Partnerships
 - Community Relations
 - City Department Partnerships
- Building Updates
 - New Carpet
 - Monthly Displays
 - Displays
 - Interactive Displays

3. Presentation and discussion on Surprise Public Library databases.

Nicole Hadenfeldt, Technical Services Librarian, led a discussion with the Commission regarding the Surprise Public Library databases which are intended to support education, workforce development, lifelong learning, and general information needs for the community. She addressed the following topics:

- Online Resources & Databases
 - Ancestry
 - Data Axle (formerly ReferenceUSA)
 - Freegal Music

- Rocket Languages
- Novelist Plus & Novelist K-8 Plus
- Wowbrary
- Comics Plus
- Creative Bug
- Reading Arizona – Libby App
- Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center
- Home Improvement Reference Center
- Britannica Library & Escolar
- Gale Databases
- Libby (Southwest Valley Library Consortium)
- Hoopla
- Free Resources
 - Drive Testing
 - Medline Plus (Eng & Spa)
 - Khan Academy

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

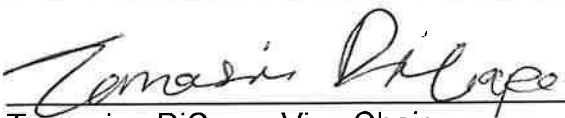
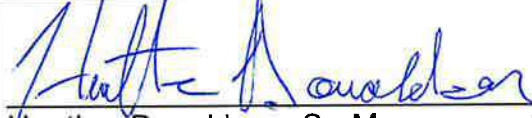
None

G. Current Events and Reports

None

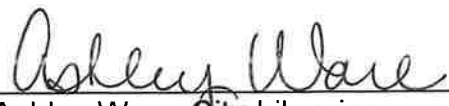
H. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:57 pm – Vice Chair DiCapo made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ansell 2nd. 5 Yes votes. Motion Carried.

	 Tomasina DiCapo, Vice 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 April 9, 2026.

	 Ashley Ware, City Librarian
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