

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

Thursday, June 11, 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 and Deborah Gentry

Absent: Commission Members Kady McCarthy, Mark McCall, and MaryAnne Riodique

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:

- Summer Reading stats are amazing! Total Registered 4,737 & 372 achievers already. We are highest in the West Valley and only libraries higher than us are MCLD, Phoenix, Chandler, and Mesa. Summer Reading Kick Off was super successful with over 3,000. Asante also welcomed the Herpetological Society, and 400 people came to see the snakes, lizards, and other reptiles.
- We have the Stars & Stories Reading program coming to an end with the Closing Party on June 27th from 10-12pm at Surprise Regional.
- We are really excited to announce new hours coming for Hollyhock starting once we move to the new Multigenerational Community Center. They will now match Asante's hours. We are going to be making some big changes for staff and our community to better serve the OTS!
- The library was able to take on 5 Youth Interns through the HSCV program! They get to learn all things library and really help out during SRP.
- Library Card Designs were announced at Council on June 2nd. It was great to meet some of the winners and I cannot wait to have their cards available on July 1, with a gallery of all designs shown at Surprise Regional from July 1-July 14.

E. Library Commission Agenda

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Judith Hamann – Surprise resident – Concerned about LGBTQ+ books at the library as they are targeting children before they are old enough to understand the content. She is asking that the Surprise Public Library System remove these types of books aimed at children.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Consideration and action pertaining to the May 14, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Vice Chair DiCapo moved to approve the May 14, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Ansell 2nd. 4 Yes votes. Motion carried.

2. Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Public Library Association 2026 Conference and City staff attendance thereof.

Lisa Poulin, Librarian provided the Commission with an overview of her experience at the 2026 Public Library Association Conference which she attended in Minneapolis Minnesota. She addressed the following items:

- Sessions
 - Building Inclusive Programming for Youth with Disabilities
 - Building Babies Brains Across a Community
 - Aging Together: Library Programming for Adults
 - Not Your Typical Makerspace
 - Building a Joy-Centric Library

3. Presentation and discussion pertaining to the Advocacy for Libraries organization.

Erin MacFarlane, AzLA Chair of Advocacy Committee, led a discussion with the Commission regarding the AzLA Advocacy Committee's commitment to advocate for library representation and input at the local, state and national levels. She addressed the following topics:

- Library Advocacy Definition
- Federal Advocacy for Libraries
- Advocating for Federal Funds
- Arizona Library Advocacy
- Local Library Advocacy
- Current Priorities

4. Discussion and action pertaining to the approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Library Advisory Commission meeting calendar.

City Librarian Ware led a discussion with the Commission wherein they reviewed the proposed FY27 meeting calendar.

Commissioner Gentry moved to approve the FY2027 Library Advisory Commission meeting calendar. Vice Chair DiCapo 2nd. 4 Yes votes. Motion carried.

5. Consideration and action pertaining to the approval of naming programmable rooms at the Surprise Regional Library and Asante Library.

City Librarian Ware led a discussion with the Commission wherein they reviewed the proposed names for the Asante Programming Room, Surprise Regional Conference Room and the Surprise Regional Programming Room.

- Asante Programming Room
 - Monsoon Room
 - Sunset Room
 - Imaginarium
- Surprise Regional Conference Room
 - Roadrunner Room
 - Chuckwala Room
 - PricklyPear Room
- Surprise Regional Programming Room
 - Sonoran Room
 - Coyote Room
 - Desert Rosy Room

Vice Chair DiCapo moved to approve the names Imaginarium for the Asante Programming Room, The Roadrunner Room for the Surprise Regional Conference Room and the Coyote Room for the Surprise Regional programming room. Commissioner Ansell 2nd. 4 Yes votes. Motion carried.

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Items:

None

G. Current Events and Reports

- Vice-Chair DiCapo visited a 5-story library in Seattle recently.
- Commissioner Ansell reported that the libraries visited the Dysart Community Centers, and the people there loved it.
- Chair VanLoon offered any assistance with the Hollyhock Library move and setup of the new library at the Multi-Gen Center.

H. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 7:31 pm – Commissioner Ansell made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair DiCapo 2nd. 4 Yes votes. Motion Carried.

	<hr/> Desiree VanLoon, 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 June 11, 2026.

	<hr/> Ashley Ware, City Librarian
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