



CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission

16089 N Bullard Ave

Surprise, AZ 85374

Thursday, August 20, 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:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the consent agenda may be by one motion and a passing vote by the board. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a board member requests such. The requested item for discussion will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA ITEM - NON-PUBLIC HEARING:

- | | | | |
|----|----------|---|---------|
| 1. | Citywide | Consideration and action pertaining to the June 11, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes. | Library |
| 2. | Citywide | Discussion and action pertaining to the selection of the Library Advisory Commission Chair. | Library |
| 3. | Citywide | Discussion and action pertaining to the selection of the Library Advisory Commission Vice-Chair. | Library |
| 4. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion of staff attendance at the American Library Association 2026 Annual Conference. | Library |
| 5. | Citywide | Presentation and discussion on the 2026 Summer Reading Program: "Unearth a Story". | Library |

- F. Call To The Public

INSTRUCTIONS:

In order to address the board, you will need to fill out a Public Comment Form available at the entrance, and turn it in to the Clerk before the meeting begins.

You may also fill out the [Public Comment Form](#). If submitting the online form the Clerk must receive the request at least one hour before the meeting start time. In accordance with A.R.S. 38-431.01(I) - During this time, members of the public may address board only on issues within the jurisdiction of the Commission. At the conclusion of the open call, board may respond to criticism, may ask staff to review the matter or may ask that the matter be put on a future agenda.

Board members may not discuss or respond to matters raised during the call to the public that are not specifically identified on the agenda.

Each speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes per item. If several speakers desire to speak regarding a single topic, the Chair may limit the number of speakers or the time given to each group. A maximum time of 30 minutes will be given per topic. However, an equal amount of time will be given to each side of an issue.

- G. Other Business and Future Agenda Items
- H. Current Events and Reports
- I. Adjournment

POSTED: Monday, August 10th, 2026 @ 10:30 AM

Council chamber doors will be open at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

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: August 20, 2026
Submitting Department: Library
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

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

Consideration and action pertaining to the June 11, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Motion:

I move to approve the June 11, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes.

Background:

Not applicable.

Objective Analysis:

Not applicable.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with the City and Council policies.

Financial Impact:

There is no anticipated financial impact related to this item.

Budget Impact:

There is no anticipated budget impact related to this item.

FTE Impact:

There is no anticipated FTE impact related to this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 061126 LAC Meeting Minutes DRAFT
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**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.

	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 June 11, 2026.

	Ashley Ware, City Librarian
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CITY OF SURPRISE Library Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: August 20, 2026
Submitting Department: Library
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

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

Agenda Wording:

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

Motion:

I move to select _____ as Chair of the Library Advisory Commission.

Background:

Per Surprise municipal code SEC. 2-295 (11), any vacancy for chair or vice-chair, as may occur for any reason, must be filled from the body of membership at the next meeting where a quorum of the body is present. The commission will bring forth nominations and then select a new Chairperson to serve through Fiscal Year 2027.

Nominations will take place and a paper ballot will be available in the event numerous commissioners are nominated. A motion, second, and roll call vote will follow the paper ballots.

Objective Analysis:

The mission of the Library Commission is to facilitate communication between residents and staff to ensure the alignment of services to community need. The role of the chair, or vice chair, when the chair is absent, is to preside over meetings, decide all points of order and procedure, and perform any duties required by law as they relate to the Library Commission.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with the City and Council policies.

Financial Impact:

There is no anticipated financial impact related to this item.

Budget Impact:

There is no anticipated budget impact related to this item.

FTE Impact:

There is no anticipated FTE impact related to this item.

ATTACHMENTS:



CITY OF SURPRISE Library Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: August 20, 2026
Submitting Department: Library
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

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

Agenda Wording:

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

Motion:

I move to select _____ as Vice-Chair of the Library Advisory Commission.

Background:

Per Surprise municipal code SEC. 2-295 (11), any vacancy for chair or vice-chair, as may occur for any reason, must be filled from the body of membership at the next meeting where a quorum of the body is present. The commission will bring forth nominations and then select a new Chairperson to serve through Fiscal Year 2027.

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ATTACHMENTS:



CITY OF SURPRISE Library Advisory Commission

Council Meeting Date: August 20, 2026
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Contact Person:
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Agenda Wording:

Presentation and discussion of staff attendance at the American Library Association 2026 Annual Conference.

Motion:

No motion.

Background:

Staff members from the Surprise Public Library System attended the 2026 American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference & Exhibition, held June 25–29, 2026, in Chicago, Illinois. As the world's largest gathering of library professionals, the ALA Annual Conference brings together librarians, educators, authors, publishers and industry leaders to explore emerging trends, share innovative practices, and discuss the evolving role of libraries in serving their communities. The 2026 conference was particularly significant as it commemorated the American Library Association's 150th anniversary, with programming focused on both the profession's history and its future.

Conference attendees participated in educational sessions, keynote presentations, workshops, networking opportunities and exhibits highlighting advancements in library services, technology, intellectual freedom, literacy, community engagement, accessibility and organizational leadership. Participation supports the Surprise Public Library System's commitment to continuous learning and professional development by exposing staff to nationally recognized best practices and innovative service models that can be evaluated for local implementation.

This presentation will provide the Library Advisory Commission with an overview of the conference experience, highlight key themes and takeaways, and discuss opportunities to apply relevant ideas and best practices to enhance library services, programs, and strategic initiatives within the Surprise Public Library System.

Objective Analysis:

This presentation will provide an overview of the conference experience, key takeaways and potential applications to local library services and initiatives.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with the City and Council policies.

Financial Impact:

There is no anticipated financial impact related to this item.

Budget Impact:

There is no anticipated budget impact related to this item.

FTE Impact:

There is no anticipated FTE impact related to this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 082026 ALA Conference 2026
-

American Library Association Conference 2026

Chicago, Illinois, June 25-29, 2026



Bambi, Emily,
Megan, and Rachel



SESSIONS

- New Member Orientation
- Leading from the Middle: Building Consensus from Influence, Not Authority
- Becoming a Library Triple-Threat: How Improv Helps You Become a Better Librarian, Teammate, & Leader
- Breaking Barriers: A Librarian's Story of Changing Times



BEYOND SESSIONS

- Obama Presidential Center – Chicago Public Library
- Vendors
- 150th ALA Celebration
- Dinners|Networking





Thank you...
Bambi



ALA 2026

With Miss Rachel



SURPRISE

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my Favorite Tote Bags from ALA



SURPRISE

AR Page 21 of 42

Just kidding!



SURPRISE

ARIZONA

Serving the Health Needs of Teens and Tweens Through Literature

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
 - Abuse, Neglect, Household Challenges, Other Adversities
 - What the numbers say...
- Positive Childhood Events (PCEs)
 - Safe stable home, community resources, having trusted adults in their lives (like librarians), and reading!
 - Fun fact: kids who read have bigger brains with more active amygdala and prefrontal cortexes



So, how can libraries help?

- Stock the hard stuff
 - Publishers are afraid to take chances on “controversial material”
- Reader’s advisory specifically for parents with struggling kids
 - “If you were going to read a book about you, what kind of story would it be?”
- Keep being a safe space
 - Have universal resources on hand
 - Pay attention to and engage with the kids



**Thank you for
sending me to
Chicago!**

I learned a lot, I swear!





Takeaways from ALA Chicago 2026

Megan Baird

"I say to my students all the time that we have to commit ourselves to the act of kindness." – Dr. Jill Biden

- It is critical for all those who work in libraries to be positive and united against the poisonous negativity in society. To keep the library as a safe place for everyone.
- Re: collection development - be intentional in your selection. Ensure access to diverse stories, especially during a time when they are being suppressed in areas across the country and across the globe.
- Everyone should not only have access to stories that mirror their experiences, but they should also feel actively welcomed in library spaces.
- Learned communication techniques that promote calm, empathy, and constructive resolution during difficult interactions.
- De-escalation is pivotal in problem-solving because it transforms high stress environments into platforms for creative thinking.
- Came away with the understanding that we **all** have a role in advocating for libraries, regardless of whether we work in one or not.



So many things to see & do!

Hundreds of exhibitors, thousands of librarians, great speakers, author signings – such a rich experience in the heart of the Midwest.



EO'S ALA Annual 2026 Experience

Panels

- Pokémon Club @ Your Library
- Pre-Preschool SEL Toolkit (Ready, Set, Preschool)
- Books for youth to embrace deaf culture
- Toxic exclusion: Banned Authors Share How to Support Children's Access to Information
- Affirming Inclusive Library Services for All
- Developing Creative Writing Programs for Library Kids
- Crush Climate Anxiety: Support Kids' Love of Nature and Eco-Action

Main Stage Speakers

- **Rachel Maddow!**
 - Opening ceremony
- **Min Jin Lee**
 - Discussed American Hagwon – the 3rd of her 4 novels discussing Korean identity
- **George M. Johnson**
 - Shared experiences with their book: All Boys Aren't Blue being banned
 - Described their next book, a memoir: And If I Die Before I Wake
- **Melissa Villaseñor**
 - Shared cute, new youth graphic novel: Cat and Lola



Exhibit Hall (and other fun stuff!)





surprisepubliclibrary.gov

library@surpriseaz.gov





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Submitting Department: Library
Staff Recommendations:

Contact Person:
District: Citywide

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

Presentation and discussion on the 2026 Summer Reading Program: "Unearth a Story".

Motion:

No motion.

Background:

The Surprise Public Library System's Unearth a Story Summer Reading Program was held during the summer of 2026 as part of the national Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP), an initiative that promotes literacy, lifelong learning, and community engagement through a shared annual theme adopted by libraries across the country. The 2026 theme, *Unearth a Story*, encouraged readers of all ages to discover new stories through books, history, archaeology, paleontology, and the exploration of their own communities.

Throughout the summer, the library system offered reading challenges, educational programs, live performances, hands-on activities, and special events at all three library locations designed to inspire reading and connect the community with library services. Signature experiences included dinosaur-themed programming, James the Juggler, a T. Rex waterslide event, the *Curse of the Lost Library Tombescape* room, and numerous family-friendly activities that complemented the national theme while reflecting the interests of the Surprise community.

The 2026 Summer Reading Program represented the most successful summer reading season in the library system's history. More than 6,000 participants registered across all age groups, surpassing the previous year's record before the program concluded. Participants collectively logged more than 5.3 million reading minutes, demonstrating exceptional community engagement and reinforcing the library's role in supporting literacy and lifelong learning during the summer months.

Objective Analysis:

This presentation will provide the Library Advisory Commission with an overview of the 2026 *Unearth a Story* Summer Reading Program, including participation outcomes, key accomplishments and community impact. Staff will also discuss lessons learned and opportunities to enhance future Summer Reading initiatives.

Policy Compliant:

This item is consistent with the City and Council policies.

Financial Impact:

There is no anticipated financial impact related to this item.

Budget Impact:

There is no anticipated budget impact related to this item.

FTE Impact:

There is no anticipated FTE impact related to this item.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 082026 SRP Wrap Up
-

Unearth a Story

Summer Reading Wrap Up 2026

By the Numbers

Registered Users: 6,673

First Time Participants: 3,389

Achievers: 3,645

Badges Earned: 155,009

Total Minutes: 9,995,586!



SRP programs June-July 31: 110

June program attendance: 6,832*

June volunteer hours: 1,063*



Sponsors

Thank you!





surprisepubliclibrary.gov
library@surpriseaz.gov

