

**CITY OF SURPRISE
Library Advisory Commission
16089 N. Bullard Ave.
Surprise, Arizona 85374**

Thursday, August 20, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.

Surprise Regional 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: Commissioner Annie Ansell

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

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Staff Reports

Ms. Ware reported on the following items:

- Hollyhock Library is officially closed for the next week! We are excited to be moving into the Surprise Community & Resource Center. Staff are sad for the original Hollyhock Library but very excited for our new adventure in the new space.
- Library of Things kits have been popping off! We have introduced some really fun outdoor activities for when the weather cools like bags for cornhole in the park and metal detectors. Until the heat changes, we are continuing to add more American Girl Dolls and Tonie Boxes!
- We are hosting Reflecting America: A Semi Quincentennial Living History speaker event in November. We have posted a call for speakers to come and talk about their time in the service, exceptional American stories, and family heritages throughout our country's 250 years.
- Library Director, Kelsey Lamphier, won the Gabe Zimmerman Community Builder Award.

E. Library Commission Agenda

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

None

REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS – NON PUBLIC HEARING:

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

Vice Chair DiCapo moved to approve the June 11, 2026 Library Advisory Commission meeting minutes. Commissioner Riodique 2nd. 6 Yes votes. Motion carried.

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

Commissioner Gentry nominated Commissioner McCall as Chair of the Library Advisory Commission.

Commissioner McCall nominated Commissioner Van Loon as Chair of the Library Advisory Commission.

Chair Van Loon nominated Vice-Chair DiCapo as Chair of the Library Advisory Commission.

1st Vote

(DiCapo, McCarthy, Riodique, VanLoon) For Vice-Chair DiCapo
(McCall) For Commissioner VanLoon
(Gentry) For McCall

Commissioner McCarthy moved to select Commissioner DiCapo as Chair of the Library Advisory Commission. 6 Yes votes. Motion carried.

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

Chair VanLoon nominated Commissioner McCarthy as Vice-Chair of the Library Advisory Commission.

Commissioner McCall nominated Chair VanLoon as Vice-Chair of the Library Advisory Commission.

1st Vote

(Gentry, McCarthy, Riodique, Van Loon) For Commissioner McCall
(DiCapo, McCall) For Chair VanLoon

Commissioner McCarthy moved to select Commissioner McCall as Vice-Chair of the Library Advisory Commission. Commissioner Riodique 2nd 6 Yes votes. Motion carried.

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

Bambi Shelby, Branch Manager, provided the Commission with an overview of her experience at the 2026 ALA Conference which she attended in Chicago, Illinois where she addressed the following items:

- 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

Rachel Gonzalez, Associate Librarian, provided the Commission with an overview of her experience at the 2026 ALA Conference which she attended in Chicago, Illinois where she addressed the following items:

- Serving the Health Needs of Teens and Tweens Through Literature
 - Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's)
 - Positive Childhood Events (PCE's)
- So, how can libraries help?
 - Stock the hard stuff
 - Reader's advisory specifically for parents with struggling kids
 - Keep being a safe space

Megan Baird, Collection Development Librarian, provided the Commission with an overview of her experience at the 2026 ALA Conference which she attended in Chicago, Illinois where she addressed the following items:

- It is critical to keep the library as safe a place for everyone.
- Collection development professionals must be intentional in their selection of library materials.
- Everyone should feel welcomed in library spaces.
- Communication techniques that promote calm, empathy, and constructive resolution during difficult interactions.
- De-escalation problem solving techniques.
- Everyone has a role in advocating for libraries.

Emily Orth-Smith, Library Specialist, provided the Commission with an overview of her experience at the 2026 ALA Conference which she attended in Chicago, Illinois where she addressed the following items:

- Panels
 - Pokemon 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

5. Presentation and discussion on the 2026 Summer Reading Program “Unearth a Story”.

City Librarian Ware presented the Library Advisory Commission with an overview of the 2026 Unearth a Story Summer Reading Program including participation outcomes, key accomplishments and community impact. She also discussed with the commission lessons learned and opportunities to enhance future Summer Reading initiatives. The topics she discussed are listed below:

- 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

F. Other Business and Future Agenda Item

- 250th Celebration re-cap
- New Hollyhock opening information
- Banned Books Week / Freedom to Read

G. Current Events and Reports

- None

H. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm – Vice Chair DiCapo made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner McCall 2nd. 6 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 May 14, 2026.

	Ashley Ware, City Librarian
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