



Approved 5-20-09

**SCOTTSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Civic Center Library Board Room
April 15, 2009 - 3:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Denise Dowers, Chair
Joan Freund, Vice Chair
Louise Nemanich, Secretary
Greta Knapp
Judy Lewis
Paul Lison
Camille Schmidt

Staff Present: Rita Hamilton, Library Director
Carol Damaso, Public Services Manager
Aimee Fifarek, Manager of Technologies and Content
Cheryl Thomsen, Library Administrative Coordinator
Kathy Coster, Manager for Innovation
Marsha Greene, Library Coordinator
Rose Rimsnider, Administrative Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Dowers called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Ms. Hamilton introduced Bill Murphy, Managing Director for Community Services. Mr. Murphy introduced himself and shared information on his background with the City.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Dowers called for a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 2009 meeting. Mr. Lison pointed out missing information from the report and the minutes were tabled for approval until next meeting.

LIBRARY STAFF REPORTS OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. 38-431.02 (K))

Monthly Statistical Report – Cheryl Thomsen

	<u>March 2008</u>	<u>March 2009</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Items Circulated	266,270	331,155	+24%
YTD Circulation	2,174,702	2,686,881	+24%
Attendance	123,734	148,511	+20%
YTD Attendance	1,050,926	1,142,748	+9%

The Gift & Memorial Trust Account receipts in March were \$279.20, expenses were \$9,809.37. In the Library Book Sale Special Revenue Account, March income from sales were \$17,113.58 and expenditures were \$37,315.24.

In March 2009, volunteers donated 3,079 hours to the Library, and the public access computers were used 50,147 times.

Library Director's Report – Rita Hamilton

Ms. Hamilton presented Ms. Schmidt with a book dedicated in her honor for her six year's of service on the Board. Ms. Hamilton thanked Ms. Schmidt for her wonderful support and said she appreciated Ms. Schmidt being on the Board. This is Ms. Schmidt's last Board meeting. Ms. Schmidt thanked Ms. Hamilton and the Board and commented she has seen many changes occur throughout her tenure and how she looked forward to the monthly Board meetings and all the good we do especially for children.

Ms. Hamilton reminded the Board of the Appaloosa Hard Hat Tour on April 23rd. To date, we have 35 attending, including the Mayor and our City Manager. She reported that Appaloosa is coming along very nicely and on budget.

Ms. Hamilton reported that the Friends of the Library received a \$7,500 grant from the Arizona Republic's Seasons for Sharing. This grant was requested for the Early Learning space at Appaloosa.

The Culture Pass program has been wildly successful. People are interested in a bargain and we've begun staggering the availability of the passes. Museums are reporting that people are spending money in their gift shops and they are very pleased with the program. Ms. Hamilton thanked Mrs. Coster and Mrs. Tornquist for their work in bringing the Culture Pass program to Scottsdale.

Ms. Hamilton reported that the City Manager is transmitting a proposed 2009/2010 budget to City Council and Mayor today. The proposal to close Palomino Library is included as well as a 2% pay cut for all City employees. The City Manager is trying everything he can to balance the budget and we're hoping this proposal will take care of what is needed to bring the budget inline. As part of the reductions, the City will eliminate 25 positions, 9 are from the library. These employees may potentially be redeployed if they are qualified for other available jobs within the city. Ms. Hamilton said it is a difficult time. Ms. Dowers asked if the voluntary retirements were in order and Ms. Hamilton replied yes. Those retiring employees have 45 days to sign their papers. City Management understands the situation and there's support for the library. Ms. Nemanich asked if there was a backup plan if Council decides they do not like the idea of closing Palomino. Ms. Hamilton answered we'll have to figure it out at that time once we've been given direction.

Customer Comment Report – Rita Hamilton

Mrs. Freund commented that the Library's responses to customer comments are incredibly patient and she is very impressed.

Ms. Dowers commented on customer complaints regarding the repositioning of chairs in Civic Center's front library and said it's not clear when you come into the library and it's difficult to figure out the two information stations. It's a little confusing. She said she felt the customer had somewhat of a valid point because that cozy entrance way that was welcoming, now seems not so. Ms. Schmidt also commented that customers come into the Library Shop and even though there are chairs in other places, they don't want to be too far from the door. Mrs. Damaso remarked that the chairs were repositioned by the front to be closer to the door. The chairs were removed from the wall because we are

converting to a new service model which allows staff to work side by side with our customers. Also, in the process along came Culture Pass and they wanted the kiosk up front and center because of publicity. We're trying to put it all back together. Mrs. Malhoit is taking another look at the placement of the chairs.

Ms. Schmidt commented on the customer's suggestion of offering a webcam computer class and she thought it would be a nice class to offer for those wanting to communicate with their grandchildren.

Library Service Highlight – Kathy Coster, Marsha Greene

Ms. Greene reported that getting kids and teens involved in summer reading programs is a significant way that the Library impacts the summer learning of our community's young people. Kids who read in the summer go back to school prepared. She stressed that the goal of all of our summer reading programs is to make reading and the library fun. We also strive to promote reading as a family activity.

Parents of children 0-3 are invited to sign up for the Baby Reading Program. Parents earn rhyme cards by engaging their child in simple and fun early literacy activities. At program's completion, parents will have a special Ring of Rhymes to treasure with their child. Program materials are provided by the Arizona State Library and personalized with the Library's information.

Children, ages 0 to 12 years, are invited to join the valley wide "Extra, Extra Read Your Way to the Ballpark" program which is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Kids can earn four prizes, plus a ticket to a Diamondbacks game, by tracking their time spent reading. Teens, ages 12 to 18, can register and monitor their reading online this summer with the "Express Yourself @ Your Library" program. Participating teens earn prizes and eligible for random drawings based on reading and special task completions.

Our summer reading program sign ups last year were up 11% and we expect a higher number for this summer.

Mrs. Coster reported that the theme for the adult reading program is "Reduce, Recycle, Reuse...Read." Adults will be given a blank list to fill out and if they read five books, audio books, and/or movies, they will be given a \$1.00 off coupon they can use in the Library Shop. Our overall goal is to increase sign-ups by 5%. The program will end with a Book Swap at Civic Center and Mustang, where customers can bring in and exchange their books for other's donations. Leftovers will be donated to the Library Shop.

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

Proposed Expenditures – April 15, 2009

AS Public Computer Classes	2,080
YS Summer Reading Program	4,000
Netbook Computers	<u>1,900</u>
Total	\$7,980

Ms. Dowers called for a motion to approve the April 2009 proposed expenditures. Mrs. Lewis so moved; Mrs. Freund seconded and the motion carried 6-1.

Ms. Hamilton explained that the Library would like to purchase six Netbook computers. She reported that we're getting requests to use computers for a longer time period and this would really help our service. These small and mobile computers would be used within the building. Ms. Fifarek held up a Netbook computer explaining that the Library would like offer a pilot check-out program at Civic Center.

PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Ms. Dowers asked Ms. Hamilton if the Board could actually present a statement on the Board's position as it relates to the proposed budget reduction of Palomino Library. Ms. Hamilton informed the Board she had checked with our legal department and it has been done in the past. Mr. Lison commented that he at first understood the proposal of a statement to be made as a public relations statement and would not approve of that kind of statement. He was in agreement of a position statement read to Council. Ms. Nemanich commented that she felt the group should stand together as a Board on the proposed budget reduction. A discussion ensued as to what information should be included in the statement and it was decided to accept the statement Ms. Dowers put together deleting the last sentence of paragraph three. Mrs. Freund would read the statement to the Budget Commission in Ms. Dower's absence.

Mr. Lison moved to approve the proposed statement relating to Palomino Library;
Ms. Schmidt seconded and the motion; passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ISSUES FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

None.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, being duly moved and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 4:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Rimsnider, Administrative Secretary