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Cochise County Library District

"Public programs...personal service"

Minutes of the **October 16, 2019** meeting of
The Cochise County Library District Citizen Liaison Council

The meeting came to order at 1:00 pm at the Huachuca City Public Library.

Members and guests present: Marian Buchanan (Benson Public Library); Cinda Combs (Bisbee's Copper Queen Library); Suzanne Harvey (Huachuca City Library); Diane Hildebrandt (Huachuca City Library); Kelli Jeter (Benson Public Library); Marge Legler (Tombstone City Library); Michelle Leyvas (Willcox's Elsie S. Hogan Community Library); Jeannine Lockwood (Citizen Liaison Council Chair, Sierra Vista Public Library); Jayne McClure (Tombstone City Library); Amadee Ricketts (Cochise County Library District)

Absent: Douglas Public Library; Sierra Vista Public Library

Lockwood asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on April 17, 2019. Marian Buchanan made the motion and Jayne McClure seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Member reports:

Willcox's Elsie S. Hogan Library: Michelle Leyvas shared an update from Willcox.

The Friends of the Library awarded three \$500 scholarships to Willcox students in May, and donated \$1,000 to the Willcox schools. The Friends are very active and raise funds through their bookstore. One of their areas of interest is the library's Arizona Collection, which the Friends support and supplement.

The City of Willcox has been busy, with a successful Rex Allen Days celebration and the upcoming Willcox Wine Festival (October 19-20). The Wine Festival generally attracts up to 2,000 visitors.

The library reached out to area businesses seeking support to replace aging public computers. Valley Telecom donated enough money to replace eight desktop computers. SSVEC and Riverside Farms also made donations toward the purchase of new laptops.

The library offered a successful sewing program, and teens made lap quilts for residents at the VA in Tucson.

Lucy Wilson, who coordinates library programs, received an award from the city for excellent customer service and innovation.

Huachuca City Library: Diane Hildebrandt and Suzanne Harvey shared news from Huachuca City.

Diane provided an update on the Whetstone Free Book Box, which is maintained by the Friends of Huachuca City Library. Kids' books are very popular, so thanks to the Library District for sending them (Amadee notes: while supplies last). The Friends have noticed some non-book items being put in the box, and may add a sign asking people to stick to books. The top of the box is faded/peeling, so the Friends would like more blue paint to spruce it up.

The Friends will raffle off gift baskets after their book sale on 11/16, and raffle tickets may be purchased at the library.

The Friends conex, which is used for book sales, has moved to a more visible spot next to the library. It will be painted with a sunset design and named "Sunset City Books," since Huachuca City is the Sunset City.

In April the Friends started the process toward becoming an officially recognized nonprofit, and they anticipate that the paperwork will be filed this month.

The biggest upcoming event is the annual Polar Express celebration, on 12/13. The Friends provide gift bags, cookies, and cocoa for participating children. Last year they were also able to give away books. The Friends decorate the library for the event, including model trains and a blinking railroad crossing sign.

Last year the mayor did a great job reading the story, and it was especially well received because they were able to show the book on a large screen as he read. They hope to do the same this year and are planning for 70-100 people to attend.

Suzanne shared an update on the (LSTA grant-funded) Huachuca City Digital History Project. The library has received permission from the Tombstone Epitaph to digitize clippings related to Huachuca City, and they are working with Wick Publications to secure permissions for their newspapers. The library also plans to collect oral histories and historic photos as part of the project.

The library is part of the Complete Count Committee and has received an iPad to help people complete the census questionnaire online.

The fall season of the Spotlight on Speakers series is off to an excellent start. Thanks to Kelli Jeter at the Benson Library for the original inspiration, and to staff member Janet Weir for helping to organize a great series of programs. Upcoming topics include Fort Huachuca 1877 (10/24), a genealogy presentation with Karol Childs (11/7), and Buffalo Soldiers (11/21). The library is also offering Saturday Seminars geared toward adults.

The library has teamed up with the local Masonic Lodge to present Bikes for Books, which will provide 12 bikes for Huachuca City students who excel (or show great improvement) in reading. The winning students will be selected by their teachers.

The library has received a mini-grant celebrating women's suffrage, which includes \$300 worth of books to distribute to youth. The program will include an essay contest for 11th grade students, an open mic night featuring equality and civil rights topics, and a professional performer to dramatize the women's suffrage movement.

Finally, the Huachuca City Senior Center now falls under the umbrella of the library... which is great for reaching out to seniors and also expands the library's programming space.

Benson Public Library: Kelli Jeter and Marian Buchanan provided an update from Benson.

The library provided withdrawn audiobooks from the Library District to Quiburi Mission, and residents are very happy with them.

One Card and auto-renewal have been very received in Benson (with a couple of exceptions).

The 2019 summer reading program was a great success, and the library was pleased to have a volunteer reading stories in the park and drawing good crowds.

The Benson Lantern Festival has been rescheduled to 11/2. It is a beautiful event for all ages, and you can find details [online](#).

On 10/19, the Union Pacific 4014 "Big Boy" steam engine will be visiting Benson and then going on to Willcox. Benson is planning for a big turnout of rail fans and tourists, and the library and the city are working with the visitor's center to present a coloring contest.

Marian noted that the Friends of Benson Public Library have been very active, giving out several scholarships in the spring and establishing four new Little Free Libraries around town. The library boxes were made by shop students from the high school and look like train cars.

The Friends will have a big fundraiser in November or December. Watch their Facebook page for details!

Tombstone City Library: Jayne McClure and Marge Legler shared updates from Tombstone.

The Friends are getting ready for Helldorado Days. They will share booth space with the Vigilettes, and have nice pens (with styluses) to sell as a fundraiser, along with their classic tote bags.

The library used the Book Nook (Friends book store) as programming space during the 2019 summer reading program, which worked well.

In September the Friends held their annual wine tasting fundraiser at the Four Deuces Saloon. It went very well, and they raised \$500 with the wine tasting and \$200 by selling raffle tickets for baskets.

The library hopes to host an old-fashioned (Victorian) Santa for an event this Christmas.

Bisbee's Copper Queen Library: Cinda Combs shared news and highlights from Bisbee.

The Copper Queen Library was recognized by Library Journal as the Best Small Library in America for 2019! The library appeared on the cover of Library Journal, and you can read the feature article [here](#).

There has been a great deal of press interest in the award, including the local newspapers, Arizona Daily Star, KGUN 9 News, KVOA 4 News, and KJZZ/NPR. The library also received a visit from AZ Secretary of State Katie Hobbs, and messages of support from the offices of Martha McSally and Ann Kirkpatrick.

The Friends of the Copper Queen Library held their 9th annual Altered Book Show and Silent Auction in August. The Silent Auction brought in a record \$9,000. The Friends plan to use some of that money to purchase new public computers.

Library staff met with Bisbee Unified School District Superintendent Tom Woody to discuss the possibility of expanding the CQL San Jose Annex to include another room. The school district is glad for the library to move ahead any time.

The library hosted its first community field trip to Camp Naco on 9/21, with 35 participants.

The library is working with Bisbee's HR department to develop a volunteer application process for volunteers under the age of 18. The library would like to work with students from the National Honor Society and other groups.

Bisbee's new city manager, Theresa Coleman, has been very supportive of the library. Along with Bisbee staffer Joelle Landers and a library volunteer, she covered the library while Jason and Alison were at the Association of Rural and Small Libraries conference in Vermont.

The Library and Friends received a number of awards at the Best of Bisbee award ceremony in September, including Best Event for the annual Chocolate Tasting.

Director's Report:

Amadee Ricketts offered some statistics and highlights from the 2018/19 fiscal year. See attached handout for details.

One County, One Card update: Ricketts shared an update on the One County, One Card project, which was implemented in May after two years of incremental progress.

She noted that there are still about 4,000 accounts countywide that are marked as duplicates, with 800 of those owing money to at least one library. Those numbers might seem relatively high, but they aren't too bad as a fraction of the roughly 60,000 total cardholders.

Ricketts also shared a journal article about the One Card project written by Jyunichi Yamamoto, a library science professor in Japan. The article was published in September, and Professor Yamamoto presented a session about One Card at an academic conference over the summer.

Library District headquarters move: The Library District is planning a move from Old Bisbee to the Cochise County complex on Melody Lane. The target date for the move is December, but it may be later than that given the complexities of moving the collection.

Call to the public: No members of the public attended.

For the good of the order: No one in attendance had topics to add.

Nominate and elect new chair: Jeannine Lockwood, who has served as CLC chair since late 2017, has accepted a job at the Sierra Vista Public Library. Now that she works at a member library, the group needs a new chair who represents one of the Friends or advisory boards.

Lockwood summarized her experience as chair and noted that it is a good opportunity to make a difference countywide. Ricketts added that serving as chair does not require an onerous time commitment. Aside from facilitating two in-person meetings per year, the main responsibility is to assist in the event of a challenge to library materials held at the Library District or one of its rural branches (Bowie, Elfrida, Portal, Sunizona, and Sunsites). Any such challenge would be handled according to the Library District's Collection Development Policy, which was shared during the meeting and is available on the [library website](#).

Jayne McClure, from Tombstone, indicated that she would be willing to serve as chair. Marian Buchanan motioned that the group vote on McClure as a candidate for chair, and Marge Legler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The next official meeting date will be the third Wednesday in April (2020), which is April 15. The meeting location will be determined at least a month ahead of the meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

After the meeting, several attendees took a brief tour of the library and learned about HCPL's makerspace and digital history projects. Thanks to Suzanne Harvey for being a wonderful host!

Respectfully submitted,

Amadee Ricketts