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## Cochise County Library District

*"Public programs...personal service"*

Minutes of the **April 19, 2017** meeting of  
The Cochise County Library District Citizen Liaison Council

Meeting was called to order at the Elsie S. Hogan Community Library in Willcox at 1:08 p.m. by Kelly Norris.

**Members and guests present:** Cinda Combs (Copper Queen - Bisbee); Kelli Jeter and Janet Hearn (Benson); Kelly Norris (Huachuca City); Marcia Spitler and Judith Rhodes (Tombstone); Rob Jones (Elsie S. Hogan - Willcox); Amadee Ricketts (CCLD)

Absent: Douglas Library and Sierra Vista Library

Minutes from the October 2016 meeting could not be located, so they were not approved.

### **Member reports:**

**Elsie S. Hogan - Willcox:** Rob Jones reported that Elsie S. Hogan Library's annual customer satisfaction survey had garnered 248 written comments, with 98% of respondents rating the library very highly.

Library Supervisor Sylvia Stewart attended Military Veterans Resource Navigator training, to help the library better connect veterans and their families with resources.

Along with the library's other health-related programming, there will be an 8-week workshop series on Peak Mental Performance beginning in April. The cost to attend is \$25.

The library has submitted an LSTA grant application for a new youth program, and local grant application for a health-related program ("Health, Wealth, and Life Choices").

The library is busy with a range of special events relating to National Library Week, Volunteer Appreciation Week, and more.

**Benson:** Janet Hearn reported on recent programs including computer classes, an adult coloring club, and a fun series of LEGO programs for kids.

The LEGO program started in December with help from Wendy West (University of Arizona STEM) and Americorps. Along with LEGOs, the program brought LEGO Robotics components,

and that was very popular. The last LEGO session will be in May. The library would be interested in offering more, but is not equipped to offer the robotics piece at this time.

The library's Adult Lecture Series continued over the winter, with sessions on airline accidents and safety, bats at Karchner Caverns, and a presenter from Amerind who discussed the history of games. Some sessions drew up to 15 attendees, and all were very interesting.

This summer will include crafts, a magic show, and a showing of *Finding Dory* as part of the city's Movies in the Park program.

The library's Advisory Council has three new board members (out of five total), and they are working with the Friends to pursue grant opportunities, including an Ezra Jack Keats grant that will support a children's art program if it is awarded.

Four Little Free Libraries have opened in the Benson area, with support from the Friends. They were constructed by students from the local high school.

**Copper Queen - Bisbee:** Cinda Combs shared flyers for a number of recent and upcoming events. The flyers themselves were very striking, and a number of attendees asked for copies.

Leading up to the holidays, the library had a Christmas tree made of books as part of a display that gave patrons a chance to replace lost or missing items. It included slips with the titles and prices of the items, like a wish list. Patrons really liked it, and lots of replacement items came in as a result.

The library had a special event in March to celebrate the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their building, with cake and a magic show.

The CQ library has partnered with the Bisbee Royale to use the space for film showings and other events. Of course they still hold lots of events at the library, but the Royale offers more space and flexibility around event times.

The library has a range of special programming for Poetry Month, including two events with Richard Shelton and a "Balcony Scene" series featuring local poets reading from the balcony over the lunch hour.

The Free Write creative writing program is being offered again, and there will be a big event at the Royale, Out Loud and Off the Page, featuring Free Write graduates.

The library's new "Living Room" and galler space has been a popular addition.

**Tombstone:** Judith Rhodes and Marcia Spitler reported that the Friends of the Library purchased six new computers for the library, along with new printers. There was some delay in getting the new workstations rolled out, but people are very excited now that they are up and running.

The library's book discussion group remains active, and their most recent book selection was *Three Cups of Tea*.

The library also has an active writing group. An art workshop generated interest but was not well attended; they will look at a new day and time to offer it in the future.

Ben Traywick visited the library to present a talk on local history.

Summer Reading Program planning is underway, and the library has a student worker from the high school assisting with various projects as part of a work experience program.

**Huachuca City:** Kelly Norris announced that sign language classes and other programs are ongoing. The library is currently offering intermediate sign language. The advanced class is especially interesting because it is student led, and any materials created as part of the class become a resource for future students. They have usually offered the classes in two time slots – Wednesdays and Saturdays – but Wednesdays are better attended. Future rounds will probably be offered on Wednesdays only.

A grand opening is set for Saturday (April 22) to celebrate the Norma Lavinder Discovery Garden at the library. The first part of the garden was made possible by a donation from Grasshopper Landscaping. The other half came together with support from the Friends of the Library and the Sierra Vista Garden Club. It includes fruit trees, flowers, signage, and a specially painted entryway. The garden is named for Norma Lavinder, a longtime Friend of the Library who passed away.

After past problems with DVD theft, the library will be able to install new security cameras soon with funding from the Arizona Community Foundation.

The library has submitted an LSTA grant for a program called “Off the Page,” which will promote reader’s theater and creative play for kids and families.

**Library District Director’s Report:** Amadee Ricketts introduced herself, and provided an update from the Library District, including the suspension of bookmobile service and the 2017/18 budget process.

The Library District is updating print materials and preparing for a transition to Enterprise, a modern online catalog system from the Library District’s current automation vendor, SirsiDynix.

The Library District has applied for LSTA funding to bring Little Free Libraries to outlying areas as a way to maintain relationships with communities affected by the suspension of the bookmobile.

**Call to the public:** No public attended.

**For the good of the order:** Rob Jones (Willcox) and Kelly Norris (Huachuca City) talked briefly about some of the key elements for success in seeking grant funding: networking, persistence, patience, and thinking outside the box.

Kelly offered the example of the recent AZ Community Foundation grant for security cameras at the Huachuca City Library. The original grant was declined a couple of years ago, but when Kelly followed up recently and ACF realized that the project had never been completed, they awarded the funds after all.

Rob mentioned a grant for a program to promote handwriting education in the schools, where the winning application was the only one written in cursive.

The whole group discussed the future of the Citizen Liaison Council. The group has shrunk over the years, with fewer advisory board or Friends members in attendance, and more library staff.

Judith and Marcia from Tombstone noted that it can be difficult for people to attend meetings in person, and that we might look at other ways – like a newsletter – to share information among libraries and allied groups.

Janet from Benson said that she sees a lot of value to meeting in person, and putting faces to names.

Tom from Willcox noted that the Advisory Board for the Elsie S. Hogan Library had dissolved because it was so difficult to find new board members. He agreed about the value of communicating but wondered if time has passed the current meeting format by.

Kelly from Huachuca City said that their library has not had an Advisory Board for at least five years, for the same reasons. The attendees from Tombstone said that while they still have an Advisory Board, it can be difficult to define their role and purpose in relation to the library and the Friends.

Cinda from Bisbee suggested that it might work to combine in-person meetings (perhaps one annually) with online or other ways of communicating on a more regular basis.

This idea appealed to the group, and suggestions for additional ways to collaborate included a newsletter, an email list, a Facebook, Yahoo, or Google group.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Copper Queen Library in Bisbee.

Kelly moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Rob seconded the motion.

**Meeting Adjourned at 2:35 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Amadee Ricketts