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## Cochise County Library District

*"Public programs...personal service"*

Minutes of the **April 23, 2025**, meeting of  
The Cochise County Library District Citizen Liaison Council

The meeting was held via Microsoft Teams, and called to order at 10:01 am.

**Members and guests present:** Sue Burmeister (Tombstone City Library); Stephanie Fulton (Huachuca City Public Library); Michelle Leyvas (Elsie S Hogan Library, Willcox; Bonnie Phillips (Tombstone City Library); Amadee Ricketts (Cochise County Library District), Karly Scarbrough (Sierra Vista Public Library); Abraham Villarreal (Douglas Public Library, CLC Chair)

**Absent:** Benson Public Library, Bisbee's Copper Queen Library

**Attendance note:** Diane Hildebrandt from the Huachuca City Public Library joined the meeting but had trouble connecting, so was not able to participate.

**Minutes from prior meetings:** Stephanie Fulton moved to approve the minutes from the Citizen Liaison Council meeting held on October 23, 2024. Bonnie Phillips seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### Member reports:

**Willcox's Elsie S Hogan Library:** Michelle Leyvas shared updates from Willcox.

The library has started a new teen program, and staff are excited about an upcoming outdoor program with the Curious Quails, from U of A Cooperative Extension. Summer reading plans are underway, and the programs should be a lot of fun this year.

**Huachuca City Public Library:** Steph Fulton shared news from Huachuca City.

One staff member (Marta, ace at all things STEM) Has retired and another is moving to a new position, so the library has two PT positions to fill. Steph has been talking with AZ @ Work regarding the possibility of a youth internship, which would be a big help.

Summer reading signups start May 2, and this year's program will include a visit from a juggler, a foam party, and a color run. Steph picked up the special reading time bookmarks from Scottsdale, and they will be a great addition to summer program countywide.

Huachuca City applied for two LSTA grants (for hotspots and Science & More), but uncertainly around federal funding may stop awards.

Steph is concerned about E-rate funding and how changes in federal school/nutrition funding will affect the summer meal/snack program offered through the library. She has applied for an emergency grant for the food program to fill the gap if needed. She is working with the Food Bank of Southern Arizona to provide snack kits that are similar to, but not the same as, last year's breakfast kits.

The Friends are doing well. They held a special book sale in March featuring technical / DIY titles and made more than \$300. They are working on the upcoming Christmas in July fundraiser and will be selling tickets at CAL Ranch.

The library received a Libraries Transforming Communities grant to add an automatic opener to the front door. Steph has applied for additional grants for improvements at the parks.

The library hopes to offer a STEM program in partnership with a nonprofit from Patagonia, and is adding new hands-on kits.

The library will also offer a local authors event on Saturday, featuring several local authors including Diane Hildebrandt (pen name Trana Mathews).

**Tombstone City Library:** Bonnie Phillips from the Friends of the Library and Sue Burmeister, from the library, shared updates from Tombstone.

Tombstone missed the application window for summer reading supplies from the State Library in the fall. Amadee will send details about accessing the manual, and Steph from Huachuca City is available as a resource.

The Friends are working on a bylaws update! This is exciting because the current language is very limiting, and the Friends would like to support literacy-related programs in Tombstone beyond the library itself.

The Book Nook (Friends book sale) is doing well, and was extremely busy during the annual Rose Tree Festival. The Friends are raising funds to replace aging staff computers at the library soon, and public computers in the future.

The library hasn't seen many kids recently, but has a nice college student working to organize a summer reading program.

**Sierra Vista Public Library:** Karly Scarbrough provided a brief update on behalf of Sierra Vista.

Like other libraries around the county, Sierra Vista is gearing up for summer reading programs. The book vending machines at the mall and at Fort Huachuca remain popular.

Karly is President of the Arizona Library Association this year, and has been making an effort to visit as many libraries as possible. She went to all 12 public libraries in Cochise County during spring break!

**Copper Queen Library:** Cinda Combs, who represents Bisbee's Copper Queen Library, was not able to attend the meeting but shared library updates in advance (attached).

She highlighted Poetry Month programming, the addition of VOX books (books with built-in audio players) in the children's library, additions to the Library of Things, summer reading preparations.

### **Director's Report:**

Amadee Ricketts shared updates from the Library District. She did not share a slide deck or handouts, but touched on:

- Library District FY26 budget process
  - This is slightly different from past years because the new board is holding individual meetings with each department. The Library District work session is coming up April 29.
  - Amadee hopes for a flat (rather than decreased) budget to offset uncertainty related to cuts in federal library funding and the Arizona State Library's capacity to offer services including support for the statewide database package, interlibrary loan (OCLC) service, support for digital collections, and membership in the Collaborative Summer Library Program.
  - Library District staff will keep individual libraries in the loop as the process moves forward, and Amadee hopes to minimize impacts on services.
- Thanks to Steph for picking up special reading time bookmarks in Scottsdale! These will be a great addition to summer reading programs countywide.

There was some general discussion about the uncertainty facing libraries and other institutions, and the importance of Friends groups and other entities which can engage in advocacy.

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

**The next meeting date will be in October 2025.**

The tentative date is October 29 (to avoid conflicting with the Arizona Library Association conference the previous week), in Huachuca City. Thanks to Stephanie for offering to host.

**Meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Amadee Ricketts

1. April is Poetry Month at the Copper Queen Library! This year, we have four poets from the University of Arizona's Poetry Center hosting poetry workshops and readings. We also hung poetry banners up Main Street featuring the poetry from the CQL's Poetry Critique Society. The Library is also accepting haiku about Bisbee for our Bisbee Haiku Community Showcase which is displayed on the balcony of the CQL, as well as at [copperqueenlibrary.com](http://copperqueenlibrary.com)



2. The Copper Queen Library recently added new items to our ever-growing Library of Things. New tools have been added to the Tool Library thanks to a donation to the Friends of the CQL. We also launched our new Ghost Hunting and Rock Hunting Backpacks, which have everything you need to go on an adventure.
3. New in the Children's Library. The CQL now has a new collection of VOX talking books. These VOX Books capture children's attention by combining picture books and early chapter books with audio recordings. They make learning and literacy development exciting! The CQL also added 8 new Pretend & Play Kits and is working on Early Literacy Kits to help caregivers help young children develop essential skills before they start school. Our kits include books, letter and number activities, and hands-on learning tools that build vocabulary, comprehension, and fine motor skills. We are currently working on Social Emotional Learning Kits. (Stay tuned!)

#### 4. Upcoming Programs :

- a. University of Arizona Southwest Center On Resilience for Climate Change and Health Partnership. On Saturday, April 19, 2025, graduate students from the UA will work with the Library and City of Bisbee Public Works to create a Pocket Park in the Galena Neighborhood of Bisbee.
- b. First Annual Bisbee Zine Fest – Saturday, April 26, 2025 : The Copper Queen Library is hosting our first annual Zine Fest. Local Zinesters, as well as Zinesters from Tucson and Phoenix (30 registered), will be set up all over the library to show and sell their Zines. A zine is a self-published, non-commercial print-work that is typically produced in small, limited batches. Zines are created and bound in many ways, but traditionally editions are made by hand and easily reproduced, usually with a photo copier.
- c. Ice Cream Social and Early Literacy Fair – Friday, May 9 2025 : The Copper Queen Library will be hosting our annual Ice Cream Social to kick off our Summer Fun Program Registration. The Social has become a wonderful community event. This year's program will feature live music, baby goat petting, face painting and more! Our partners will have tables set up with kids crafts and/or early literacy information for caregivers.
- d. Summer Fun Program : This year's summer program will feature a Foam Party, Wildman Phil and his reptile show, a pollinator program from Freeport, a messy art day at the Annex and more! New this year : Splish Splash Storytime at the City of Bisbee Pool (stay tuned for more information!)