



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

MINUTES

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, April 23, 2026

1. Call to Order – President Stephen Jones called the meeting to order at 3:01 P.M. Library Advisory Board (LAB) Members present: President Stephen Jones, Secretary Erin Wahl, Members Jessica Streeter, Nancy Claypool, Jason Ferguson, and Denali Wilson (present through TEAMS). Also, in attendance: Sarah Booth, Library Deputy Director.

- A. Sarah Booth, Library Deputy Director, read the *Land Acknowledgement Statement*.

- B. Acceptance of April 23, 2026, Agenda – President Stephen Jones called for a motion to approve as presented; Member Jessica Streeter voiced a motion to approve; Member Jason Ferguson seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried. NOTE: Secretary Erin Wahl was not present for this motion.

2. Review and Approval of March 26, 2026, Minutes – President Stephen Jones called for a motion to approve as amended; Secretary Erin Wahl voiced a motion to approve; Member Jason Ferguson seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried.

3. Library Deputy Directors Report – Sarah Booth, Library Deputy Director, presented the following:

- A. Library Budget Update, Other Information

- i. On Monday, April 13, 2026, City Council voted to reduce personnel and operations in both FY2027 and FY2028 budgets. This move will make the City more fiscally sustainable. Without this move, the City would have cuts again in the near future. As part of this re-alignment, each Department was informed of the amount needed to meet the requested cuts from the Council. The Quality of Life Department was requested to cut 26% of its

1 budget from both personnel (by not filling empty positions), and operations.
2 Currently, the Library is in the process of filling one open vacancy; the
3 Support Services Manager position. We have been approved to fill this
4 position. Interviews have been scheduled for the next few days. Since we
5 did not have many empty positions, I worked with the managers to make
6 the necessary budget cuts to the Operations funding. We worked to make
7 sure that our basic library services would continue to be offered to our
8 community. These reductions will have a positive impact in the coming
9 years. City Administration and City Council remain committed to staff.
10 There are no layoffs planned for staff.

11 ii. The City has requested that we stop all food and swag purchases. This
12 includes coffee and coffee items purchases for our staff kitchen.

13 iii. We have proposed the following deductions. Please note that these are
14 just proposals. City Council will vote on this in May.

15 a. Proposed reduction in hours for Branigan Library. Security guard
16 service is one of our biggest expenses, and it's essential to keep
17 our patrons safe, as well as our staff. The Library will probably be
18 closed on Sundays, beginning in July 2026. We have proposed that
19 we close at 7 P.M., instead of 8 P.M. We hope to open at our regular
20 time of 9 A.M. Monday–Thursday. Friday and Saturday hours will
21 not be affected.

22 b. Proposed reductions in periodicals and databases.

23 c. The databases we had planned to cut, we will plan to purchase with
24 State Aid funds. In FY2025, there were 3,496-page hits for Learning
25 Express, 99 downloads of Gale Legal Forms, and 4,252 searches
26 on Heritage Quest. There were also 3,217 sessions on Press
27 Reader.

1 d. Proposed reduction of all DVD purchases. We will ask the Friends
2 of TBML for donations.

3 e. Proposed reduction of programming supplies and food for
4 programs; this includes Summer Reading events. Food at
5 programs is an incentive to get people to attend. We will ask the
6 Friends of TBML for assistance.

7 f. Staff will inventory and use the supplies we have on hand.

8 g. Proposed cancelation of Hoopla Digital and Kanopy Streaming
9 Video, two very popular e-book and streaming services with nearly
10 100,000 users per year (74,000 in FY2025 for Kanopy, and 25,000
11 users per year for Hoopla Digital). We will focus our attention on
12 Libby, which features many of the same services, but our patrons
13 have made it clear they like a variety of platforms.

14 iv. This change is a developing situation, and we do not yet know the impact
15 this will have on the library and patrons. We hope to have more answers
16 soon.

17 B. Questions About Budget Cuts

18 i. Q: Can we obtain an expense sheet for all the cuts in the budget? A: No,
19 since everything mentioned are just proposed cuts and Council could
20 change their decision. You are welcome to talk to Carol about this.

21 ii. Q: Who were the ones that determined the 26% number? A: The Finance
22 Department.

23 iii. Q: Who else was asked for their input about this? A: At the April 13, 2026,
24 Council meeting, the Council directed the Finance Director to reduce the
25 budget by 10%. Quality of Life then received a letter, I believe every
26 department received a letter. It stated that cuts would come from a
27 combination of vacancies plus operation costs, which overall was 26% in

cuts. Most departments are in the same situation.

iv. Q: Have you been asked to make significant cuts in years past? A: I don't believe in years past, just when we were preparing for the upcoming FY2027 budget.

v. Q: Are there any other significant changes in the budget that have resulted in a need for huge cuts? A: Yes, the City increased the minimum wage which went to employees. Insurance costs have gone up significantly, the City pays 80% of the insurance costs for staff, the other 20% is paid by staff. Also, the City has had to pay for a few lawsuits against them. All these factors contribute to why the budget had to be cut.

vi. Q: Has any of these lawsuits been against the Library? A: No. But a few years ago, a parent tried to sue the City because their child got ahold of some graphic novels at the Library and they were very upset. They lost the suit against the Library.

vii. Q: Are these budget cuts going to affect the Library Renovation Project? A: Carol Brey, Rebecca Slaughter, and I, did attend a meeting this afternoon with Orlando Granado, Senior Projects Manager for Public Works, and Cynthia Alamillo, CIP Manager. Ms. Alamillo is exploring the possibilities of important projects on the CIP. I have shared plenty of information with her, including the Master Plan, and images of the new design. There is a Work Session on May 11, 2026, which should discuss proposals for the CIP. The May 18, 2026, Council meeting has the budget on the agenda. Please attend both meetings if you all can.

viii. Q: Is the City going to make an effort not to have any more lawsuits? A: I have not heard anything.

ix. Of the 26% budget cuts for the Quality of Life, how much of that is coming out of the library? A: Around one-third. Also, we may have to cut business

1 hours going forward, and/or close on Sundays. We will continue to keep a
2 security guard on duty for all the hours we are open.

- 3 x. Q: Will food items be cut for any programs we offer? No, the Friends of
4 TBML have set aside \$1500 for these programs to continue to have
5 food/drinks.

6 C. Acceptance of Library Director's Report

- 7 i. President Stephen Jones called for a motion to approve report; Member
8 Jason Ferguson voiced a motion to approve; Member Nancy Claypool
9 seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried.

10 4. New Business – The Following was Presented

- 11 a. Review/Approval of the Following Policy: POL-LIB-2016-08 Use of Public Access
12 Computers and Internet, Issue 4.0

- 13 ii. It was determined by the LAB to table this policy for further review and hold
14 off on voting on it until the next LAB meeting. This will be on next month's
15 agenda as Old Business.

- 16 iii. President Stephen Jones called for a motion to table Library Policy: POL-
17 LIB-2016-08 Use of Public Access Computers and Internet, Issue 4.0;
18 Secretary Erin Wahl voiced a motion to table it; all voted in favor; motion
19 carried.

- 20 b. Nominations and Vote for LAB Vice-President

- 21 i. Secretary Erin Wahl nominated Member Jason Ferguson for Vice-
22 President – Mr. Ferguson accepted. No other nominations were brought
23 forth; nominations closed; all voted in favor; motion carried.

24 5. Announcements/Other Information – The Following was Shared

- 25 a. Sarah Booth mentioned the following:

- 26 i. Lynda St. Clair has invited the LAB to attend the film screening of *The*

1 *Librarians* at 5:30 P.M. This film screening is in cooperation with KRWG.

2 Before the movie, Lynda will have Cookies and Conversations with State
3 Legislators.

4 ii. I would like to thank the LAB for supporting the library, it really means a lot.

5 I know this is a tough time and I appreciate everything the LAB does.

6 b. LAB Member Nancy Claypool mentioned the following:

7 i. The LAB is invited to the Progressive Voter Alliance meetings held on the

8 fourth Thursday of the month at Munson Center. The meeting time is 7 P.M.

9 The Progressive Voter Alliance is a clearinghouse and point of contact for

10 advocates of a wide range of progressive issues. They do not endorse

11 specific candidates or causes.

12 6. Public Participation

13 a. Lynda St. Clair, Friends of TBML President.

14 7. Adjournment – Member Nancy Claypool entertained a motion to adjourn meeting; meeting

15 adjourned at approximately 3:54 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April

16 23, 2026, at 3:00 P.M. in the Staff Conference Room on the 2nd floor of TBML.

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19 **PRESIDENT or VICE-PRESIDENT**