



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

MINUTES

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, May 28, 2026

1. Call to Order – Vice-President Jason Ferguson called the meeting to order at 3:05 P.M.
Library Advisory Board (LAB) Members present: Vice-President Jason Ferguson, Secretary Erin Wahl, Members Nancy Claypool, Denali Wilson, and Randi Himelgrin. Members absent: President Stephen Jones, and Member Jessica Streeter. Also, in attendance: Sarah Booth, Library Deputy Director.

- A. Erin Wahl, LAB Secretary, read the *Land Acknowledgement Statement*.

- B. Acceptance of April 23, 2026, Agenda – Vice-President Jason Ferguson called for a motion to approve as presented; Member Denali Wilson voiced a motion to approve; Member Nancy Claypool seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried.

2. Review and Approval of April 23, 2026, Minutes

- i. Due to an unfortunate circumstance that the Administrative Assistant couldn't fully complete the April 23, 2026, draft minutes, these minutes will be reviewed at next LAB meeting. NOTE: To be in compliance with the New Mexico Open Meeting Act on uploading board minutes for the public, a short summary of the April 23, 2026, draft minutes were completed and uploaded on the City of Las Cruces Meeting Agenda website beforehand.

- ii. Vice-President Jason Ferguson called for a motion to defer the review and approval of the April 23, 2026, minutes; Secretary Erin Wahl voiced a motion to approve; Member Randi Himelgrin seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried.

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

1 following:

2 A. Library Statistics

- 3 i. As we are getting close to the end of the fiscal year, we can reflect on how
4 busy we have been. Our April total circulation was 239,837 items. This is a
5 26% decrease from last fiscal year, but we still have two months to catch
6 up.
- 7 ii. We currently have 57,753 library cardholders. We've had 4,012 people
8 register for new library cards this year and have had 6,203 renewals.
- 9 iii. Meeting rooms and computer use continue to skyrocket. There have been
10 524 programs in our meeting rooms with 10,928 attendees. There have
11 been 711,660 minutes of computer use. To put this in perspective, this is
12 494 days of patron computer use.

13 B. Library Budget Update

- 14 i. During the May 18, 2026, City Council session, the Council approved the
15 FY2027 Budget. Carol Brey, Quality of Life Director; Steven Bingham,
16 Parks & Recreation Director; and Kyle Arend, Interim Public Works
17 Director; spoke about the impact these drastic cuts will have on the
18 community.
- 19 ii. The Friends of TBML have generously offered to cover the costs of security
20 to keep the Library open during regular evening hours. The plan is to
21 continue the same business hours Monday through Thursday, 9 A.M. – 8
22 P.M. and open one hour earlier on Fridays and Saturdays. The weekend
23 hours will be 9 A.M. – 6 P.M., but we will be closed on Sundays. The
24 Friends of TBML did offer to cover the cost of security on Sundays, but due
25 to staffing issues, that wouldn't be in the best interest of the library. We are
26 hoping the earlier openings on Friday and Saturday will make up for the
27 Sunday closure. To break it down, the library will be open 62 hours a week,

1 instead of 64 hours. Thanks to the Friends of TBML for supporting this.

2 C. Library Programs and Events

3 i. On Friday, May 1, 2026, Mindy Del Campo, Librarian I, and Taryne
4 Heredia, Librarian I, hosted a BTS pre-party celebrating the BTS Arirang
5 album world tour. 113 participants enjoyed a K-Pop sing-along, crafted
6 photocard holders, and friendship bracelets.

7 ii. Our volunteer who is teaching the U-Can Uke Junior class is doing such a
8 great job, the program is expanding. The volunteer will start a second
9 Ukulele Jr. class for intermediate players. Also, the girls in the class will be
10 performing at the Ukulele Workshop at the Festival on May 29-31, 2026.

11 iii. Summer Reading is almost here. The Summer Reading Kick-Off is
12 Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. Community partners,
13 including Thera Paws therapy dogs will be here, along with Dion's Pizza,
14 who will be giving out free pizza for all that are attending. Special Guest
15 Rex the Dinosaur will also be attending.

16 iv. Taryne Heredia, Librarian I, is partnering with the Museums for Teen
17 Tuesdays. This group will alternate meeting spaces at the Museums and
18 the Library. Since purchase of food is not allowed in the FY2027 budget,
19 the Friends of TBML will be generously purchasing pizza for the attendees.

20 v. Kat Alexander, Librarian II, is planning to share a Storytime at Barnes and
21 Noble in June 2026.

22 vi. Vicki Simkins, Librarian II, has been Interim Library Manager (Support
23 Services) for the past few months. Ms. Simkins has been doing a fantastic
24 job as Interim. She has now been officially promoted to Library Manager
25 (Support Services).

26 vii. Nancy Prince, Library Information Systems Tech, and Vicki Simkins,
27 Library Manager (Support Services), are working to install a new printer

1 and coin machine for the six public computers located in the lobby area.
2 This will provide patrons with a second location to print items and also be
3 a backup when the main public computer lab is closed. This printer should
4 be up and running soon.

5 viii. Congratulations to the hardworking Support Services Team consisting of
6 Library Assistant II's Jesus Vidrio, Patty Gayton and Trinidad Jasso. Now
7 that we've transitioned from Baker and Taylor to Ingram to purchase items,
8 we are now processing our own materials. Since January 2026, this small
9 team catalogued 3,065 titles. As a comparison in 2023, they cataloged
10 1639 titles for the entire fiscal year. There were 2,366 titles cataloged in
11 2024, and 2,366 in 2025.

12 ix. I will be joining the Children's Reading Alliance as a Board Member.

13 D. Library Renovation and Expansion

14 i. At the May 11, 2026, City Council Work Session, there was unanimous
15 support for the Library Renovation and Expansion project to be the sole
16 project on the 2026 Go Bond. This amount is 26 million dollars for the
17 renovation. The City Council will officially vote on this during the July 20,
18 2026, session. The Go Bond will be voted on by the public in November.

19 ii. Thinking positively about the approval of the GO Bond in November, Carol
20 Brey, Quality of Life Director, and I, have been looking at possible locations
21 where the Library can relocate during this project. We haven't found a
22 location yet but have more places to explore. Depending on the size of the
23 location, we may have to store certain collections at a storage facility. If the
24 bond passes, the starting date for the relocation and renovation could start
25 as early as June 2027. The time frame to complete the project would take
26 around 18-24 months. As far as moving the collection, furniture, and any
27 necessary items to the temporary location, Brad Waters, Library Strategic

1 Plan Consultant, is looking at professional moving companies to help with
2 the move.

3 E. Acceptance of Library Director's Report

- 4 i. Vice-President Jason Ferguson called for a motion to approve report;
5 Member Randi Himelgrin voiced a motion to approve; Member Nancy
6 Claypool seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried.

7 4. Old Business – The Following was Presented

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

- 10 ii. President Stephen Jones called for a motion to approve Library Policy:
11 POL-LIB-2016-08 Use of Public Access Computers and Internet, Issue 4.0,
12 as presented; Secretary Erin Wahl voiced a motion to approve; Member
13 Randi Himelgrin seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried.

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

- 15 a. Vice-President Jason Ferguson mentioned the following:

- 16 i. We have a new LAB member; her name is Randi Himelgrin.
17 ii. Ms. Himelgrin introduced herself to the LAB and said a few words. After
18 retiring at the end of June 2022, my husband and I moved to Las Cruces
19 on September 21, 2022. Libraries have always been a deeply rooted
20 tradition in my family. In fact, my father's very first job was as a library page.
21 Later, when he became City Attorney, the library remained his absolute
22 favorite assignment. Growing up, my parents always took us to the library,
23 and to this day, it remains my truly happy place.
24 iii. Mr. Ferguson responded, along with other members, very nice, and we are
25 happy to have you as part of the LAB.

- 26 b. Lynda St. Clair mentioned the following:

- 1 i. The Friends of TBML are hosting a book sale from June 11–14, 2026,
2 kicking off with an exclusive members-only presale on Thursday, June 11th,
3 from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. The sale is open to the general public Friday through
4 Sunday, and current members can find full event details and hours in the
5 upcoming newsletter.
- 6 ii. The next Author Talk will be on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 1:30 P.M.
7 The author is Tamar Meyer, who has written a lot of mysteries. The newest
8 book that was just published is a sci-fi piece. She has around 22 books in
9 the collection here at the library.
- 10 iii. The Friends Bookstore is expanding its hours. We are now open on
11 Mondays and 6 days a week.

12 6. Public Participation

- 13 a. Lynda St. Clair, Friends of TBML President, mentioned the following:

- 14 i. I would like to express my concerns regarding the City GO Bond. I read an
15 article in the Las Cruces Sun News on May 21, 2026, stating that approving
16 the GO Bond would increase taxes. Since this is not the case, Sarah Booth,
17 Library Deputy Director, responded that she would reach out to the City of
18 Las Cruces Communications Department about this error and ask the Sun-
19 News to reprint a retraction.

- 20 7. Adjournment – Vice-President Jason Ferguson entertained a motion to adjourn meeting;
21 meeting adjourned at approximately 3:57 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for
22 Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 3:00 P.M. in the Staff Conference Room on the 2nd floor of
23 TBML.

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26 **PRESIDENT or VICE-PRESIDENT**