



CITY OF LAS CRUCES

MINUTES

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, June 25, 2026

1. Call to Order – President Stephen Jones called the meeting to order at 3:04 P.M. Library Advisory Board (LAB) Members present: President Stephen Jones, Vice-President Jason Ferguson, Secretary Erin Wahl, Members Jessica Streeter, Denali Wilson, and Randi Himelgrin. Members absent: Member Nancy Claypool. Also, in attendance: Sarah Booth, Library Deputy Director; and Isabel Medrano, Administrative Assistant, (online through Teams).

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

- B. Acceptance of June 23, 2026, Agenda – President Stephen Jones called for a motion to approve as amended; Secretary Erin Wahl voiced a motion to approve; Vice-President Jason Ferguson seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried. NOTE: The amended item that was taken off the agenda was Review and Approval of May 28, 2026, Draft Minutes. NOTE 2: Members Denali Wilson and Jessica Streeter were not present for the vote and approval.

2. Review and Approval of April 23, 2026, Minutes – President Stephen Jones called for a motion to approve as amended; Secretary Erin Wahl voiced a motion to approve; Member Randi Himelgrin seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried. NOTE: Member Jessica Streeter was not present for the vote and approval.

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

- A. Library Statistics

- i. We are in the last month of the fiscal year. Currently, we are running behind some of our statistics. Right now, we have 262,336 checkouts compared

1 to 297,194 at this time last year. The checkout stats mentioned are physical
2 items, not digital checkouts.

3 ii. We do have volunteers who regularly help us. We have several volunteers
4 for the makerspace areas, as well as volunteers who help with programs in
5 addition to helping with VITA Tax Assistance. So far this year, we have had
6 1,892 volunteer hours.

7 iii. We have had 1,368 programs this year with 26,134 attendees. This has
8 increased since last year.

9 B. Library Budget Update

10 i. As we begin to wind down our fiscal year, things are a bit calmer. The new
11 fiscal year starts July 1, 2026. I am sure things will be busy again.

12 ii. We do not know the effects of the new budget yet. We are very grateful to
13 the Friends of the TBML for their extended support during this this time.

14 C. Library Programs and Events and Other Information

15 i. A big shout out to William Jones, Library Assistant II, for out of the box
16 thinking. Mr. Jones used the library's 3D printer to create replacement parts
17 for the Circulation Department's media decoupler, a device used to unlock
18 DVD and Blu-ray cases. New media decouplers retail for nearly \$500 each,
19 and library staff require at least five devices for an efficient workflow.
20 Thanks to William, we may never need to buy a new decoupler again.

21 ii. The public computers have moved. The public access computers are now
22 all on the main floor of the library, next to the other computer tables. Not
23 only will this give the Friends of TBML much needed space in the old public
24 computer lab area, but it'll also allow more staff to be readily available to
25 assist patrons. Thank you to Sarah Murphy, Library Supervisor, and Vicki
26 Simkins, Library Manager, for developing this idea and making it happen.
27 Also, thanks to the rest of the staff for moving tables and connecting the

computers.

- iii. Adrian Espinosa, Library Assistant I, represented the library at the first session of a new series on Artificial Intelligence and Policing, hosted by the Las Cruces Police Department in partnership with New Mexico State University. Mr. Espinosa shared information about library services with upper-level police personnel, and issued library cards to attendees, including Police Chief Jeremy Story.
- iv. Summer Reading has been a big hit. As of yesterday, we currently have 906 people registered for this program. This includes 309 adults, 308 children, ages 6-11, 231 children, ages 0-5, and 58 teens, ages 12-18.
- v. On Monday, June 22, 2026, Carol Brey, Quality of Life Director, and I, had a preliminary meeting with Matthews Specialty Vehicles to go over the design of the new bookmobile.
- vi. We currently have two teen Summer Interns helping us out, as well as one library school student completing their practicum with us. We really appreciate all the extra assistance. They will be completing their internship at the end of July. We will have a couple more interns joining us in the fall semester.

D. Library Renovation and Expansion

- i. During the May 11, 2026, City Council Work Session, there was unanimous support for the Library Renovation and Expansion project to be the sole project on the 2026 Go Bond. This amount is 26 million dollars for the renovation. The City Council will officially vote on this during the July 20, 2026, session. The Go Bond will be voted on by the public in November.
- ii. The architects are making exceptional progress with the construction documents. We are now waiting for a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) to review everything. The City posted an RFP for the CMAR at the

1 end of May. The Selection Advisory Committee will be reviewing these
2 proposals in early July 2026.

3 iii. Carol Brey, Quality of Life Director, Ruben Contreras from Desert Peak
4 Architects, and I have visited other potential sites for relocation. We visited
5 the Popular department store on Water Street, which is right next to
6 Zeffiro's Pizzeria. We also visited the Tuesday Morning and Joann's stores
7 at Pan Am Plaza on Tuesday afternoon. Each of these locations offer
8 approximately 9,500 square feet. The idea is that one site would be for staff
9 and back-end processes, and the other site would be for the public and
10 programming events. Currently, this site offers the floor plan that most
11 closely aligns with our needs. If these two locations are chosen, we would
12 have to do minor restroom renovations for the public area. Mesilla Valley
13 Mall was brought up as an option, but they have no spaces available. We
14 are still looking at locations, so hopefully we will decide on a place soon.
15 Once the location is decided, it may go before City Council for approval. I
16 should have an update on this at the August LAB meeting

17 E. Acceptance of Library Director's Report – President Stephen Jones called for a
18 motion to approve report; Member Denali Wilson voiced a motion to approve;
19 Member Jessica Streeter seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion carried.

20 4. Announcements/Other Information – The Following was Shared

21 a. Lynda St. Clair mentioned the following:

22 i. The Friends of TBML newsletter will be available shortly and sent to
23 members of the Friends by email.

24 ii. There will be a pop-up book sale on Saturday, August 15, 2026, in the
25 Roadrunner Room.

26 b. President Stephen Jones asked and mentioned the following:

1 i. Is there a need for volunteers at the library? Sarah Booth confirmed that
2 volunteers are always welcome and needed.

3 ii. In the early 1900s, Lutie Stearns emerged as one of the most influential
4 advocates for mobile library services. Her pioneering efforts laid the crucial
5 groundwork for what is known today as Bookmobile outreach.

6 5. Public Participation

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

8 6. Adjournment – President Stephen Jones entertained a motion to adjourn meeting; Vice-
9 President Jason Ferguson voiced a motion to adjourn; Secretary Erin Wahl seconded the
10 motion; meeting adjourned at approximately 3:25 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for
11 Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 3:00 P.M. in the Staff Conference Room on the 2nd floor
12 of TBML.

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15 **PRESIDENT or VICE-PRESIDENT**