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## Cochise County Library District

*"Public programs...personal service"*

Minutes of the **April 20, 2022** meeting of  
The Cochise County Library District Citizen Liaison Council

The meeting came to order at 1:02 pm online, via Microsoft Teams.

**Members and guests present:** Cinda Combs (Bisbee's Copper Queen Library); Stephanie Fulton (Huachuca City Library); Tom Goode (Benson Public Library); Diane Hildebrandt (Huachuca City Library); Michelle Leyvas (Willcox's Elsie S. Hogan Community Library); Karly Scarbrough (Sierra Vista Public Library); Abraham Villarreal (Douglas Public Library); Margaret White (Douglas Public Library); Amadee Ricketts (Cochise County Library District)

Absent: Tombstone City Library

Amadee Ricketts asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on October 19, 2019. Diane Hildebrandt made the motion and Karly Scarbrough seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **Member reports:**

**Benson Public Library:** Tom Goode provided an update from Benson.

The library closed due to COVID on March 24, 2020, then introduced curbside services and limited access to the building. The library returned to curbside-only service in January 2021 before reopening in February 2021.

Youth programs like summer reading and storytime were limited during the pandemic but have been moving toward a new normal. The speakers' series for adults has been on hold throughout, but library staff and patrons look forward to relaunching.

In January 2022, the Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association donated a nice telescope to the library. Volunteers from TAAA presented a public program with a solar telescope, and plan to come back regularly to support library programs.

The library was excited to receive a collection of Launchpad educational tablets from the Arizona State Library, for use by preschool and early elementary children.

The library has seen some staffing changes over the last two years, but things seem to be stable and moving in a good direction.

**Bisbee's Copper Queen Library:** Cinda Combs shared news and highlights from Bisbee.

The Copper Queen Library was recently recognized as a finalist for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, which is awarded annually by the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services. National Medal winners will be announced in June, and you can read more about the award and the 2022 finalists [here](#).

The library was able to offer a good range of services during the pandemic, including passive programs and newspaper browsing on the covered second-floor balcony.

Recent outreach activities included the distribution of plant-a-flower kits at the farmer's market in March. (Cinda noted that the sunflower she planted is already 17 inches tall.) Library staff will be back at the farmer's market this month to distribute baby trees in honor of Earth Day.

The library is offering a variety of poetry programs during Poetry Month, including Balcony Scene readings by local poets and encouragement for patrons to write their own haiku poetry.

The Copper Queen is implementing a number of grant projects including a Freeport McMoRan grant for \$70,000 to do necessary upgrades on the balconies, a Legacy Foundation grant for \$4,000 to establish three Storywalks® in different parts of town, and a federal Erate grant to improve internet and wifi speed at the library.

*(Cinda had to cut her update short due to audio problems, but she shared handouts ahead of the meeting which are appended to the minutes.)*

**Douglas Public Library:** Margaret White shared an update from Douglas, and new Douglas representative Abe Villarreal rounded out the presentation from DPL.

Margaret mentioned that she is very glad to have Abe on board with the Friends.

She offered a brief overview of the *Douglas Dispatch* digitization project, which will ultimately convert 416 reels of microfilm representing more than 100 years of coverage. The scanned newspapers will be added to the Arizona Historical Digital Newspapers collection of the Arizona Memory Project (<https://azmemory.azlibrary.gov/digital/custom/newspapers>), and will ultimately be available to the Library of Congress.

Abe added that he is especially excited about the digitization project. He sits on the board of the Douglas Historical Society, which has collected bound volumes of all the physical news-

papers that are part of the project. These are currently housed at the library, and may prove important if there are gaps in the microfilm, or if any microfilm proves unreadable.

DPL is one of the libraries selected for the NASA @ My Library program, and will have early access to new images from the James Webb Space Telescope, hopefully in July.

Summer reading information is already available for Douglas families, and the program will run through June and July. Along with the “Oceans of Possibilities” theme, there will be fun space-themed activities.

The DPL Storywalk® at 10<sup>th</sup> Street Park was funded by grants from the Legacy Project and RAIN (the Rural Activation and Innovation Network), and the revolving selection of stories has been very popular.

The library’s native plant patio is looking great this spring, with plants provided by Borderlands Restoration, including three types of grape vines which are growing to provide shade. Borderlands will be back soon to do maintenance and plant additional native plants around the library.

The library has added a collection of read-along Wonderbooks provided by the Arizona State Library.

DPL has also partnered with the Library District, Cochise Health and Social Services, and Chiricahua Community Clinics to distribute free at-home COVID test kits at the library. Demand has eased as case numbers decline, but residents appreciate the access.

**Huachuca City Library:** Diane Hildebrandt and Stephanie Fulton shared news from Huachuca City.

Diane started with an update from the Friends of the Library. The group is still working to become an official nonprofit group; the Arizona process is complete, but the federal piece is still in progress. The Friends did not meet for some time due to COVID, but they are back to regular meetings now.

In 2021 the Friends offered their basket raffle in July for the first time, rather than in the fall/winter. The July event was so successful that they plan to make a Christmas in July basket raffle a regular tradition. Raffle tickets for eight gift baskets will be available starting May 1, and will be sold at the C-A-L Ranch store in Sierra Vista.

The Friends have a new website at <https://www.fothcl.org/>, which makes it easy to stay up to date on their book sales and happenings.

*(Diane also requested more children’s books for the Free Book Box the Friends maintain in Whetstone; Amadee will send some from the District.)*

Stephanie mentioned that she has been the director in Huachuca City (technically the Director of Library and Leisure Services) for just over a year, and that the Friends of the Library, and Diane in particular, have been amazing.

Like other libraries across the county, Huachuca City closed in March 2020 when COVID hit, and then slowly expanded services again. The library has been fully reopened since May 2021.

The library offers a traditional summer reading program, but also works with the Summer Splash camp offered at the school next door. In 2021 the coordinator was out for much of the season, so Steph got a chance to be very hands-on with the program.

A COVID vaccination clinic was offered at the library in April 2021, right after Steph started work there. It helped that she had previously volunteered at vaccination sites in Sierra Vista. 185 Huachuca City residents were able to get vaccinated at the library!

The Friends of the Library support special events including the annual Creepy Candy Cruise (a trunk-or-treat program for Halloween) and a big Polar Express party. Both went very well in 2021. The Friends also made curtains for the Senior Center (which falls under Library and Leisure Services), so seniors will have the opportunity to watch movies in the future.

The Senior Center hosted a big community holiday meal last fall, and a Spring Fling meal this spring, with support from a local restaurant and individual donors. This kept the cost for participants to \$5, and both events were well attended.

Class visits from Huachuca City School are slowly resuming, with kindergarten classes coming back first. Next school year, all grade levels will come back to the library on a rotating basis.

Like several other libraries in Cochise County, Huachuca City received Launchpad tablets from the State Library. They also received Leap Into Science mini-grants that made it possible to offer programs about the science of wind, and about light and shadows.

The library is working with Benson Hospital to offer telehealth visits in Huachuca City. Stephanie hopes the library will be awarded a Privacy Pod from the State Library to facilitate this program and others.

The library has been offering wellness classes and walks, and hopes to offer nature hikes in the future. The library and the city are also working on improvements to the park next to the library, including the addition of a labyrinth (not a maze). The park is currently known as Veterans Park, and will be renamed Veterans Memorial Wellness Park.

**Sierra Vista Public Library:** Karly Scarbrough shared an update from Sierra Vista.

This was Karly's first meeting as part of the Citizen Liaison Council, but she has been part of the Sierra Vista Library Commission since 2018.

Library staff from Sierra Vista are working to install a library vending machine at the mall in Sierra Vista, to raise the visibility of the library and reach out to the wider community. The machine will use RFID (radio frequency identification) technology to track circulation activity. SV library staff are working with the vendor and the Library District's systems librarian to implement the project.

The library is also adding two family workstations to facilitate caregivers with young children. Delivery has been slowed by high demand and supply chain problems, but this will be a great addition to the space.

The library's Oceans of Possibilities summer reading theme will extend beyond the library, with a themed exhibit at the museum, themed projects at the Art Studio, and Splishy Splashy Storytimes at the Cove.

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

Lucy Wilson has retired, and the library has a new program coordinator. The new person previously served as a volunteer, so she has been able to jump right in.

The library held a volunteer luncheon on April 20. It is also offering a Matter of Balance class, and cooking classes using the new Charlie Cart provided by the State Library, which has been a wonderful programming asset.

The library will also be able to offer computer classes soon, with an excellent volunteer instructor.

Michelle has recently applied for two grants and is waiting to hear if they have been funded.

### **Nominate and elect new Chair:**

*(This item was originally listed after the Director's Report but was moved up the agenda to ensure a quorum.)*

Amadee Ricketts thanked outgoing Chair Jayne McClure, from Tombstone, who was not able to attend this meeting.

Abe Villarreal from Douglas indicated that he was willing to be considered for the position, and no other attendees volunteered to serve.

Tom Goode made a motion to elect Abe Villarreal as the new Chair, and Diane Hildebrandt seconded the motion. There was some brief discussion, and Abe said that he has reviewed CLC materials and minutes from past meetings, and is excited about the Council's work.

The motion to elect him as Chair was passed unanimously.

## **Director's Report:**

Amadee Ricketts offered a brief overview of the Library District's role in Cochise County, and the Citizen Liaison Council's importance in giving municipal residents a voice in countywide library services. She noted that the CLC also has a role to play in shaping Library District policies and assisting in the event of challenges to library materials.

Amadee offered some statistics and highlights from 2021 (see attached handout for details), and an update on the Library District's long-delayed headquarters move.

The Library District was based at the Old Bisbee High School starting in 1982, and relocated to the Cochise County complex on Melody Lane in November 2021. New office furniture was delayed by several months but finally installed in March 2022. New high-density shelving has not been completely installed as of April 2022, so the Library District collection is still packed and waiting at the old location, which is up for sale.

Amadee thanked all of the libraries and county residents for their patience with the moving project, and noted that updates are available at [cochiselibrary.org](http://cochiselibrary.org).

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

**For the good of the order:** No one in attendance had topics to add.

**The next official meeting date will be the third Wednesday in October (2022), which is October 19.** The meeting format (in-person or virtual) and location (if applicable) will be determined at least a month ahead of the meeting date.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.**

(Michelle Leyvas moved to adjourn, Tom Goode seconded, and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.)

Respectfully submitted,

Amadee Ricketts

# CQ LIBRARY STATS

## JANUARY—MARCH 2022

### TOTAL CHECKOUTS

**ADULT BOOKS: 3,910**

**KID BOOKS: 1,694**

**AUDIO CDS: 349**

**DVDs: 4,751**

**CQL ANNEX: 1103**



### CHILDREN'S LIBRARY

#### JUVENILE LIBRARY :

**FICTION : 339**

**GRAPHIC NOVELS : 344**

**NONFICTION : 292**

**YOUNG ADULT : 216**

#### PRESCHOOL LIBRARY :

**BOARD BOOKS : 41**

**EARLY READERS : 47**

**EASY BOOKS : 412**

**AUDIO CDS : 20**

**PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS PARTICIPANTS : 238**

**CHILDREN VISITS : 1501**

**HOLDS : 1,560**

#### **INTERLIBRARY LOANS**

**LENT : 1966 | BORROWED : 1455**

**ITEMS ADDED : 947**

**BOOKS : 209**

**KIDS BOOKS : 104**

**MUSIC CDS : 124**

**DVDs : 141**



**USERS ADDED  
92**

**ADULT : 81**

**KIDS : 11**



#### **PROGRAM ATTENDEES:**

**YouTube Channel : 234 views**

**Virtual Program Attendance : 152**

**Take & Make Kits : 960**

**Kanopy Video Streams : 823**

#### **LIBRARY OF THINGS:**

**Internet Hotspots : 180**

**Sports Equipment : 33**

**Seeds : 223**

## Copper Queen Library Grants Update – 4/18/22

### **Freeport Grant :**

\$70,000 – Balcony Upgrades

Completed : Lighting, ADA ramps

In-Progress : 4<sup>th</sup> Rail

Next : Address cracking with structural engineer

### **Legacy Grant :**

\$14,000 – 3 StoryWalks (Garfield Park, Upper Vista Park, San Jose)

Completed : Parks & Rec Commission Approval

In-Progress : Placement of signs (with Public Works), sponsorships of books

Next : Installation

### **Summer Reading :**

\$4,000 – Freeport

Completed : 900 books ordered, reading incentives ordered

In-Progress : program planning with Bisbee Science Lab, Boys and Girls Club, BUSD

Next : Brochure printing

### **ERate :**

Internet Upgrade from the Federal Government

Completed : Category 1 : High Speed Internet from Sparklight

In-Progress : Category 2 : WiFi Upgrade

### **Patio Grants :**

\$25,000 – Arizona Community Foundation

\$20,000 – private donations

\$15,000 – Arizona State Libraries (LSTA)

\$4000 - Freeport

Completed : Pavers, astroturf, stage, gutters, tables

In-Progress : Shade sails

Next : STEAM/Literacy Elements, Art, Sand Pit, Garden planters | Ice Cream Social/Ribbon Cutting : Friday, May 13, 2022, Noon – 2 PM.

# COCHISE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT

352,204

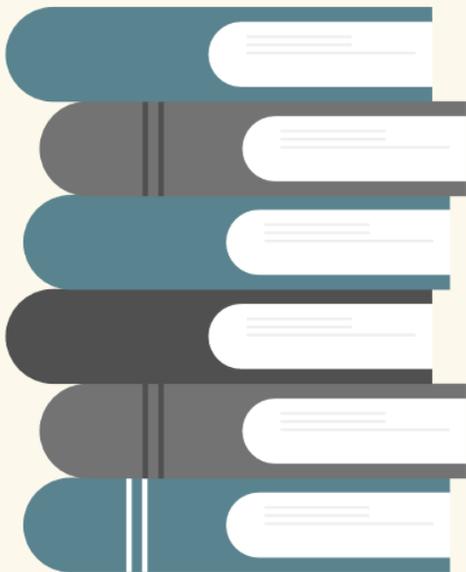
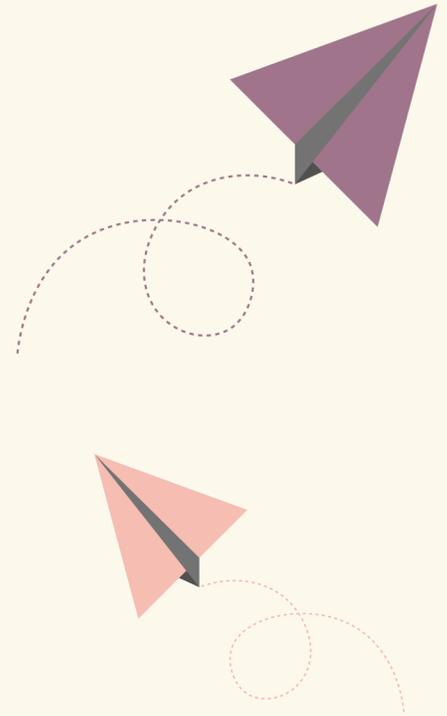
Physical items circulated countywide

68,729

Ebook and digital audio checkouts

50,929

Items transferred between libraries



## 1 HEADQUARTERS MOVE

Library District staff moved from Old Bisbee to the Cochise County complex on Melody Lane in November.

The Library District collection—roughly 17,000 items—will follow in early 2022.

# ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS 2021

## BUSY BRANCHES

The rural branch libraries in Bowie, Elfrida, Portal, Sunizona, and Sunsites hosted 7,781 visits and 18,954 computer and wifi sessions for the public in 2021.



Patrons at the Library District and branch libraries checked out 32,675 physical items and 4,779 digital titles during the year.



## BIG IDEAS

The Library District's grant-funded Eat Local project included two countywide Big Read programs and a range of virtual programs about local food topics.

The Elfrida Library is building on the success of the project with a new Seed Library for area residents.

## GROWING PARTNERSHIPS

The Library District worked with the Cochise County Superior Court's Law Library Self-Help Center to provide Cochise County legal forms at public libraries countywide in 2021.

Library District staff also worked with Cochise County Health and Social Services to promote public health programs including rural vaccination clinics.

