



The RCSC Board sincerely appreciates the avid interest of our Membership in our two Sun City libraries.

Our Mission Statement continues to drive Board decision-making:

“To maintain a financially sustainable corporation which provides our Members with a wide range of high quality amenities, recreational opportunities and social activities to enhance each participating Member’s sense of well-being and purpose.”

In pursuit of these goals the Board works closely with the Management team, sharing agreement that these words drive everything that we do in Sun City.

Last Thursday the Friends of the Sun City Libraries (FSCL) published a press release expressing their concerns about potential library closures, based on a letter they had received from Maricopa County Library District and a conversation with a member of the RCSC Management team.

This triggered a significant number of emails to the Board of Directors expressing concern and asking for verification. In the meantime a campaign to Save Our Libraries has begun.

The Board would like to clarify a few things that have popped up via this campaign.

While the Board was aware that lease renewal was on the horizon, the Board has not been discussing potential library closures for the past two months. As a matter of fact, the very first Board discussion on this matter took place this past Tuesday in Executive Session. Given the Easter weekend, this was earliest opportunity the Board had to discuss the issue after it came to our attention.

We'd like to clarify that Management never had any intent to close the Bell Library without providing alternative space. It is true that Management intended to sever the lease with MCLD for the Fairway branch.

The Board is constantly learning. In the vast scheme of items to which we direct our attention, there had not previously been any occasion for the Board to consider the role that libraries play in our community.

In the past week we have learned a lot, and we have come to the conclusion that Management concerns about the Fairway branch require additional research and analysis.

In the interim, we have directed Management to withdraw the notification of Fairway lease termination to provide the Board with time to conduct a thorough analysis, to ensure that we are meeting the needs of members, staff, and the community at large.

With this in mind, we are requesting that MCLD agree to a one-year extension for both libraries as we work through this.

We wish to be clear that the lease extension request is not a mechanism to allow us to shut down libraries, but rather a mechanism to allow us to do due diligence and involve Membership input.

We are grateful for the presentation of data that shows the prominent role libraries play in our community and the robust use they enjoy.

Please be assured that there is no attempt to hide, manipulate, or deceive anyone as we move forward.