

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 7, 2005

The Abilene Public Library Board met in the Conference Room of the Library at 4:00 P.M., Monday, February 07, 2005. A quorum was present.

Board Members present: Joe Specht (vice chairman), Laura Dyer, Maryana Harrell, David Scott, Jane Seamster and Stewart Caffey

Board Members absent: Brian Scalf, Chris Blackmon, Stan Chapman (chairman) and two positions vacant

Also attending: Mike Hall (Director of Community Services), Tony Neitzler (Assistant Director of Community Services), Ricki Brown (City Librarian), and Kim St. Clair (Administrative Assistant II).

Media present: None

Mr. Specht called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

Mr. Specht called for approval of the minutes of November 1, 2004 and September 08, 2004 as presented. All present voted to approve the minutes.

Ms. Brown began her report with information on the carpet installation for the second floor. She reported about the new telephone system for the library which includes voicemail and caller-ID.

Staff vacancies in the previous two month include Lila Jefferson and Beatrice Takacs; two now retired librarians with Big Country Library System. Ms. Brown was proud to announce the promotion of John Pecoraro to Librarian III. He will replace Beatrice Takacs as Coordinator of the Big Country Library System. This promotion now leaves the library searching for a new Branch Manager.

Ms. Brown reported on the current Capital Improvement Program. The library is requesting a leased storefront for a Northern Branch and a permanent facility for the South Branch. A request to fully abate the asbestos for the Main facility was also submitted.

Ms. Brown was pleased to report that Circulation continued a 6% growth last year.

Mr. Specht opened the discussion of Board membership vacancies. There are still two positions vacant. The board discussed the need to pay attention to demographics of the community and the far north and the far south need representation. Ms. Brown commented that the vacancies need to be filled by the May 2nd meeting.

Mr. Specht announced that new officers needed to be elected. Mr. Specht said he would be glad to remain as vice-chair. After some discussion he asked for nominations for position of Chairman. Laura Dyer motioned for the nomination of David Scott for Chairman and Maryana Harrell seconded. All present voted to elect David Scott

Chairman. Mr. Specht then asked for nominations for the position of Vice-chairman. Stewart Chaffey motioned for the nomination of Joe Specht as Vice-chairman and Laura Dyer seconded. All present voted to elect Joe Specht Vice-chairman.

Ricki Brown gave a brief Friends report. New officers of the Friends Board held the first meeting in January with orientation and project discussion since the board had several new members. The board has agreed to support library funding by \$30,000 in direct aide. Some of these funds are used for staff travel and training and is greatly appreciated by the staff. There was also \$50,000 allocated to the long-term project fund that now totals approximately \$150,000.

Mr. Specht asked Ms. Brown to explain the policy revision up for consideration by the Board. Ms. Brown explained the policy that has banned all food and drink in the past. The revision would allow for covered drinks to be allowed in public areas. Library staff had been testing this policy temporarily and has found no great adverse affects and would like the policy amended permanently. After some discussion the board voted to unanimously accept this revision to the library policy.

Mr. Specht called the meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim R. St. Clair
Library Administrative Assistant II