

## **ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES August 6, 2007 (Corrected approved)**

The Abilene Public Library Board met in the Conference room of the Library at 4:00 P.M., Monday, August 6, 2007. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Stewart Caffey (Vice Chairman), Robert Carleton, Maryanna Harrell, Dennis Regan, Joe Specht, Ginna Sadler and Bryan Scalf.

Board Members Absent: David Scott, John Williams (Chairman), Stan Chapman

Others Attending: Tony Neitzler (Assistant Director of Community Services), Ricki Brown (City Librarian), Marie Noe (Librarian II) and Kim St. Clair (Library Administrative Assistant II)

Media present: None

Mr. Caffey called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. a quorum was present. Mr. Caffey asked for a motion to accept the minutes of February 5, 2007 as presented. After several corrections were made a motion to accept the minutes of February 5, 2007 as corrected was made by Maryanna Harrell and seconded by Dennis Regan. Motion carried with Stewart Caffey, Robert Carleton, Maryanna Harrell, Dennis Regan, Joe Specht, Ginna Sadler, and Brian Scalf voting affirmative.

Ms. Brown began her report with an introduction of Anne Ellis a recently hired Librarian I and a graduate of UNT. Ann began her service by working at the Information Services Desk and is taking over the Adult Book Club. Ms. Brown mentioned that Janet Bailey begins work tomorrow as the new Technical Services Manager. She comes to Abilene Public Library from Oklahoma Baptist University and her spouse works for Abilene Christian University. The library has also had four Pages resign to begin their university education in other cities.

Ms. Brown reported to the Board concerning the complaint about some materials being inappropriate for our collection by a concerned grandparent. She mention that the staff handled this complaint well in her absence and the items will be reviewed for their relevance in the collection as of yet they have not been returned. She said she would like to applaud the parents and grandparents in the community who are paying attention to what their children and grandchildren are doing. She did mention that it can be a delicate balance to provide materials covering a wide range of attitudes and viewpoints and not offend anyone. Mr. Neitzler mentioned to the Board that at some point in these material reviews that the Library Advisory Board maybe called upon to make a judgment on the appropriateness of items in the collection.

Ms. Brown informed the Board on a very positive article in the paper about a young woman praising the library. The library computers available allowed her to complete her class coursework on line and this allowed her to seek better employment.

Big Country Library System is very busy offering a variety of training programs to area librarians and library staff. Our library's own Joy Wiley will be instructing a class on Genealogy collections and research skills. Our library's Marie Noe will instruct a class on story time sessions. A very important class required for non-degreed small library staff is also being offered called Small Library Management.

Ms. Brown also added that Board Member, Brian Scalf, will receive his twenty year service award for his work with the Abilene Fire Department at an upcoming City Council Meeting.

An introduction and welcome was made to the newest Library Advisory Board Member, Robert Carleton.

There being no old business to discuss the discussion moved onto New Business and Ms. Brown gave an update on the proposed library budget process. She commented that part of the budget this year is a 3% increase across the board for all city staff and a 10% adjustment in beginning salaries. She indicated that this increase was necessary in order to have competitive hiring with private industry. She added that this increase is much appreciated by the staff.

Ms. Brown went on to discuss the annual Public Library Data Service Survey that she handed out to the Board.

Ms. Sadler gave the Friends report and commented that the annual book sale this year has raised \$52,000 for the Friends efforts to help make improvements to library services. She commented that if the members have never been to the book sale it is truly an amazing feat with the amazing numbers of volunteers each year needed to complete this worthwhile event. She informed the Board to mark their calendars for the next West Texas Book and Music Festival to be held September 25<sup>th</sup> thru September 29<sup>th</sup>. This year's recipient of the A.C. Greene award will go to Carlton Stowers who will speak at the Books and Boots Luncheon on Saturday. Tickets for the luncheon will be for sale for \$25.00. The week will also highlight several authors in free Brown Bag Lunches at the main library auditorium. She understands that the author of a book about the history of Blue Bell Ice Cream, Dorothy McLeod MacInerny, will be speaking on Friday and there may be free samples to complement lunch on that day. The Saturday event at the Civic Center will have numerous workshops. The Hall of Texas Authors will be set up for authors to sell, sign and discuss their books. The whole event will cumulate with the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Hymn Fest at 3:00 at the Civic Center.

Ms. Noe then gave a report on the Summer Reading Club and Teen Reading Club for 2007. She reported that both programs were very well attended. The school age club had 4,480 packets passed out and 13,000 premiums disbursed. She commented more premiums could have been given out but the library ran out early on several of the items.

Mr. Caffey thanked and welcomed the new Board Members present, Rob Carleton and Dennis Regan.

Mr. Caffey then requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Scalf made a motion to adjourn and Marianna Harrell seconded the motion. The meeting then adjourned at 4.58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim St. Clair  
Library Administrative Assistant II