

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES November 5, 2007

The Abilene Public Library Board met in the Conference room of the Library at 4:00 P.M., Monday, November 5, 2007. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: John Williams (Chairman), Robert Carleton, Stan Chapman, Maryanna Harrell, Dennis Regan, Joe Specht, and Ginna Sadler.

Board Members Absent: David Scott and Bryan Scalf

Others Attending: Mike Hall (Director of Community Services), Tony Neitzler (Assistant Director of Community Services), Ricki Brown (City Librarian), Janis Test (Librarian III), Kelley Messer (Attorney, City Legal Office) and Kim St. Clair (Library Administrative Assistant II)

Media present: None

Dr. Williams called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. a quorum was present. Dr. Williams asked for any correction or changes to the minutes of August 6, 2007. Mr. Carleton mentioned that he did not remember David Scott as attending the meeting. Kim St. Clair acknowledged that he had indeed not attended the meeting. There being no further corrections to the minutes the meeting moved on to the Director's report.

Ms. Brown began her report with an introduction of Janet Bailey a recently hired Librarian II. Ms. Bailey came to APL from Oklahoma Baptist College where she was a curriculum librarian and catalogued related library materials. She also instructed to students, faculty and staff how to use the library's catalog. Her husband works for Abilene Christian University and heads up a new center for dispute resolution. They are both very excited about their move to Abilene and expect rewarding careers here. Ms. Brown mentioned that the library has been at full staff now for about three weeks.

The date of January 5, 2008 was asked to be placed on the Board's Calendar by Ms. Brown. This will be the 10th Anniversary celebration for the South Branch Library. A celebration is planned to thank the community and library users for the branch's past and continued popularity.

Other activities ongoing included installation of a new boiler and asbestos abatement for some areas of the library. Ms Brown also commented on the wonderful job that Marie Noe did in her presentation to her Kiwanis Club in October. She had a wonderful talk outlining her road to becoming the Children's Librarian. She then gave a storytelling presentation for an enthralled, primarily male audience.

The library will participate again in "Food for Fines" for the month of December where one non perishable food item will equal one dollar in library fines. This year McMurry, ACU and HSU libraries will join the public library in participating in this worthy cause for the Food Bank of West Central Texas. The library will also participate in HEB's Feast of Sharing by having a booth at the Civic Center during the event.

Dr. Williams reported on the pending old business of the two library board vacancies. Ms. Brown commented that a name had been submitted for consideration by the City Council and should there be any other names the board would like to be considered to let her know. A reminder was made about the procedure change that board members may not call and speak with the person in advance and ask if they would like to serve.

Dr. Williams asked Ms. Brown for the North Branch update. In September, the City Council met in a special workshop and the concept of a North Branch library was presented. The Friends of the library will cover the lease expense for the first two years and raise the funding for the furnishings and opening day collection that will total an additional \$594,000. The City will obligate for the operational expenses for the first two years that will include payroll, utilities, and daily operational expenses. After the first two years the city will take over full operation. The City Council has asked good questions and the Friends have done a really good job

presenting the proposal. The Friends have moved ahead and made 30 grant proposals including all three of the major local foundations. They are working very hard and are very committed to the project. Several generous donations from Friends Board members, other past friends and a few other foundations leave \$564,000 to go.

Ms. Brown added that the most asked question is where will the branch library be? The answer is they don't know, but there is a quadrant area they'd like to use as a guide line. She mentioned the success at the South location has been driven due to its location being on the second busiest intersection in the city and the only wish would be for more space in order to provide more computers and meeting room facilities for library programming and story time activities.

Robert Carleton mentioned that he'd been at the branch and had to wait in line to use the computer to locate materials because others were ahead of him. He said they do need more computers to meet the needs of the library patrons.

Dr. Williams made a request for volunteers to serve as the Big County Library System representative for Abilene Public Library. Ms. Brown outlined the obligations. The System would pay the representatives expenses and the meeting would last a half day plus travel to and from. This year it is December the 5th and it will be at Breckenridge Public Library. She added that the term limit is usually two years. After some discussion and questions, Dr. Williams volunteered and Dennis Regan agreed to be the first alternate, and Maryanna Harrell agreed to be the second alternate.

Ms. Sadler gave the Friends liaison report. She spoke of the major commitment by the Friends to support the North Branch Project expecting rent to be in the neighborhood of \$89,000 and the commitment to raise the funds needed for the furnishings and opening day collection.

Nancy Brock and Deonna Galbraith are no strangers to raising funds and have each done a number of projects over the years. The Friends Board has been asked to personally contribute to create solidarity behind the project.

Mr. Carlton commented that the library board should also be supportive by showing solidarity through personal donations for the project. Everyone agreed to back the project with a personal donation and Ginna Sadler agreed to keep track and let Rob Carlton know so he can make follow up reminder calls.

Ms. Test then gave a demonstration and a report on the Homework Help service provided by the library through Tutor.com. She showed a power point presentation detailing the service and gave the members a hand out. She asked them to take some business cards promoting the service and to carry them while the members are about in the community at work, church and other club activities and communicate that this wonderful service is available through the public library. She mentioned that those who have used the service find it to be a wonderful asset.

Dr. Williams asked for a formal vote to approve the minutes of August 6, 2007 by requesting a motion. Stan Chapman so motioned and Maryanna Harrell seconded. The motion carried with John Williams, Robert Carleton, Stan Chapman, Maryanna Harrell, Dennis Regan, Joe Specht, and Ginna Sadler all voting their approval.

Dr. Williams then adjourned the meeting 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim St. Clair
Library Administrative Assistant II