

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2009 Corrected

The Abilene Public Library Board met in the Conference Room of the Main Library at 4:00 P.M., Monday, May 4, 2009. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: John Williams (Chairman), Maryanna Harrell, Debra Lillick, Dennis Regan, Brian Scalf, Joe Specht, and Ginna Sadler.

Board Members Absent: Robert Carleton (Vice Chairman) and Stan Chapman

Others Attending: Tony Neitzler (Assistant Director of Community Services), Ricki Brown (City Librarian), 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 February 2, 2009. He asked for a vote to accept the minutes which passed with John Williams, Brian Scalf, Dennis Regan, Maryanna Harrell, Joe Specht, and Ginna Sadler accepting and no one opposing.

Ms. Brown began her report by passing out copies of the Annual Report to the Texas State Library for fiscal year 2008. She informed the Board of the importance of this report as it is used to determine eligibility for Library System Membership and continued ability to host the System Office here. The financials on this report also determines the amount of funds the library will receive through the Loan Star program. Ms. Brown announced that energy efficiency upgrades were being made in the main library facility. The main facility is in process of having all the air handling units replaced and new temperature controls installed. The replacement of the 50+ year old system has been a little messy and a little uncomfortable but should reap saving through better usage of electricity for the building.

The library is also proud to announce that it has received an award from the Texas State Library. The marketing for the opening of the Mockingbird Branch was submitted and the "Branding Iron Award" was bestowed on the library for the campaign. The Mockingbird Branch project was also submitted for the project or the year award, but was beaten out by Houston Public Library.

Ms. Brown announced that the library will be in the process of updating its strategic plan and will be working with consultant David Price. The Board will participate in the process. The final product will include new vision and mission statements. We will address future facility needs.

A group toured Lincoln Middle School since AISD is about to put it up for sale. The Preservation League along with Jane Beard, an avid library supporter, would like to see the building be used in a constructive way and not be torn down. The future of this building as a library facility would most likely not be a viable solution since renovation costs would be very substantial. She also said that the Auditorium part of the facility would still remain under AISD control. After some discussion the Board received an update from Ms. Brown on the Mockingbird Branch, which she reported is still doing a booming business and has not detracted from any of the other library facilities. Several Board members shared their Mockingbird Branch praise and they are very pleased with the facility.

Ms. Brown then distributed a revised Registration Policy. The new policy more clearly defines non-residents. She spoke of the digital materials that are available to our patrons being an incentive for out of state users to purchase non-resident cards in order to use the libraries resources online. After some discussion and a few grammatical changes Ginna Sadler motioned and Brian Scalf seconded the motion to accept the corrected registration policy. Dr. Williams asked for a vote to accept the new policy as amended. The policy was adopted with John Williams, Brian Scalf, Dennis Regan, Maryanna Harrell, Joe Specht, and Ginna Sadler voting to approve and no one opposing.

Ms. Sadler gave the Friends liaison report. She reported that she was present during several programs at the Mockingbird Branch and she was very pleased to see the children happily participate in the programs. She reported that the Friends are turning their interests to sprucing up the Main Library facility. She reported that the new book area is a prime area for improvement. She indicated that in New York very colorful banners are used to promote events and the Friends are making some new banners for the summer reading club to be hung inside using tension rods. Some ideas are being discussed about the second floor balcony that is being used for storage, such as frosted glass and some additional new seating for the new book area. She mentioned that the Book Sale is coming up on June 18th thru 21st and the opportunity to volunteer is available. She also reported that the plans for the Book and Music Festival are well under way. She mentioned that there is still discussion of charging admission and by doing so lend merit that the event is valuable.

Ms. Brown then thanked Ms. Harrell for her service on the Board and presented a small gift. She announced that Ms. Harrell is moving to Austin where she is sure to be an avid library supporter there. Ms. Harrell thanked the Board and said she has loved being on this Board.

Dr. Williams then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned as motioned by Mr. Regan and seconded by Ms. Sadler at 4:50 PM. There was a reminder that the next Board Meeting is August 3rd, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim St. Clair
Library Administrative Assistant II