

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 2, 2009

The Abilene Public Library Board met in the Conference Room of the Main Library at 4:00 P.M., Monday, November 2, 2009. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: John Williams (Chairman), Robert Carleton (Vice Chairman), Julie Barcroft, Stan Chapman, Debra Lillick, Dennis Regan, and Joe Specht.

Board Members Absent: Ginna Sadler and Brian Scalf.

Others Attending: Mike Hall (Director of Community Services), 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 4:05 p.m. a quorum was present. Dr. Williams asked for any corrections or changes to the minutes of August 3, 2009. He asked for a vote to accept the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved with John Williams, Joe Specht, Julie Barcroft, Dennis Regan, Stan Chapman, and Debra Lillick accepting and no one opposing.

Ms. Brown began her report by mentioning the library's Inter-Library Loan office received and Outstanding award from the Texas State Library. Several of the library's public service staff members are participating in a specialized Spanish Language class for libraries that will run for eleven weeks. The "Food for Fines" program will again run for the month of December and the University Libraries will also be participating. This will be the Universities last year to participate as they are discontinuing charging late fees. Ms. Brown added that University Library users will continue to pay for lost library materials.

Ms. Brown announced that she will be serving for a three year term on the Library System Act Advisory Board. This Board meets in Austin. She explained to the Board that the Annual Budget has been approved by the City Council and included a 40% reduction in the materials budget. Two library staff positions, vacant due to retirements, will remain unfunded in the 2010 budget year. The library is coping by implementing some internal changes that included consolidation of the main floor service desks into one that will look similar to the Mockingbird Branch service desk. Marie Noe will act as head of Circulation and Children's Services. Two staff members, Tony Redman and Deborah Tarsiewicz, have been reassigned from Circulation and Children's to the basement as a result of this consolidation. The furniture is scheduled to be moved with a joint effort from IT, Facilities Maintenance and Custodial Services. The Friends of the library are funding to have the casual seating at the South Branch to be re-upholstered and re-finished. In addition to the furnishings, the Friends are also arranging for the permanent sign for the Mockingbird Branch.

Ms. Brown gave acknowledgement to Marie Noe for her 30 years of service. Marie was presented an award at this month's City Council meeting.

Ms. Brown reminded Board Members to please complete the surveys they have been given if they have not already done so. Mr. Neitzler and members of the Board discussed items that were a result from the last survey that have been accomplished including the establishment of the Northside Branch. Other items remain unattained including the restoration of Sunday hours and an expanded Southside location. Mr. Neitzler added if we choose to keep this location we need to re-think what its purpose would be. There are a lot of options and possibilities to consider.

Ms. Brown then provided copies to the Board of the Public Library Statistical Report. One may compare our library with other libraries nationwide. She outlined the rankings for the Abilene Public Library in the national standings.

Ms. Brown then gave a brief Friends of the Library report in the absence of Ms. Sadler. The Book and Music Festival was well attended, but the final financial report has not been made.

Dr. Williams adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM. There was a reminder that the next Board Meeting is February 1, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim St. Clair
Library Administrative Assistant II