

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2010

The Abilene Public Library Board met in the Conference Room of the Main Library at 4:00 P.M., Monday, February 1, 2010. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: John Williams (Chairman), Julie Barcroft, Stan Chapman, Debra Lillick, James Potts, Dennis Regan, Ginna Sadler, Brian Scalf and Joe Specht.

Board Members Absent: Robert Carleton (Vice Chairman)

Others Attending: Tony Neitzler (Assistant Director of Community Services), Ricki Brown (City Librarian), Anne Ellis (Mockingbird Branch Manager) 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 November 2, 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, James Potts, Brian Scalf and Debra Lillick accepting and no one opposing.

The Director's report was given by Ricki Brown and began with an introduction of the newest Library Advisory Board Member, James Potts. She gave an update concerning the permanent signage for the Mockingbird Branch. The Friends are paying for the sign and replacing the banner. They can not wait any further on the remodel of the building façade by the landlord. She passed around a color picture of what the sign will look like and added that it will be lit by LED light bulbs in an effort to cut energy costs and "be green".

Ms. Brown continued with her report discussing the current and possible future tax revenue short fall and how this might impact the library budget and services. She indicated that there were numerous studies being conducted and all managers have been asked to look at many options, but nothing had been decided as yet. She provided the Board with a current staff list.

The strategic plan is progressing into its final stages, Ms. Brown reported. She mentioned that during the survey part that the same top five answers to question 10 present in the 2004 survey. The reinstatement of Sunday Hours and a coffee shop on site were the highest ranked. She said the Friends of the Library are trying to investigate the coffee issue. All the library facilities lack a prep area that would meet state & local health code. This is the major obstacle. The Friends will be looking at outside vendors to "cater" the service.

Anne Ellis then provided an update on the Mockingbird facility and services. She answered several question raised by the board members. She reported that the computers are

heavily used and the collection has become more self sustaining using less books from the other facilities than when it first opened.

Ginna Salder gave a brief Friends of the Library update that included a hand out of important upcoming dates for the 2010 West Texas Author Series. She mentioned that these are very entertaining and there are a limited amount of \$4.00 sandwich lunches available. She gave kudos to the Book Sale volunteers and especially to the two ladies who primarily through out the year sort all the materials that come in. She invited everyone to visualize all the books in the Civic Center during the sale that have all been touch and sorted by this hardworking crew. There was then some discussion about some upcoming projects that the Friends are considering such as implementing RFID tag technology at the South Branch and continuing to fund Professional Conference Travel for the Librarians who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend.

Dr. Williams adjourned the meeting at 4:54 PM. There was a reminder that the next Board Meeting is May 3, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim St. Clair
Library Administrative Assistant II