

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 14, 2011

The Abilene Public Library Board met in the Conference Room of the Main Library at 4:00 P.M., Tuesday, February 14, 2011. A quorum was present. This meeting was rescheduled from the 7th due to the inability to obtain a quorum.

Board Members Present: John Williams (Chairman), Robert Carleton (Vice Chairman), Dennis Regan, Debra Lillick, Brian Scalf and Joe Specht.

Board Members Absent: Julie Barcroft, Stan Chapman, James Potts (resigned), and Ginna Sadler

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

Media present: None

Dr. Williams called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. a quorum was present. Dr. Williams asked for any corrections or changes to the minutes of November 02, 2010. The minutes were approved with John Williams, Robert Carlton, Debra Lillick, Dennis Regan, Brian Scalf, and Joe Specht accepting and no one opposing.

Ms. Brown began the Director's Report by discussing recent events not included in her Winter Report. She indicated that due to the inclement weather event the library was unable to be open regular hours due. Many staff were unable to come to work. Hours of operation were intermittent and staff who braved the weather and came to work were rewarded with bonus days. Ms. Brown proceeded with an overview of programs and services. She mentioned the recently held Technology Fair at the library that partnered with private business to provide information to the public. She went on to report that the Sales Tax revenue has been very positive recently.

Under New Business Ricki Brown outlined the reason for needing to update the library collection development policy. She explained the differences to the board and there was a brief discussion. Mr. Neitzler added that this body would be responsible for making the final decision should someone challenge it. All present voted to adopt the new policy with a show of hands.

Ms. Brown reported that there are grim expectations of any positive changes to the State Budget with its present reductions. The current state budget as presented provides zero services and resources to libraries. It is hoped that amendments will come forward to restore some of these funds especially for the TexShare databases. Small libraries can not compete in the current market place to provide these for their users and would have to go without. Currently for this library to pick up all the databases provided by the program it would cost in excess of \$300,000. She reported additionally there is zero funding to the TEA as well. Ms. Brown indicated it was important for members of the Board and other interested citizens and library supporters to express their opinions about this funding disparity. She also reported citizens may complete a survey on our web-site that will be presented to the legislature by the Texas Library Association.

Ricki Brown reported that Alice Specht and she will participate in Legislative Day in Austin to make contact with legislators to express what these funding reductions mean to libraries. She added that currently all the libraries will lose all Loan Star Funding and many of the rural libraries have only that amount of funds to provide new materials in their libraries. We in fact currently use our Loan Star Funds to supplement own collection and in the past it also provided for the funds to purchase the downloadable audio book material. Abilene Public also stands to loose six full-time staff members that are funded through federal monies provided to the State and the current proposed funding level in the State Biennial Budget they would loose those dollars.

Dr Williams then opened discussion of the vacancies that exist on the Board. Ms. Brown reported that James Potts has resigned due to his acceptance of another position taking him away from Abilene. After some discussion members concluded they would contemplate for anyone they know who might be interested.

Mr. Carleton then gave a brief Friends of the Library report. He reported that the Friends Board recently attended at Saturday retreat that heralded the first meeting for the new President, Brad Burkett. He mentioned the West Texas Author's Series has begun and mentioned Jack North's new book as one of the highlighted authors. He also reminded everyone that a Friends Membership entitles you to a discount at Hastings.

Dr. Williams then concluded the meeting at 4:58 PM.

Dr. Williams reminded everyone that the next scheduled meeting will be on Monday, May 2nd.



Kim St. Clair
Library Administrative Assistant II