

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 1, 2011

The Abilene Public Library Board met in the Conference Room of the Main Library at 4:00 P.M., Monday, August 1, 2011. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: John Williams (Chairman), Robert Carleton (Vice Chairman), Julie Barcroft, Stan Chapman, Ginna Sadler, and Joe Specht.

Board Members Absent: Dennis Regan, Debra Lillick, and Brian Scaif

Others Attending: Ricki Brown (City Librarian), Tony Neitzler (Assistant Director of Community Services, Tremain Jackson (Librarian II), 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 February 14, 2011. The minutes were approved as corrected with John Williams, Robert Carlton, Julie Barcroft, Ginna Sadler, Stan Chapman and Joe Specht with a show of hands and no one opposing.

Ms. Brown began the Director's Report by discussing recent events. The library will be participating with the NCCIL as part of the Ed Young exhibit in November. Next summer the library will participate in a Dr. Seuss Festival with the Abilene Arts Council. The library will have Dr. Seuss as a theme for the Summer Reading Club and there will be several sculptures on loan that will be displayed throughout downtown for Art Walk. The library will have Horton on display. Another new program put forth by Dennis Miller is "Music at Main" and so far it has been very well received.

The Main library building is showing its age and has had many problems which have run our building maintenance line item over and include elevator, plumbing, and AC issues. The Main library was broken into twice and petty cash, and DVD's were missing along with the library staff coffee fund.

Ms Brown then presented copies of the library's Annual Report to the Texas State Library and the Public Library Association National Public Library Data Survey to the board. She explained several of the categories and answered any questions the board members presented.

Tremain Jackson presented a brief report about the Library Summer Reading Club activities. He distributed a handout for the board that included statistical numbers and information detailing the programs presented. He referred the Board to the Library's Flicker and YouTube accounts for samples of library programs. Rob Carlton suggested having staff members come speak to the Friends of the Library Board as well.

Ms. Brown briefed the board on the impact of budget reduction at the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. The Interlibrary Loan Center here will close mid-November. Ms. Brown gave a description of the services provided by the ILL Center and indicated changes will have to happen and the two full-time positions will end. Cynthia Gault is slated to take a position at the South Branch Library and the other person has already found employment elsewhere. The Texas State Library has done away with most all services to public libraries. The Big Country Library System office will no longer exist at the end of August 2012. This will eliminate three full-time positions. Ms. Brown has indicated that we will receive instructions for closing the system office in the next weeks and months. As part of this reduction the Texas State Documents Depository Collection has been discontinued and we can dispose of those materials as we see fit. The Archives Commission has also assisted us in microfilming the Abilene Reporter News. The State Archives will no longer provide this service. For newspapers, microfilm is the best historical preservation technique. She indicated that this problem may be resolved by the Reporter News itself. She had received a phone call from someone at the paper inquiring if we would be interested in purchasing a copy if they started producing the microfilm again.

Mr. Carleton gave a report on work of the Friends of the Library Board. He reported the Friends Board recently passed a resolution that recommended financial support for a permanent South Branch Library. He explained even though no specific dollar amount is mentioned in the recommendation the Friends still wanted to agree to back this project up with at least a million dollars similar to the Mockingbird Branch project. Several members of the Library Board had questions concerning this recommendation. Staff answered their questions and mentioned the standing library strategic plan includes this recommendation and this Board doesn't have to act on this recommendation from the Friends. The Board requested copies of the strategic plan to review and Mr. Carleton request copies for the Friends Board. After some discussion members of the Board agreed they appreciate the Friends support and asked Mr. Carleton to take the resolution back to the Friends Board to clarify the language in order to prevent mixed messages from being concluded by members of the public and asked Mr. Carlton to have it for the next Library Board Meeting on November the 7, 2011. He went on to discuss the upcoming Book and Music Festival and gave out a handout concerning information including that the Cookbook Gala is sold out. He also added that the net from the Book Sale was \$43,300.

Dr. Williams then concluded the meeting at 5:12 PM.



Kim St. Clair
Library Administrative Assistant II