

**ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 04, 2013**

The Abilene Public Library Board met in the Conference Room of the Main Library at 4:00 P.M., Monday, February 4, 2013. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Robert Carleton (Chairman), Debra Lillick (Vice Chairman), Carrie Casada, Stan Chapman, Tiffany Fink, Patricia Nail, Dennis Regan, Ginna Sadler and Joe Specht.

Board Members Absent: None

Others Attending: Ricki Brown (City Librarian), and Kim St. Clair (Library Administrative Assistant II).

Media present: None

Mr. Carleton called the meeting to order at 3:58 PM. There was a quorum present. He asked for any corrections to the minutes of November 5, 2012. Ginna Sadler motioned that the minutes be approved as presented which was seconded by Debra Lillick. There being no corrections Mr. Carleton requested a show of hands to approve the minutes as submitted. Robert Carleton, Carrie Casada, Stan Chapman, Tiffany Fink, Debra Lillick, Patricia Nail, Dennis Regan, Ginna Sadler and Joe Specht approved the minutes.

Mr. Carleton greeted the Board and thanked them for 100% attendance.

Ms. Brown began the Director's report by showing appreciation for the AARP Tax volunteers hosting free tax help at the Main Library and Mockingbird Branch library again this year. This tax preparation service daily helps approximately 40 individuals and couples to prepare their income tax returns. This service is very valuable in the community and is well respected.

The library will also again participate in AISD's "Million Word Program" on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> along with three other venues in rotation downtown. This is different from the "flash mob" held in the library's parking lot last year.

In January the Friends held their annual retreat and the library staff participated in a half day training session at the Abilene Zoo in early December.

Ms. Brown then announced that the shopping center that hosts the Mockingbird Branch has sold the Bingo Hall to a Houston based Mexican grocery chain. She is glad to see additional traffic coming to the shopping center and this should mean improvements in the storefronts and parking lot will not be far off.

The library has won an award for Achievement in Excellence by the Texas Municipal League Director's Association. The award was given to 30 libraries of the over 500 libraries entering to receive the award.

Mr. Carleton then moved to the next agenda item by having Ms. Brown give an introduction to the newly revised "Rules of Conduct". There was some discussion on about the changes in the policy. Consensus was made that the changes were fair with Dennis Regan motioning to accept the new policy "Rules of Conduct" as presented and Carrie Casada seconding the motion. Robert Carleton, Carrie Casada, Stan Chapman, Tiffany Fink, Debra Lillick, Patricia Nail, Dennis Regan, Ginna Sadler and Joe Specht voted to approve the "Rules of Conduct by a show of hand. There were no nays and no one abstaining.

Ms. Casada then gave a brief report on Friends of the Library. She informed the Board the new officers for the Friends were elected in November and have had the FOL orientation workshop. They are set and ready to go to work. At the November annual meeting Bob Milstead received the volunteer of the year award. Abilene Scene Magazine did an ad for the FOL. The Friends have had good response sending out information via Constant Contact which is overseen by Janis Test, Kim St. Clair maintains the e-mail list.

Ms. Casada then explained that there is a celebrity in their midst and announced that Joe Specht is one of the author's slated speakers for the first 2013 Spring Texas Author Series held in the Library Auditorium on March 4<sup>th</sup> at noon. Mr. Specht is co-author with Jay Moore and Glenn Dromgoole in the new book, "Abilene Stories, From Then to Now". Mr. Specht will be present with the other author's in a book release party on February 21, 2013 at 7 PM at the Grace Museum that is open to the public. Mr. Specht added that the first printing consists of 1,500 hardbacks and the rest will be in paper.

Work is progressing toward the book sale with Deona Gailbreath volunteering to co-chair the event with Rob Carleton. Talks with the Abilene Civic Center are under way to obtain reduced fees for the use of the facilities during the book sale.

Debra Lillick, Board Co-chair, then began a report on advocacy which is a large part of the Board's purpose. She is asking all the Board to ask family and friends to provide contacts with our elected state officials in Austin on Texas Legislative Day, February 12, 2013. She added that this can be accomplished virtually this year. The critical issue facing libraries' is the loss of TEXSHARE databases that the funding committee has excluded from the funding request going before the legislature which means they will not be funded. This is a huge blow to learning and it cannot be made up from local sources and therefore will be a loss to area students. Ms. Lillick stressed that the words put forward need a "face" or human element to be meaningful and asked everyone to include a human story of who and how this will impact them. These databases not only affect children, but affect college/graduate school bound students needing to study for SAT or GRE preparation and prospective job hunters needing practice tests for Board Certifications. It is just not good economics to do away with the co-operative purchase of these Databases.

Mr. Carleton then asked that the group schedule the Spring Workshop. He suggested sometime in March. After some discussion a consensus was reached for the Spring Workshop to be held on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the Library Conference room. He said since a quorum would be present it would be posted as an official meeting.

Mr. Carleton adjourned the meeting at 4:55 PM mentioning great thanks for the 100% attendance at the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim St. Clair  
Library Administrative Assistant II