

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 7, 2017

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board met in the Conference Room of the Library at 4:00 PM, Monday August 7, 2017. A quorum was present.

Board Members present: Dennis Regan (Chair), Robert Carlton, Ginna Sadler, Debra Lilick, Michael Carrisalez, Dennis Billig, Carrie Casada

Board Members absent: Clint Buck (Vice Chair), Joe Specht, Tiffany Fink, Stan Chapman

Also attending: Kelley Messer, Assistant City Attorney; Leslie Andrews, Community Services Director; Lori Grumet, City Librarian; Fred Patel, Dyess AFB; Tim Lillick, FOL President; Marnie Boyers, Library Administrative Assistant

Media present: None

Mr. Regan called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Library Director's Report – Lori Grumet provided everyone with the summer reading 2017 stats supplied by librarian Marie Noe. The theme this year was Build a Better World. 4,179 children participated at Main, 2,462 at South and 560 at Mockingbird. The program wrapped up on Saturday August 5th with a joint effort with the zoo at Nelson Park. Some miscommunication with the zoo on the free passes. Will possibly try something different next year due to the number of attendees (approx. 200) and the heat.

We had STEM programs at South Branch. Management asked us to do the programs in the courtyard which was quite an honor.

Mrs. Grumet provided everyone with a spreadsheet containing the latest circulation numbers. Digital checkouts have increased from 22% to 28%. If the constraints could be removed, the numbers would increase. The demand for digital is strong. South Branch has surpassed Main in circulation and door counts. We've done some shuffling of our South Branch employees, pulling a part time employee and a reference librarian from Main, to accommodate the workload. Tremain Jackson is now the full time Technology Manager. Mr. Carlton asked for an update on the teen behavior issues that have been experienced at South Branch. Mrs. Grumet stated that cameras are being installed and have not been hooked up yet, but there have been no significant reports of mischief since our last meeting.

Main library staff are assembling the makerspace which will open in the fall. We have received a state library grant in conjunction with the workforce to purchase computers and tables for a new study room. Working on relocating the computer lab in the basement.

We are hiring a new reference librarian to replace Ann Mount who is getting married and moving away with her husband. At South Branch, Alyssa Crow was promoted to Branch Manager so we are in the process of hiring a new Children's librarian. At Mockingbird we will be hiring for a Library Assistant I, due to a retirement. Main library is painting the children's area green and purple.

Dyess Library update - Fred Patel from Dyess AFB spoke about the Dyess Library. Dyess is now a member of the Abilene Library Consortium. Jennifer Rodman is almost ready to utilize the book transit between the base and Main Library. Main library sends our people out to the base for programs. Ms. Sadler asked why Dyess Library was shuttered to begin

with. Mr. Patel replied it was due to budget constraints in the military. Mrs. Grumet stated that Main still participates in the Right Start program at Dyess every month.

Friends of the Library update – Tim Lillick spoke about the Abilene Gives campaign. The Friends received \$3,000 in donations during the drive. The book sale netted a little over \$60,000 this year. The Friends purchased new break room furniture for Main Library, provided gift cards for the summer reading program and paid for sound system upgrades at Main. Carrie Casada needs volunteers for the book festival coming up.

Advocacy Discussion – Mr. Regan wants to know what we can do as board members to promote the use of the library. Mrs. Sadler asked if the staff will train on the makerspace equipment. Mrs. Grumet stated the staff will train on the items they know how to use, but volunteers will be needed. Discussion ensued about potential programs for the future. Mrs. Grumet mentioned there are now story times at Rose Park Recreation center. There is also a once a month genealogy lock-in at the library where genealogists and patrons show up ten minutes before closing and are allowed to utilize the genealogy resources after hours. There are also some after hour's teen programs. Mrs. Grumet is thinking about doing something similar with the makerspace. Mrs. Grumet stated we have been trying to strengthen relationships with AISD, and this year they have allowed parents as a part of registration to opt in or out of a library card being issued to their children. This could ensure that every student in the AISD has a library card.

GINNA SADLER started a discussion on the Main Library building and its historic significance. Everyone is in agreement that the building needs appreciation and maintenance.

CARRIE CASADA talked to Alyssa at South Branch and they need headset microphones and some wire shelving. She also spoke about Chick-fil-a and how impressed she was with their involvement with South Branch.

DENNIS BILLIG suggested the Library mirror the bird sanctuary in how they solicit the funds and materials they need. Lori Grumet agreed it's a viable idea. All were in agreement that it's a good idea and should be looked into more in-depth.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 PM.

The next scheduled Advisory Board Meeting is November 13, 2017 at 4 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marnie Boyers

Marnie Boyers, Library Administrative Assistant