

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2017

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board met in the Conference Room of the Library at 4:00 PM, Monday November 13, 2017. A quorum was present.

Board Members present: Dennis Regan (Chair), Clint Buck (Vice Chair), Robert Carlton, Dennis Billig, Carrie Casada, Stan Chapman, Joe Specht

Board Members absent: Tiffany Fink, Debra Lilick, Ginna Sadler, Michael Carrisalez

Also attending: Kelley Messer, Assistant City Attorney; Leslie Andrews, Community Services Director; Lori Grumet, Library Director; Chris Gibson, Assistant Community Services Director; Marnie Boyers, Library Administrative Assistant

Media present: None

Mr. Regan called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as amended.

Library Director's Report – Lori Grumet handed out the annual statistics to everyone. Includes digital circulations and door counts. South has highest door count, followed by Main and then Mockingbird. There has been a five percent shift in print to digital items. Increasing demand in digital materials. 765 thousand items were circulated and total door count for 2016 was 511 thousand.

South Branch will be having a party on 11/19/2016 from 1-6PM to celebrate the one year anniversary of the opening. Everyone is invited.

In September, we will be hosting the Smithsonian Exhibit called "Hometown Teams." It will take the entire 2nd floor of Main Branch. We will be coordinating with the Grace Museum and the local colleges. Lots of programming and events. Texas State Historical Association is coordinating with the local schools. Curriculum component with AISD with sports related research projects and have that be part of the exhibit. We are the only public library hosting this exhibit – all other venues are museums or universities. Runs September 1st through October 6th.

The Technology Plan is required by the state. Our vision for technology created by staff. Keeping abreast with current tech and staying out in front. Mobile hot spots, tablets, laptops to circulate. Expanding existing computers. Offering Lynda.com, a training module for patrons that we currently provide our employees. We are working with TV promotions. We do the Crafty Creations spot and also have been working with children's authors to create a program and some puppet shows. These are shown on the City Channel 2. We are working on our camera and audio equipment to improve our filming capabilities. We would like to acquire automated book sorters or material handlers. 765 thousand volumes is a lot to reshelf with only two part time pages on staff at each location. We'd like broader administrative access to our equipment in case items go down over the weekend. We'd like to expand our STREAM materials. The children's librarian has started a coding program. We hope to expand our digital collections. Hoopla is limited to 8 titles per month. We pay for each individual circulation, so opening it up could be very costly.

Our reference librarian position is still open. Our new children's librarian at South Branch is Allison Harvey. Our Technology manager Tremain Jackson was nominated by Libby Rankin and selected for the Abilene Reporter News for the 20 under 40.

Update on the Abilene Heritage Square – the 501(c)(3) has been formed. The bylaws are being written and the board has been formed. There is back in forth with the Texas Historical Commission on the plans. Attorneys have been hired who are experts in historical preservation. Project is picking up momentum.

New president of the Friends of the Library is Emerald Cassidy.

Policy Changes – cleaned up the language and removed archaic hardware references. Refined the sanctions for consistency. Motion was made to accept the policy changes. Motion was passed.

Meeting room use – fees matched those fees that were approved by the council. Took out contract language. Cleaned up the language. Motion made to accept. Motion passed.

Rules governing use of library – divided into safety items and responsibility items. Put in references to law. Second floor has become a problem. Have reinserted the no sleeping rule for the library. We have partnered with the Marshall's service. They visit twice a day and help us with the sleeping and the suspicious traffic. Rules about personal belongings and not leaving them unattended have been included. Many other topics are covered in the policy. DVD's are no longer included in the cases. Patrons now have to get them from circulation. Added consequences to each level of transgression. Kelly in legal has reviewed and approved the policy. Motion made to accept. Motion passed.

Board member comments – members who terms are expiring are Michael Carrisalez, Debbie Lillick, Rob Carleton and Tiffany Fink. Rob Carleton commented about how appreciative he is for having been a member and will always be an advocate for the library.

Carrie Casada talked about her experience with the Creation Station.

Dennis Billig talked about the Dyess library and the new buildings' status.

Joe mentioned that Glenn Dromgoole has stepped down from the West Texas Book Festival and is eligible for the AC Green award.

Dennis Regan thanked the outgoing members for their service.

Lori Grumet asked for suggestions for possible future board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 PM.

The next scheduled Advisory Board Meeting is February 5, 2018 at 4 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Marnie Boyers

Marnie Boyers, Library Administrative Assistant