

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2018

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board met in the Conference Room of the Library at 4:00 PM, Monday February 5, 2018. A quorum was present.

Board Members present: Dennis Regan (Chair), Clint Buck (Vice Chair), Dennis Billig, Joe Specht, Dorothy Davidson, Sylvia Leal, Beth Reeves, James McGee

Board Members absent: Carrie Casada, Jose Chavira

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

New members sworn in.

Mr. Regan called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM.

Introductions were given for everyone around the table.

Dennis Regan presented the City of Abilene service dedication awards to Sara Ritson for 10 years with the library and to Darla Casella for 15 years.

Election of new officers. Dennis Regan re-nominated for Chair and seconded. Motion passed. Clint Buck re-nominated for Vice Chair. Motion seconded and passed.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Library Director's Report – Lori Grumet referred everyone to the Library Annual Report for 2017. She thinks the statistics could be low. South visitor could be low due to no mechanical counts as there were no people counters installed for the first seven months it was open.

Abilene Heritage Square – board meeting is happening now. Board has been formed. Consists of 20 people. They asked Eddy Smith – Abilene Library Consortium director to be a member and he has accepted. The Grace Museum will manage AHS as a component of their business. Possible culinary classes in the works. Makerspace discussions and how to manage the cost.

Staff update – Reference librarian Ann Mount left. Got married and moved. Several waves of candidates have been interviewed. 3rd candidate sent to HR. Candidate not available until May. No additional staffing positions are available due to financial constraints. Will use part-timers and give them more hours to cover the deficit.

Grant cycle is open– we are applying for STEM equipment, robotics classes, and Hispanic archival material. Finding what fits and what we need the most. Drafts are due to the State Library by Valentine's Day.

Hometown Teams Exhibit – In March, Lori Grumet and Sara Ritson will be traveling to Marshall to learn how to unpack exhibit material. Digital materials from the neighboring colleges has been sent to the Smithsonian to be used in the exhibit. We need a complement of docents for September. Programming is also needed. Mockingbird Branch may have a sports academy during or leading up to the exhibit. This exhibit is designed to highlight sports at the local level. Program will run September 1 through October 6. We are the only library in West Texas hosting this exhibit.

Friends of the Library update – January 20th board meeting. Introduced new board members. West Texas Book Festival – director Glen Dromgoole is retiring. The Friends have asked members for someone new to take charge. No volunteers have stepped up yet. Still having the culinary gala. They are moving the Ricki Brown award to the November annual membership meeting. No decision on the AC Greene award as to when or how it will happen. Ad Hoc committee being formed for the book festival. On hiatus until further notice. Book sale is still scheduled for June.

Lori offered to take new members on a tour of the facility.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

The next scheduled Advisory Board Meeting is May 7, 2018 at 4 P.M at the South Branch location.

Respectfully submitted,

Marnie Boyers

Marnie Boyers, Library Administrative Assistant