

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 5, 2018

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

Board Members present: Dennis Regan (Chair), Fred Patao, Dorothy Davidson, Joe Specht, Christine Curtis-Carr, Carrie Casada, Jose Chavira

Board Members absent: Clint Buck (Vice Chair); Sylvia Leal, Beth Reeves, James McGee

Also attending: Lori Grumet, Library Director; Chris Gibson, Assistant Director of Community Services; Jennifer Rodman, Library Director Dyess AFB; 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 submitted.

Director's report – In the board members folders they will find their new email addresses. They will need to login and activate them. Lori needs to know their contact preference.

End of the year numbers are as follows: Loaned out items - 805,000. Large number, but down 10,000 from last year. 15,195 library cards issued. Answered 47,696 reference questions. Conducted 1,342 children's programs with 26, 334 children attending. 529,413 patrons through the doors. Up from 511,000 from last year. Staff is assembling the Annual report for 2018. Should be ready in a few weeks.

We have a position that was restored in the budget. We are in the process of hiring a Library Assistant I Part Time at Main Library. Mockingbird lost JoAnn James. She went back to a teaching position. We are filling her position at this time.

The Hometown Teams exhibit was a success. From September 1 through October 6, the total estimated attendance was 3,842. The Friends of the Library donated over \$2,000 to support the exhibit. We had 22 volunteers helping with the exhibit. Lots of advertising was done that helped with the attendance. The sports stories program was not successful. Overall, the exhibit was a success. It was sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association. They funded this exhibit through the Smithsonian. They paid to move the exhibit to and from our location. The next exhibit we are looking at is on water. Possibly 2020 or 2021. As we get more information, we will keep you updated. Denis submitted a question about the total attendance of the exhibit across the state. Board member Sylvia Leal's company moved crates for us to the Rec center. Our board member Dorothy was a docent for the exhibit.

Abilene Heritage Square Update - The AHS Board has decided to forgo the tax credits they were pursuing. There are just too many hoops to jump through. Their 501c3 certification is coming in January. They are having a library consultant come in from Dallas on Wednesday. They will start fundraising in spring. Demolition should begin in the spring. The idea is to build a 60,000 sq ft library for Abilene. A charette was scheduled for the 19th, but was cancelled. It will be rescheduled at a later date to get the public's input. Tentative opening would be 2023 to coincide with the anniversary of the school. Lori will keep the Library Board updated with any meetings or retreats as they happen. Laura Moore is the executive director of the Grace Museum and heads the AHS Board. The idea is to have the Grace Museum be the manager of the campus. The City would not own the property and we would lease the space from the 501c3.

Dyess Air Force Library Update - The library continues to grow. Averaging 250-300 visitors per month. They are partnered with the Military Child Education Coalition and they provide lots of free resources. The summer reading program for 2017 had 77 people signed up. In 2018 they had 315 which quadrupled our numbers. The new library is complete and Ms. Rodman is in the process of setting up the new space. They have new shelving and furniture and will be set up like a bookstore and not Dewey Decimal. New library will be open mid-November.

Agreement with AISD - All students can now use their student ID#'s as a library card. The elementary and middle school students have checked out 694 physical items. The ALC packages and delivers the books to the individual students. Also 44 Hoopla and 24 Overdrive items have been checked out. Rotan ISD also wants to use our library resources.

State Library Grant - We received a \$75,000 grant for the purchase of three mobile labs. This will be 20 laptop computers for each branch. First laptops are due in tomorrow. Because it's Federal money it comes with strings. As we do training, we are required to survey individuals who are impacted by the training. These will be used in classroom settings and one-on-one training. We will have open sessions as well. We will be training staff on the requirements Wednesday morning. The grant runs December - September. As board members, if you have a particular area or topic of instruction idea please let Lori know.

Friends of the Library Report – Glenn Dromgoole received the A.C. Green award. Lori Grumet and Carrie Casada attended the Cookbook gala. There was a successful Boots and Books luncheon. A group of public and school librarians partnered together to talk about the Texas book lists - there are about 2 dozen lists. Each librarian did a 5 minute talk. The Friends Annual Meeting is this Thursday at 11:30 AM and involves a free lunch.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

The next scheduled Advisory Board Meeting is February 4, 2019 at 4 P.M at the Main Branch location.

Respectfully submitted,

Marnie Boyers

Marnie Boyers, Library Administrative Assistant