

## ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2019

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board met in the conference room of the Main Branch Library at 4:00 PM, Monday May 6, 2019. A quorum was present.

Board Members present: Clint Buck (Chair), Fred Patao, Dorothy Davidson, Carrie Casada, Beth Reeves, James McGee, Joe Specht, Lesli Andrews, James McGee, Carrie Casada, Joe Chavira

Board Members absent: Sylvia Leal, Christine Curtis-Carr

Also attending: Lori Grumet, Library Director; Trent Deltz, City Attorney; Linda Camacho, Library Administrative Assistant ; Diana Russell, Dyess School Liaison Officer; Tim Delavega

Media present: None

Mr. Clint Buck called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

**Library Director's Report** - Patron belongings policy - Mrs. Grumet has gathered a packet together of rules governing the use of the library. The homeless visit our library with all their belongings - backpacks, bedrolls and all that constitute their life, then find a place next to a chair or on a chair to leave their belongings. They leave us to go elsewhere within the city for an hour or more. This is taking up room for another patron to use. Mrs. Grumet would like to have a policy in place to address the problem of leaving their personal belongings for more than half an hour. The staff would be able to remove or arrange for the removal of the patron possessions by law enforcement personnel. We have looked into policies of comparison cities. There are ten cities that Abilene compares itself to: Waco in McLennan County, Carrollton, Grand Prairie, Tom Green County, Killeen, Denton, Wichita Falls, Amarillo, and Lubbock. These places only allow you to have a package approximately 24x22 inches. The Abilene Public Library together along with our law enforcement would remove these items left behind. The patron would need to contact the Abilene Police Department to have their belongings returned. At this time there would be no fines in place as these would need to be assessed by the City of Abilene.

**Library Advisory Board Term Limit** - Mrs. Grumet handed out a spreadsheet of the City Board and the terms for board officers. It shows if they have any reappointment limits from other departments within the city, to limit how long a member can serve on the board. There are a lot of good people out in our community who love the library and would be happy to participate on the library board. Our board provides good advice to the director and the staff as to what direction we should pursue. The question for our library board is should we look at term limits.

The board is staggered and runs on a two year cycle. You cannot replace the full board at one time and those who are coming to an end of their limits can be reappointed or replaced. If a board member drops off the board, then we have the opportunity for replacement to finish out the term. New people will have new ideas for the board. A two-consecutive term modification recommendation with some appointed seats with a discretionary contingent of liaisons, will be discussed at the August board meeting.

**Lib-Con** - We conducted 54 programs. The counts were 1239 Adults, 1613 children with a total of 2852 people who attended Lib-Con at all three branches. Main libraries' count for Saturday alone was 2632. We had 9 vendors and also several food trucks. This was a three day event and our 6th annual. More people attend each year. We made the front

page of the Abilene Reporter News which is very rewarding. We had an escape room which was very popular, games and crafts, and everyone had a great time.

**TLA** - Mrs. Grumet attend TLA in Austin this year along with 8 staff members, which was funded by the Friends of the Library. The staff came back with a lot of great ideas such as revamping the way we manage and organize, lots of programming ideas, and technology ideas such as tech glamping with computers. Mrs. Grumet attended an event on blockchain which is related to cryptocurrency, bitcoin and investments. This was presented by an author from Google who has all the advanced searching capabilities of Google in his mind. He was sharing how you can at times identify something through an image search in Google. Google Scholar contains a lot of academic resources. Blockchain is a way to move encrypted information around, for libraries and healthcare, community policing, and managing events. The person who was teaching this is one of the international experts on blockchaining. As library databases change, cataloging electronic materials change, this blockchain has the potential to be used to benefit the library. We may want to look into this in the near future. Several members of staff are on State committees such as Topaz books, BlueBonnet books and a number of others. Staff brought back a number of ideas they will share with these committees. TLA gives you so much information and is very rewarding and beneficial.

The Texas Library Association conference is the second largest library conference in the United States. TLA has more than 15000-20000 people who attend each year. You have the opportunity to meet authors, vendors and so much more. From TLA, Mrs. Grumet will be seeking out a kiosk for the basement printer. This will free a librarian from a desk and make her available for patrons and their needs.

**Coffee and Conversations Program** - We have 5 social service representatives on hand. There will be service providers on hand who can help get people signed up. We will talk about homelessness, hunger, food insecurity, and mental health. This will help the homeless get access to the resources they need. It is unbelievable how many children in this community are homeless right now. The AISD has an incredible program for homeless children at the schools to help. At our Coffee and Conversation program we can educate people about the available resources.

**Abilene Heritage Square** - We have been working on adjacencies with architect Rick Waldrell, who is the leading architect in Abilene. Our senior staff here at the Abilene Public Library Main branch have been working on where we need to place things so it would be optimal to the community. Marion has taken this information to draw up the more specific details of the spaces we have presented for each floor.

There was a board meeting on the branding of Abilene Heritage Square. The brand has been designed by Zarkory and Associates and is based off of the owl which is perched on top of the book over the main doors of Lincoln Middle School. It should tie the campus together and make it more noticeable. Soon there will be a memorandum of agreement with the city which is the next step and by August we should have more status to report.

**Dyess Air Force Library Update** - The official opening of the Dyess library was Tuesday April 2, 2019. There was a ribbon cutting and we had both wing commanders sign the proclamation to kick off the month. 200 children and adults were present. We also celebrated Conner Collins, who was picked for the youth of the year. We took Marie Noe who is a veteran and incredible storyteller and a wonderful handler of children. Miss Noe read three stories before the proclamation signing. The children are excited for the summer reading programs.

Jennifer Rodman, the Dyess librarian is still moving forward with the modern bookstore library. This is 60% virtual digital and 40% paper and books. This will be great for our Dyess community and the children over the duration of the summer reading program.

**Friends of the Library Report** – The Friends are taking a look at their money to support the Abilene Heritage Square project, so when it's time to furnish a new facility they can help with that. This fall we are having a West Texas Book Festival. The AC Green Award winner has been selected and he has accepted and will attend.

The Friends of the Library book sale is coming June 13-16. This will be held at the Exhibit Hall of the Abilene Convention Center. We need volunteers to help with the book sale and any board members can volunteer June 10-11 to help setup. Sunday is fill a bag for \$6.00. This year Mrs. Grumet will be taking laptops, scanners and library staff to scan books that have not sold. We can pull books out for Better World Books, pack and send them off to sell. We receive a commission from the sale. This is a very good book sale for the library and the Friends of the Library. Last years sale grossed more than \$60 thousand dollars for the Friends of the Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:37 P.M.

The next scheduled Advisory Board Meeting is August 5, 2019 at 4 P.M at the Main Branch location.

Respectfully submitted,

**Linda Camacho**

Linda Camacho, Library Administrative Assistant