

**ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 3, 2020**

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board met in the auditorium of the Main Branch Library at 5:00 PM, Monday August 3, 2020. A quorum was present.

Board Members present: Clint Buck (Chair), Dorothy Davidson ( Vice President), Joe Specht, Elizabeth Norman, Tim de La Vega,

Board Members absent: Christine Curtis-Carr

Also attending: Julee Hatton, Library Director, Linda Camacho, Library Administrative Assistant, Kelley Messer, Assistant City Attorney

Media present: None

Mr. Buck called the meeting to order at 5:09 PM.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

**Library Director's Report** – Mr. Buck introduced the new Director, Julee Hatton. Mrs. Hatton stated she began as director on June 22, 2020, and was thrilled to be here working at this crazy time with a pandemic, while also throwing in a move to a new state. She's excited with all the new changes to come in the future.

Mrs. Hatton stated that Mr. Chris Gibson, had proposed the new bylaw changes to the board, which we took to the city council on July 9th, 2020. All of the bylaws introduced were passed.

**Article II**  
**Members**

**Section 2.1**

**The Library Advisory board is composed of seven (7) qualified voters of the City and who are appointed by the Mayor with the arrival of the City council.**

**Section 2.2**

**Members serve a term of three (3) years and may be re-appointed. Members may serve two (2) consecutive terms, a total of six (6) years. Following a rest period of one (1) year, they may again be appointed to serve on the board.**

We are a much smaller and efficient Advisory Board now. Our bylaws are good for a few more years from this day forward.

**COVID-19** - Mockingbird Branch is still closed to the public, but patrons can return items to the library in the drop box. The items are checked in on a daily basis. We are continuing to pull holds and still have the transit running. We are happy to say Mockingbird is still one of the sites for the summer free lunch program through the hunger coalition. We have a canopy set up outside the doors and serve about 80 people a day. It is a popular site in our community, serving the northwest side of town. We are providing programming at Main and South branches with programming kept at 50% capacity while maintaining social distancing between households. Our staff has done a really good job about doing this. To make things easier, they even put tape on the floor so the kids know where to sit to maintain a 6-ft distance. The zoo

lady came for her summer programs and brought hand sanitizer for before, and after, touching the animals featured. Our staff is really versatile, flexible and it is great that our staff can be able to help out where needed in this pandemic.

We have nine (9) library staff working at the health department providing COVID-19 support. They are doing tasks like contact tracing, giving testing sites information amongst each other, and their support has been amazing. We talk to staff to see how they're doing, what their stress level is, and how we can provide any help to keep them motivated until they can return back to the library.

Mr. Buck asked if we anticipate this arrangement to continue for the foreseeable future, or the next quarter, or are we not sure? Mrs. Hatton said we are not sure when our staff will come back to us. We are hoping if the numbers stay down we can get some of our staff back to the library. With Mockingbird closed we are alright as we have South and Main staff to help each other for now. It would be nicer to have a full staff at the branches and to have Mockingbird reopened, says Mrs. Hatton.

Mr. Buck asked Mrs. Hatton to give a small Bio-introduction of herself: Mrs. Hatton says I am from Lincoln, Nebraska, where I worked in academic and public libraries. I worked in public libraries since I received my Masters in 2005, working as a library assistant, librarian, and eventually branch manager at two (2) different library branches, and finally the assistant director for the library system for the last eight (8) years before I came here. I have had a lot of interesting and fun times in Nebraska and love public libraries. I was president of the Nebraska Library Association having run their conferences, and I did a lot of interesting things with non-profit boards. I was excited to read about the job here in Abilene and read about the Abilene Heritage Square project and was excited about being a part of that. Once I made my visit, I fell in love with Abilene. I am happy to be here and to work with the Advisory board, having also worked with a seven (7) member governing board in Lincoln for eight (8) years.

**Abilene Heritage Square Update** - Mrs. Hatton met briefly with the architect on the library's end with an introduction to the architects, while also meeting Maureen from 720 Design. She attended the AHS executive workshop where screenshots of the project were provided, along with up to date shots. They are done with the contractor aspects and have contracted with a company out of Austin to take all the HVAC metal, as well as all the metal they could scrap, from out of the building and that is what's being worked on now. As of now, she has not had a chance to visit the AHS site but hopes to do so in the near future.

**Friends of the Library Report** – Mrs. Hatton met with the Friends for a meet and greet the last week of July 28th. This was a time for her to get to know the members of the board. We had a wonderful time visiting and getting to know each other better. As of now we do not know when they will be able to accept donations again. We know people are unhappy but it is undetermined as to when the reopening and donations will happen. Their storage is full, leaving them no place to store books at this time.

The motion to adjourn was submitted by Elizabeth Norman and the second motion was Joe Specht, all were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:21 P.M.

The next scheduled Advisory Board Meeting is November 2, 2020 at 4 P.M. at the Main Branch location.

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Camacho*

Linda Camacho, Library Administrative Assistant