

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 2, 2021

A regular meeting of the Abilene Public Library Advisory Board of the City of Abilene was held on Monday, August 2, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the Main Library, 202 Cedar Street, Abilene, Texas. A quorum was present.

Board Members present:	Clint Buck (Chair), Dorothy Davidson, Christine Curtis-Carr, Jason Hernandez, Elizabeth Norman, Joe Specht
Board Members absent:	Tim de la Vega
Also Attending:	Julee Hatton, Library Director; Haley Napier, Assistant City Attorney
Media present:	None

CALL TO ORDER

Clint Buck called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

MINUTES

1. Approval of the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on May 3, 2021.

Joe Specht requested correction of the Board Members present as the names of Tim de la Vega and Jason Hernandez were listed twice. A motion was made by Elizabeth Norman to approve the minutes with the requested correction. Jason Hernandez seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS

2. Library Director's Report

Library Director Julee Hatton commented that COVID is becoming a topic of conversation again, and wanted to let the board know how much the community appreciated both the library staff who stayed and worked at the library and those who assisted with COVID response at the Health Department for almost a year. She has received many positive comments from the community about the hard work that staff put in during the pandemic.

Ms. Hatton reported that Sara Ritson, a long time APL staff member, received her Masters of Library Science Degree in May 2021. She was recently hired as the new Dyess Air Force Base Librarian.

Ms. Hatton reported that Summer Reading has just finished and there was excellent participation this year at all locations. Mockingbird Branch was completely closed last summer, due to COVID, so we were happy to have in-person programming there again. Mr. Buck asked if attendance was similar to years past. Ms. Hatton explained that the statistics are not yet available, as Summer Reading just ended on July 31, but she would share those numbers at the next board meeting.

Ms. Hatton noted that there was a great turnout at CALF event hosted at the Main Library. ACU Theatre presented live readings of the "The Little Engine that Could" – as illustrated by Loren Long. The blue train prop that staff made for the event is in the Children's area downstairs. Ms. Hatton shared that staff are amazingly creative and did a great job. Ms. Davidson volunteered for CALF and said that it was an outstanding event and thought it was the best event of the whole CALF. Ms. Hatton said that it was her first CALF and that she really enjoyed attending and hopes to be more involved next year.

Ms. Hatton reported that the annual report that she submitted to the state for accreditation was accepted and that the library is fully accredited for the next state fiscal year.

Mr. Buck asked if the library would be able to do Lib-Con this year. Ms. Hatton reported that the library would be hosting a Cosplay costume contest in October at the Mall. Next year APL will be able to hold the full Lib-Con event.

Joe Specht asked Ms. Hatton to remind him about what APL's relationship is with Dyess Library. Ms. Hatton replied that there is a relationship via ALC (Abilene Library Consortium) and we also have a separate MOU with Dyess Library. Mr. Buck asked if any of their operating expenses come out of APL's budget. Ms. Hatton said that they do not.

3. Abilene Heritage Square Update

Ms. Hatton reported that she met with the Architects and Library Consultant to review space/service plans and finishes and some minor changes. Mr. Buck asked about whether there were normal routine changes or something substantial. Ms. Hatton answered that there were only minor changes such as moving a staff office because the elevator lobby needed to have more space. Mr. Hernandez asked whether the Main library location would still exist when the new one was open. Ms. Hatton answered that the Main location staff and collections would be moved to the new space. Ms. Carr asked about a projected opening date. Ms. Hatton said that there was not a specific date yet. Mr. Buck asked if the project was going according to plan and on schedule. Ms. Hatton said that it was.

4. Friends of the Library Update

Ms. Hatton reported that the Book sale was held June 17-20 at the convention center. It was very well attended and received many compliments from the community. There were lots of volunteers and happy customers.

The friends are accepting donations again at the Main Library. Donations may be dropped off on Mondays and Thursdays from 10AM to 2PM, Saturdays from 10AM to Noon.

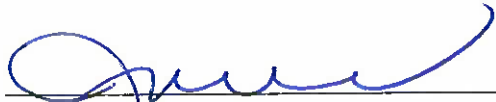
ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Christine Curtis-Carr. Elizabeth Norman seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.


The next scheduled Library Advisory Board Meeting is November 1, 2021, at 4:00 PM at the Main Library, 202 Cedar Street, Abilene, Texas.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie Hatton

Director of Library Services



Clint Buck

Library Advisory Board Chair