

## ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board met in the Conference Room of the Main Branch Library at 4:00 PM, Monday, May 2, 2022. A quorum was present.

Board Members present: Clint Buck (Chair), Dorothy Davidson, Elizabeth Norman, Joe Specht, Denise Moore

Board Members absent: Jason Hernandez, Tim de la Vega

Also Attending: Julee Hatton, Library Director; Trent Dietz, City Attorney; Chris Solis, City Attorney;  
Tremain Jackson, Technology, Multimedia & Media Services;  
Linda Camacho, Library Administrative Assistant

Media present: None

Mr. Clint Buck called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted. Motion to approve from Joe Specht; second Elizabeth Norman. No objections, conversations or adjustments made; minutes accepted as presented.

**Library Director's Report:** Ms. Hatton reported we have a new hire, Jay Smith, who comes from Harris County Public Library. Jay is our new Information Services Librarian, having started on April 25th, 2022. He comes with a lot of adult services experience from the library.

Tremain and Jessica are still working on live broadcasting at South for the City Council and other public board meetings; they have been doing this since February, the renovations on Council Chambers are being finished up.

The National Library Week Proclamation was read by Mayor Williams at the March 24th City Council meeting, proclaiming National Library Week as the first week in April.

Ms. Hatton went to the Texas Library Association (TLA) Conference and served on the TLA awards committee. She finished up her duties on the committee and presented the Librarian of the Year Award at the general session. The winner was a middle school librarian from El Paso who turned her district around by introducing technology and instructing the teachers how to use technology throughout the pandemic.

We also had four other librarians who were able to attend TLA due to the funding from the Friends of the Library. We have a very generous group of Friends who value continued education. We also had another librarian who attended the Public Library Association Conference in Portland due to the funding from the Friends as well.

Ms. Hatton was appointed to the Abilene Historical Commission in March and she will be assisting with a Juneteenth Cowboy exhibit that will be coming up. There is a lot of knowledge in this group, and Ms. Hatton is excited to be a part of this.

**Summer reading Program Update:** Mr. Tremain Jackson handed out summer reading bags filled with information on summer reading and also the events calendar for the library branches. This year's theme is "Oceans of Possibilities" with this year's illustrator being Sophie Blackall, who is also being honored at the Children's Art & Literacy Festival (CALF) as the featured author/illustrator in June. Something new this year are CALF buttons. We are pairing with Lynn Barnett and Sidney Levesque from the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council to offer youth the chance to earn six collectible buttons from past CALF honorees over the course of the Summer Reading Club after CALF has ended this year. We have sent out about 9,000 flyers to Abilene Independent School District (AISD) elementary schools to hand out to children about this

program. We have printed out 1,500 flyers to go to CALF to put in their CALF bags as well for all those who registered to attend.

Activity sheets are being added to the summer reading lineup this year where youth will need to read five books to accomplish one task, then complete five activities from a second challenge. Such activities would include attending programs, checking out books, etc.

The Friends of the Library are funding prize incentives this year. Kids will get an initial prize just for picking up their summer reading club information. At that point for kids and teens, once they read their five books they'll earn a prize, then an additional prize for completing five items from the activity sheet. After that they'll get entered into a grand prize drawing. The first 40 teens to complete both reading challenges will get a free meal coupon for Chick-Fil-A, donated by local owner Ben Salmon. The first 20 adults to complete their challenge will be offered a commemorative CALF tote bag, and be entered into a drawing for a grand prize.

**Abilene Heritage Square:** Ms. Hatton updated the board on the continued work on the project. Drawings are halfway complete. The exterior historical stone has been cleaned and restored. This month all parties will meet on the library furniture review.

**Friends of the Library Report:** Mr. Jackson gave the report stating the Friends are getting ready for Abilene Gives, which made about \$7,000 last year, exceeding their initial expectations. This year their hopes are to raise \$10,000. We gave them benchmarks on what they could use the funds for, which are summer reading club incentives, sensory room equipment, STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) room equipment, wobble chairs for fidgety people, and donations for Abilene Heritage Square, to which the Friends have already pledged \$500,000 towards. They are also getting ready for the annual book sale coming up in June. They have received many donations because of having to skip a year of the sale due to COVID and they are looking forward to another great sale. They are looking for new fun ways to make money and support our library when they can. For example, Friends board member Andrealynn, from the Center for Contemporary Arts, had suggested hosting mini fundraisers in the fall and winter.

The motion to adjourn: Clint Buck

No Objections.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 PM.

The next scheduled Advisory Board Meeting is August 1, 2022 at 4:00 PM at the Main Branch location in the Conference Room second floor.



Clint Buck, Chair

*Linda Camacho,*

Linda Camacho, Library Administrative Assistant