

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 1, 2023 *Corrected

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board met in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 4:00PM, Monday, May 1, 2023. A quorum was present.

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

Board Members Absent: Tim de la Vega

Also Attending: Julee Hammer, Library Director; Trent Dietz, Assistant City Attorney; Linda Camacho, Library, Administrative Assistant

Media present: None

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Clint Buck called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

MINUTES

1. Minutes: Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion and Take Action on Approving the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on February 6, 2023.

Motion to approve from Elizabeth Norman; second by Judith Phaneuf. Minutes from the February 6, 2023 meeting were approved with correction

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Buck opened the public comment period. The following individuals addressed the Advisory Board:

- Eric Bengs – stated that a non-resident pays a yearly fee and should be treated exactly as a city resident. He asked the Abilene Advisory Board to go back and amend the resolution passed at the City Council meeting.
- Angela Nicolini Starr – Stated that the books she likes to read may not be the books others like to read. Said that for a small percentage of people to decide what an enter community should read is not a democracy, it's a theocracy. Librarians are here to help our children; they are not babysitters.
- Tammy Fogle – stated that one issue they try to focus on is to protect our children from violence. Said that they are not against a lifestyle. They are asking to set a standard for what we have in our libraries. Said that unfortunately, after a year, we still do not have that standard. Said she is diligent in fighting for our kids.
- Kayla Hewitt – stated that she is in favor of the collection development policy the way it is, and she agreed that protecting our kids from violence is important, but protecting children from reading about violence is not the same as protecting them from violence. Said that it is up to the

parent to decide what their children can read. Leave the librarians to do their job to review books. Also stated that outside residents should be able to request a reconsideration as well.

- Penny Biddy – stated that some of the books are offensive only if you do not know what the author is trying to do. Said that stories shed a light on what humans can do to each other. Stories are necessary to shed light on the books. Stated that no one citizen or group of citizens has the right to demand that all library content meet their personal criteria.
- Kelly Elliott – stated that they like the availability of the wide range of materials at the library. Said that sometimes material that is harder to read is the material that needs to be available to learn. We need to engage our children in conversations on some of the challenging things available as they mature. Recommended to leave the policy as is.
- Alonzo Hicks – stated that he was In favor of the resolution that was passed. Said that the library is a public resource for all, not just a select group or any one religious group.
- Linda Goolsbee – stated that children who have violence at home can find the same kind of images in books of people with the same problem to maybe help them and make them not feel alone...maybe even help to solve the problem. Said that protecting children from these kinds of books can make them feel alone and with nowhere to turn.
- Erica Batten – stated that she wants to make sure that any books we purchase or are on our shelves are marked and shelved in the right places. Said that we need to protect our children.
- Pam Pareza – said thank you all for what you do to provide a window to the world. Stated that the public library can and should be a place for our young people to be exposed to different opinions so they can learn to be critical thinkers and not feel alone. Let parents be parents.
- Zach Snyder – Stated that he will not challenge the “Bible,” but did quote Eric Clapton “it’s in the way you use it.” Challenged the board to place all the books that have been challenged back on the library shelves where they belong.

Mr. Buck closed the Public Comments for this meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

2. LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. NCCIL Collection

Ms. Hammer reported on the new NCCIL Collection. All three of our locations will have a special capsule collection featuring a copy of each of the titles of the featured author/illustrators over the past 25 years. This is a fun collaboration of the 25th Anniversary of the NCCIL.

3. Review on-order catalog comments and make a recommendation to Library Director on pending book orders (discussion and possible action).

Mr. Buck reported there were no comments on the pending book orders from the online on-order review catalog, which launched in December 2022, so review was not needed. First motion to recommend approval of the pending book orders made by Denise Moore; second by Joe Specht. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

The advisory board’s recommendation will now go to the Library Director who will oversee the

completion of these book orders. This is a standard agenda item for regular board meetings.

4. Receive a report from the review committee and make a recommendation to City Administration on reconsideration of library materials requests received by the board from October 1, 2022 through May 1, 2023 (discussion and possible action).

Denise Moore read the review committee's written recommendation (see the following attachment).

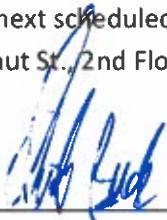
A motion to approve the review committee's recommendation as presented was made by Joe Specht; The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

The advisory board's recommendation will go to the City Manager, who will make the final decision on all reconsideration requests. The petitioners will be notified of the final decision.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 4:28PM

The next scheduled Advisory Board Meeting is set for August 7, 2023, at 4:00PM at City Hall, 555 Walnut St., 2nd Floor Council Chambers.



Clint Buck (Chair)

Linda Camacho

Linda Camacho, Library Administrative Assistant