

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER & RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

MINUTES

On October 10, 2022, the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD met at 4:00 p.m. for a regular meeting at the Downtown Library, 413 SE 4th, Amarillo, Texas.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Shawn Read, Chair	YES	13	12
Howard Rodriguez-Mori, Vice-Chair	YES	8	8
Lillian C Withrow	YES	5	5
John Esler	NO	3	2
Christy Gagnon	YES	3	3

Also in attendance:

<u>Amanda Barrera</u>	DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Courtney White</u>	ASST CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Chenoa Burleson</u>	LIBRARY CASE MANAGER, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Cynthia Hunt</u>	LIBRARY PROGRAMMING SPECIALIST, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Silvia Shaver</u>	LIBRARY SECRETARY, CITY OF AMARILLO

1. Call to Order and Introductions. Mr. Shawn Read, Chair, established a quorum and called the regular meeting of the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD to order at 4:06 p.m. Ms. Amanda Barrera introduced Cynthia Hunt, Library Programming Specialist and Chenoa Burleson, Library Case Manager.

2. Public forum. Mr. Rusty Donelson mentioned that the Homeless Decriminalization Committee has been around for about three months; they are excited about the addition of the Library Case Manager. They think that good things will happen because of this new hire.

3. Minutes. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on AUGUST 8, 2022. Motion was made by Dr. Howard Rodriguez-Mori, seconded by Ms. Christy Gagnon, and unanimously carried to approve such minutes as written.

4. Presentation and Discussion by the Director of Library Services on Current Departmental Issues and Activities.

A. Friends of the Library: September Book Sale was successful, with over \$9,700 in sales. The final sale of the year will be held December 2-4.

Books to Broadway is an annual concert celebrating music, books, and a love of reading that is produced by Dr. Robert Hansen, director of the School of Music at the West Texas A&M University. Books to Broadway features songs from Broadway musicals based on novels and stories. A bookish silent auction takes place at the concert, which is free to attend. This year will mark the 10th Books to Broadway Concert. The event will be held November 3 at the Amarillo Civic Center in the Heritage Room-doors open at 6pm, and the show will start at 7pm.

B. Programming and events at all APJ locations: We have resumed regular Storytimes at APJ. Currently we are offering on a weekly basis, 10 total programs at the 5 locations for children from birth to elementary school age.

We have three library-sponsored book clubs meeting each month, those are: Doing the Work Book Club, Inspirational Book Club, and Fourth Tuesday Book Club.

We love to partner with other City departments, providing programs to our community. This month we have collaborations on offer from Public Health and Animal Management and Welfare. Hannah Gilbreath from Public Health is providing a *Fitness at the Library* program series at the North Branch over the course of four consecutive Saturdays in October. We are partnering with Animal Management and Welfare to present *Black Cat Awareness* on Monday, October 24.

We have had a successful semester so far for our ESL classes. Our contract instructor Harold Littlejohn reported that he is averaging from 30 to 35 students per session. We have several people on the waiting list.

We just launched a promising endeavor at the Northwest Branch called Girls Who Game, which is an extra-curricular program that was created by Dell Technologies with partners Microsoft and Intel. It provides an opportunity for girls and underserved students across North America to learn about science, technology, engineering and mathematical through gaming. Participants learn skills such as computational and critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, problem solving and innovation. The program has been coordinated by Maggie Elder, Youth Library Assistant at Northwest Branch Library.

Ms. Amanda Barrera announced that a patron offered to donate a commercial grade embroidery machine to the MakerSpace. Units like this generally cost over \$10,000. APL staff will pick it up today.

Ms. Amanda Barrera also announced that Jo Schoen came onboard a week ago. She is filling the Library I vacancy at the MakerSpace, replacing Cindy Wallace, who retired in July.

In other exciting news, Ms. Amanda Barrera announced that APL patrons now have access to Udemy through the Texshare Database program on our website. Udemy is an online learning platform that provides instructions for adults who want to learn how to code, prep for IT Certifications, produce a podcast, increase office productivity, and more. Patrons can search through more than 4,000 continuously updated on-demand video courses across 75 categories. Some of them are available in Spanish and other languages. Udemy offers a Certification of Competition once you finish the course.

C. Case Manager @ Downtown Library: Ms. Chenoa Burleson said that she is excited to be part of the library team. She loves working in the mental health field, but she also loves the library. Chenoa has been talking with some of the homeless population that hang out at the Downtown Library; she is helping one of them to get a job. She has been scheduling interviews with library staff to discuss some of their questions and concerns that they have related to effectively serving individuals who might have challenges related to homelessness, substance abuse issues or any other trauma and/or mental health issues. She is developing for the library staff a collection of resources on how to deescalate situations and how to feel comfortable addressing different situations with confidence. She is also a Case Manager for the Coming Home Project. She provides outreach services to identify people who need housing.

D. *Americans and the Holocaust* update: Ms. Amanda Barrera reported that we recently learned that APL is the only library in Texas that will be hosting the exhibition, as the library at Texas A&M had to cancel due to building renovations. The response has been very gratifying. Between September 20th and 30th, we gave 34 classroom tours to 663 people, which averages out to 19 people per tour. We also gave 34 PowerPoint presentations to 1,060 people, which averages out to 31 in attendance per presentation. We also had close to 300 people attending the three lectures and three films that we have hosted so far. To make those events possible, we had financial backing from the American Library Association, Education Credit Union, Panhandle PBS, and the Friends of the Library. The exhibition has benefited the library in multiple ways: one of those is that our distribution of new library cards went up 55% from September of 2019. The exhibition will be available until October 23rd.

5. Discuss Items for Future Agendas.

1. Girls Who Game by Maggie Elder, Youth Library Assistant, Northwest Branch Library.
2. Follow-up report by Chenoa Burleson, Library Case Manager.
3. Report and Tour of Technical Services department by Catherine Urban, Technical Services Coordinator.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Library Department.


Shawn Read

ATTEST: 
Amanda Barrera, Director of Library Services