

MINUTES

On June 12, 2023, 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	17	16
Howard Rodriguez-Mori, Vice-Chair	YES	12	12
Lillian C Withrow	YES	9	9
John Esler	YES	7	5
Christy Gagnon	YES	7	7

Also in attendance:

Amanda Barrera	DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES, CITY OF AMARILLO
Courtney White	ASST CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF AMARILLO
Rich Gagnon	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER AND CIO, CITY OF AMARILLO
Melody Boren	YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR, CITY OF AMARILLO
Silvia Shaver	LIBRARY SECRETARY, CITY OF AMARILLO

1. Call to Order and Introductions. Mr. Shawn Read, Chair, established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Public forum. None
3. Minutes. Mr. Shawn Read, Chair, considered approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on APRIL 10, 2023. Motion was made by Ms. Lil Withrow, seconded by Mr. John Esler, 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: AMARILLO READS in the Summer wouldn't be possible without the support of the Friends of the Library group. Summer Reading Club is one of the most important services that APL provides to our community. Mrs. Amanda Barrera provided a handout to the Board members that came from the website of the Idaho Commission for Libraries; it outlines some specific advantages to being a part of Summer Reading Programs, particularly how it benefits struggling readers and the importance of safe supervised activities in the Summer.

AMA-CON 2023 will take place August 5-6 at the Civic Center. Information about AMA-CON guests and activities will be released on the AMA-CON Facebook page as we get closer to the convention.

- B. Downtown Library Mural Update: Board members received a schedule of activities related to the Mural Contest. Since the Board has expressed interest in providing input on the entries, Mrs. Amanda Barrera suggested the members delegate a representative to be their point person on the larger Committee. Mr. John Esler was chosen to represent the Library Board in the Library Mural Committee.

- C. Process for request for reconsideration of library materials: After April's meeting Mr. Shawn Read requested to know more about how APL's reconsideration process works so the Board would be prepared if an official challenge of an item is issued. Nothing about the main process has changed; Mrs. Amanda Barrera mentioned that some aspects of the procedure got formalized, such as qualifying who is eligible to submit a request for reconsideration, clearly defining the response timeline, and specifying how the library would handle multiple requests challenging the same item at once. The Board received a copy of the document "A Statement from the Amarillo Advisory Library Board Governing Materials Selection Guidelines of the Amarillo Public Library".

In addition to an official policy, almost all the libraries have in place a set of procedures for handling any challenges that are submitted. The Board received the "Guiding Principles for the Reconsideration Process." Some of the guiding principles are:

APL's collection offers diverse materials reflecting differing points of view, and the library's mission is to provide access to information to all patrons. All patrons have a right to read, view,

and listen to Amarillo Public Library resources. Mrs. Amanda Barrera emphasized that a questioned item would be considered in its entirety; it will not be judged solely on portions taken out of context. Any patron has the right to express concerns about library resources and expect to have the objection taken seriously. We want people to tell us what their concerns are, to share what opinions they might have about something, and to open a dialog about that so we can better understand where they are coming from.

Parents or guardians have the right to guide the reading, viewing, and listening activities of their children. Consequently, they must recognize other parents and guardians have the same rights and may choose to exercise them in a manner with which they might disagree.

On the Amarillo Public Library Reconsideration Process's page, Mrs. Amanda Barrera emphasized the last paragraph: Ebook and downloadable audio titles made available to APL patrons through online collections administered by the Harrington Library Consortium (Cloud Library) and Texas State Library and Archives Commission (SimpleE) are not subject to the rules and procedures of this process. They have their own processes; if someone wants to register a concern about one of those items, APL staff will guide them to the proper channels for that purpose.

Mr. Howard Rodriguez-Mori asked, "Where are these documents available to people?". Mrs. Amanda Barrera explained that those documents are available through Library administration because she has found that if patrons can come to speak with the Library Director or a Department Head, most of the time that will alleviate their concern, as they feel like they have been heard.

Mrs. Amanda Barrera explained that the procedures document for handling formal complaints lines out 14 steps that take you through the whole process. The patron is given a package with the form and all the supplementary materials, and then they submit the form to Library Administration. A committee is formed to assess the item, and once the reconsideration committee has been made their recommendation, The Library Director informs the patron; if the patron is not satisfied with the decision, a written appeal may be submitted to the Library Advisory Board within 15 business days from the date on the Director's decision letter or email.

- D. Programming and events at all APL locations: Mrs. Amanda Barrera provided the AMARILLO READS in the Summer calendar and a copy of the Rubber Ducky program. The theme is *All Together Now*. The program currently has 2,295 people registered.

Southwest Branch had the program "Touch a Truck" this morning. The Amarillo Police Department showed up with a patrol car and a SWAT truck. 181 patrons attended the program.

The Summer session of ESL classes started last week at Downtown library. Our instructor, Harold Littlejohn, reported that 29 students were in attendance the first night. Nearly all the students enrolled for the summer session are from Spanish-speaking countries, with the majority of those being from Mexico. There are two from Central American countries, two from Cuba, four from Venezuela, and one from Turkey.

Ms. Melody Boren talked about AMARILLO READS in the Summer. Kids ages 3 and under who join the Rubber Ducky Club will receive a rubber ducky of their choice and a Reading Club Log with early literacy challenges to choose. Each registrant will receive a reading Brag Tag and a calendar of events. The final prizes for participants will be a new book for kids; adults will receive a voucher for a free bag of books at one of the Friends book sale, and kids ages 12 and up have a choice of the voucher or a new book. Melody mentioned that we have the following sponsors: Whataburger, Raising Cane's, and Belmar Bakery.

- E. *World on the Move* overview: Ms. Melody Boren said that the exhibit went well. We are the second library in the country to get it. Only 15 libraries in the country were chosen to host the exhibit.

5. Discuss Items for Future Agendas: None.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:42 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