

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER & RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

MINUTES

On February 12, 2024, the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD met at 4:00 p.m. for a regular meeting at the Northwest Branch Library, 6100 W 9th, Amarillo, Texas.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Shawn Read, Chair	NO	20	18
Lillian C Withrow	YES	12	12
John Esler	YES	10	8
Christy Gagnon	NO	10	8
Katy Reid	YES	1	1

Also in attendance:

Amanda Barrera
Jason Riddlepurger
Courtney White
Bridget Hefner
Maggie Elder
Silvia Shaver

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES, CITY OF AMARILLO
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CITY OF AMARILLO
ASST CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF AMARILLO
NORTHWEST BRANCH LIBRARIAN, CITY OF AMARILLO
DIGITAL LITERACY COORDINATOR, CITY OF AMARILLO
LIBRARY SECRETARY, CITY OF AMARILLO

1. Call to Order and Introductions. In absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Mr. John Esler established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD to order at 4:16 p.m.
2. Public forum. Christopher Alvarado mentioned that he just graduated from high school, he said that he would have liked to know more about the programs the library offers. Ms. Amanda Barrera provided him with resources where he can learn more about the library's programs.
3. Approval of Minutes. Mr. John Esler considered approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on OCTOBER 9, 2023. Motion was made by Ms. Lili Withrow, seconded by Ms. Katy Reid, and unanimously carried to approve such minutes as written.
4. Discuss and Consider Election of Library Advisory Board Chair and Vice-Chair. Ms. Amanda Barrera informed those present that Shawn Read, who has been serving as Chair of the Board, had to resign due to personal and professional obligations, so that leaves a vacancy in the Chair position, and Howard Rodriguez-Mori's term expired in December. Therefore, the Advisory Board needed to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair. Mr. John Esler volunteered himself for the Chair position, and he nominated Ms. Christy Gagnon as Vice-Chair. The slate was unanimously approved as nominated.

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

- A. Friends of the Library: Book sale dates for 2024 have been set by the Friends as follows:

April 12 – 14
September 6 – 8
December 6 – 8

Ms. Barrera reported that the Friends made a total of \$22,288.60 from their three books sales in 2023.

The Friends participated in The Panhandle Gives fundraising campaign for the first time in November 2023. The total disbursement from that campaign was \$19,189.11.

Library staff asked the Friends Board at their January meeting about the possibility of their purchasing a vehicle wrap for the library's van. The Friends approved the purchase, and Stacy Clopton, the library's PR Coordinator, sought bids for three different companies; the company selected will be charging \$2,800 for the job.

- B. Programming and events at all APL locations: Ms. Barrera talked about some of the library programs planned for February.

The Spring semester of ESL is underway, with classes being offered at both Downtown Library and at the East Branch. With the success of those programs, patrons have been asking if APL

would consider offering Spanish as a Second Language classes, and Elise Sutton, one of the ESL instructors at the East Branch; has decided to try the concept. SSL classes will start on February 24, with classes meeting every other Saturday after that.

Staff at the North Branch are providing a program called "52-Book Challenge for 2024". Patrons are encouraged to read one book a week all year and input completed titles into a reading log provided at the branch.

The library has continued its partnership with Panhandle Community Services to make free income tax preparation available to those who qualify. This service is taking place at the North Branch on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays through April 12.

Our featured books have been switched out for library's two StoryWalks. In February, the community can read *Edie's Ensembles* by Ashley Spires when visiting the Zoo, and the *Featherless Chicken* by Chih-Yuan Chen while walking at the Medi-Park.

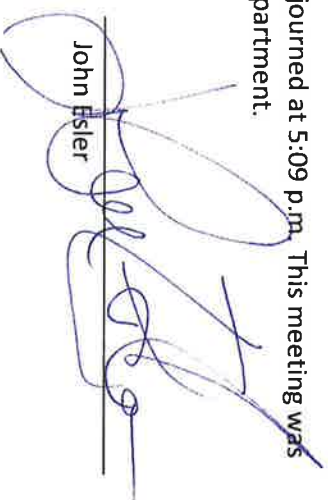
Ms. Barrera announced that APL has earned the 2023 Achievement of Library Excellence Award from the Texas Municipal Directors Association. This is APL's 9th year in a row to qualify for this award.

C. Northwest Branch Activities: Bridget Hefner talked about current and upcoming programs at Northwest Branch.

D. Girls Who Game Update: Maggie Elder, Digital Literacy Coordinator, showed the video of their Fall 2023 Submission. The challenge The Axolotl Agents had was: How can we as young digital citizens, design an interactive and immersive Minecraft world with experiences empowering others to distinguish truth from misinformation and disinformation online? She announced that for the second cohort in a row, Girls Who Game has once again placed 3rd for the People's Choice Award, while also receiving recognition for their exceptional Collaboration skills.

5. Discuss Items for Future Agendas. None.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Library Department.


John Esler

ATTEST: 
Amanda Barrera, Director of Library Services