

MINUTES

On February 10, 2025, 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
John Esler, Chair	YES	15	13
Lillian C Withrow	YES	17	16
Christy Gagnon	NO	15	9
Katy Reid	NO	6	4
Courtney M White	YES	5	5

Also in attendance:

<u>Amanda Barrera</u>	DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Laura Storrs</u>	ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Bryan McWilliam</u>	CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Bridget Hefner</u>	NORTHWEST BRANCH LIBRARIAN, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Maggie Elder</u>	DIGITAL LITERACY COORDINATOR, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Silvia Shaver</u>	LIBRARY SECRETARY, CITY OF AMARILLO

1. Call to Order and Introductions. Mr. John Esler, Chair, established a quorum and called the regular scheduled meeting of the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD to order at 4:17 p.m.
2. Public forum. Ms. Edith DiTommaso talked about the books Amarillo Public Library has in the Youth department on LGBTQ. She stated that Amarillo Public Library is public: "It's open to everybody, doesn't matter what you believe, what you like and what you don't like. As a parent, I had the right to tell my kids what they could read or what they couldn't, but they were my children. I don't have the right to tell somebody else what they can read, and they don't have the right to tell me what I can read. As an American, we have certain rights and privileges, and that is the right to choose."

Mr. John Adair asked the Board to call an emergency meeting to discuss the request for reconsideration of three books by an Amarillo resident.

Ms. Misty Collier said, "I'm the one that banned the three books; the only reason why I banned the three books was because I actually originally asked for them to lock any pornographic material up in a separate room marked 18 and above, which I believe would be a fair thing to do for both sides of our City, people that want them and people that don't, so that was my original request, just to let y'all know, and I also asked for transparency, so that whoever brings those books in will sign off on it, so that the public could know who was bringing that book in, and who they decided that book was good for, what child or...so youth, kids, whatever. That was my original request, just keep that in mind when you read these books, and the library has told me or, I apologize, the Director has told me that 5 of y'all have decided these books are okay to be in the library." *(The Library Director interjected at this point to clarify that APL staff served on the Review Committee that initially assessed the books, not members of the Library Advisory Board.)* Ms. Collier continued: "So, I personally, with my own personal opinion, do not believe these books need to be accessible, not just these books, but any adult book that has pornographic material in it. I'm sorry, I'll use the correct term, it's sexually explicit material needs to be locked up in a room 18 and above. So that a child can't just walk into the room and grab the book and look at it. These particular books have pictures, so, I would like for you to read them. Thank you."

3. Approval of Minutes. Mr. John Esler considered approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on DECEMBER 9, 2024. Motion was made by Ms. Courtney White, seconded by Ms. Lil Withrow, and unanimously carried to approve such minutes as written.

4. Discuss and Consider Election of Library Advisory Board Chair and Vice-Chair. Motion was made by Ms. Courtney White to reappoint Mr. John Esler as Chair, and to nominate Ms. Lil Withrow as Vice-Chair. Nomination was declined by Mr. John Esler and Ms. Lil Withrow. Mr. John Esler reconsidered and decided to continue as Chair; he mentioned that the Board probably will have to hold another election to replace him later in the year. Ms. Courtney withdrew her motion. Motion was made by Ms. Lil Withrow to nominate Ms. Courtney White as Vice-Chair and for Mr. John Esler to remain as Chair. Ms. Courtney White approved that motion, seconded by Ms. Lil Withrow. The slate was unanimously approved as nominated.

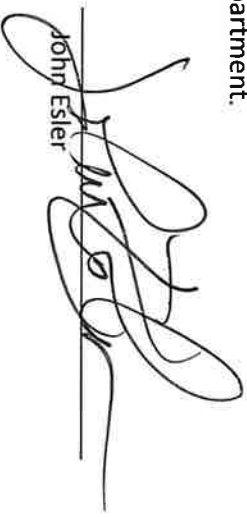
5. Presentation and Discussion by the Director of Library Services on Current Departmental Issues and Activities.

- A. Friends of the Library: Ms. Barrera reported that the Friends had resumed accepting book donations on February 1. The Friends made a total of \$15,457.11 from their three Book Sales in 2024. At their past meeting, the Friends Board approved the purchasing of supplies for a LEGO Club at the Downtown library.


- B. Ms. Barrera talked about some of the library programs planned for February. Board members received a complete February Calendar of Events.
- A. Northwest Branch Activities: Bridget Hefner talked about current and upcoming programs at Northwest Branch.
- C. Ms. Maggie Elder, Digital Literacy Coordinator, presented an update for APL's Digital Literacy program.

5. Discuss Items for Future Agendas. Request for reconsideration of three titles submitted by Misty Collier.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 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