

MINUTES

On August 11, 2025, the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD met at 4:00 p.m. for a regular meeting at the East Branch Library, 2232 E 27th, Amarillo, Texas.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
John Esler, Chair	YES	17	15
Lillian C Withrow	YES	19	18
Christy Gagnon	YES	17	11
Katy Reid	NO	8	6

Also in attendance:

Amanda Barrera	DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES, CITY OF AMARILLO
Dustin Johnson	DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF AMARILLO
Stacy Clopton	P.R AND PROGRAMMING COORDINATOR, CITY OF AMARILLO
Melody Boren	YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR, CITY OF AMARILLO
Erika Carrillo	EARLY LITERACY LIBRARIAN, CITY OF AMARILLO
Jacob Workman	EAST BRANCH LIBRARIAN, CITY OF AMARILLO
Silvia Shaver	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 4:03 p.m.

2. Public forum. None.

3. Approval of Minutes. Mr. John Esler considered approval of the Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on APRIL 14, 2025. Motion was made by Ms. Christy Gagnon, seconded by Ms. Lil Withrow, and unanimously carried to approve such minutes as written.

4. Discuss and Consider Revisions to the Materials Selection Policy. Ms. Barrera mentioned that as she was directed by Mayor Cole Stanley at the City Council's meeting on April 22nd to revise the library's Materials Selection Policy, so our assessment criteria was more clearly defined and to emphasize the importance of parental involvement in a child's use of their public library. To comply with those directives, several modifications were made. Ms. Barrera said that she appreciates the suggestions she received from the Board members, Deputy City Attorney Dustin Johnson, the City Manager, and from senior APL staff. Board members received a copy of the documents tracking most of the changes from the original policy to the proposed new policy, with explanatory comments from both Ms. Barrera and Mr. Johnson. The most significant alterations are as follows:

- The specific criteria staff take into account when considering whether to add items to the collection has been included.
- We've removed the section added in 1996 that alludes to online resources and responsible use of the Internet, as that information was superseded in the early 2000's by APL's Internet Usage Guidelines document.
- Under the Media Selection section, Catherine Urban, Technical Services Librarian, recommended that we add a statement explaining that some titles might not be available in DVD format due to business models adopted by the major streaming services.
- A new separate section was added detailing how concerns about library materials are handled at APL, mentioning the Library's Request for Reconsideration process and explaining that ebook and downloadable audio titles available through the CloudLibrary and Boundless apps are not subject to APL's reconsideration process, as those collections are administered by the Texas cloudLink Group and TSLAC, respectively.
- And finally, to emphasize the expectation of and opportunity for parental involvement in a child's use of the library, the very last paragraph explains the library's Policy for Unattended Children and offers parents the choice of requesting a higher degree of oversight over what their children check out. As stated in the policy, this choice would be opt-in, rather than opt-out. As indicated in the policy, a parent can ask that notes be placed on their child's record restricting access to certain material.

John Esler entertained a motion to approve the updated Materials Selection Policy of the Amarillo Public Library as presented. Ms. Lil Withrow moved to approve the revised policy. Christy Gagnon seconded. Motion was unanimously passed.

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 AMA-CON was a success, with an estimate of 5,000 attendees, which is up about 500 from last year. The next Book Sale will take place September 19-21.

B. Programming and events at all APL locations: Board members received a complete August Calendar of Events. Ms. Barrera highlighted the Computer Classes the library is offering by Caiden Scott, Digital Navigator. Classes are being held at the Downtown Library on Mondays at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Barrera announced that September is Library Card Sign-Up Month, and the library has an exciting new development for its patrons. APL is going to have a kid-friendly design available for people to choose when they get a library card with the library mascot Fable on it.

C. Youth Programs Update: Ms. Boren reported that the total number of registered participants for Summer Reading Club was 3,113. The attendance to youth programs was 1,289. The adult programs had 132 attendees, and teen programs had a total of 120.

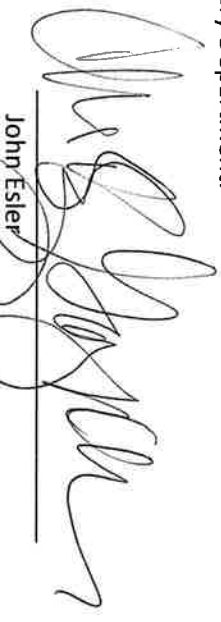
Ms. Boren also mentioned that the Friends of the Library approved funds to start a Lego Club at the Downtown Library in September. One of the reasons that libraries and Legos go together is because they can build problem-solving skills, encourage imagination and persistence, and they also build children's teamwork and cooperation skills.

Erika Carrillo mentioned that she plans to offer the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at APL. Makerspace staff are creating prizes for the kids to earn for every 100 books that they read. For the final prize she is planning to have a graduation type party, and children will get to take a photo with the library mascot Fable.

D. East Branch Activities: Jacob Workman reported that the East Branch is going to offer Spanish as a Second Language and English as a Second Language classes this fall.

6. Discuss Items for Future Agendas: Digital Literacy presentation focused on what they will be doing for teens and young people.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Library Department.



John Esler



Krista Wagner

ATTEST: 

Amanda Barrera, Director of Library Services