

MINUTES

On February 8, 2021, the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD met at 4:00 p.m. for a meeting by Video Conference.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Monica Smith-Hart, Chair	NO	27	17
Mary-Lynn Cameron, Vice-Chair	YES	12	9
Bruce Fielder	YES	1	1
Shawn Read	NO	6	5
Howard Rodriguez-Mori	YES	1	1

Also in attendance:

Amanda Barrera
Courtney White
Michael Freeman

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES, CITY OF AMARILLO
ASST CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF AMARILLO
LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST, CITY OF AMARILLO

- Call to Order and Introductions. Ms. Mary-Lynn Cameron, Vice-Chair, established a quorum and called the regular meeting of the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD to order.
- Public forum. None
- Minutes. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting held by video conference on DECEMBER 14, 2020. Motion was made by Mr. Bruce Fielder, seconded by Dr. Howard Rodriguez-Mori, and carried to approve minutes as amended.
- Discuss and consider election of Board Officers: This item was tabled until the April 2021 meeting.
- Presentation and Discussion by the Director of Library Services on current Departmental issues and activities.
 - Friends of the Library: The Friends held two virtual book sales in 2020, with a total income of \$5,132.63. Tentative book sale dates for 2021 have been set as follows:


April 9, 10, and 11
September 10, 11, and 12
December 3, 4, and 5

If the sales must be held virtually, the Friday dates would be eliminated.
 - Update on library service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic: All Amarillo Public Library locations reopened to the public on February 4. Operations are not fully back to normal yet, and services will be phased back in based on the hospitalization rate, City of Amarillo COVID Status Levels, and input from Public Health. For now, all locations will be open Monday through Saturday, 9 AM – 6 PM. Curbside service will continue to be offered. No meetings or in-person programming will occur at the libraries for now. While the buildings were closed, over 8,000 curbside transactions were completed, and close to 500 new library cards were issued via an online process. APL staff assisted in Public Health and at the Amarillo Regional Infusion Center. Staff currently are helping with data entry related to the COVID vaccinations.
 - Update on the Makerspace: The construction of the Makerspace is nearly complete, with the installation of fixtures and furniture to follow. APL staff will be asking for donations of supplies and small tools to supplement what is being purchased for the space. Board member Howard Rodriguez-Mori asked if a list of equipment could be made available so he could investigate whether donations could be possible through Texas Tech. Director Barrera said she would make the list available. The MakerSpace is scheduled for a soft open in mid-May, with a grand opening to coincide with the start of AMARILLO READS in the Summer on or around June 1.
 - TMLDA 2020 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award: Amarillo Public Library earned this award for the sixth year in a row. Only 53 of the 571 public libraries in Texas earned this distinction. The library staff have worked very hard over the past year to continue providing excellent service despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - TMLDA 2020 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award: APL just received notification that its Southwest Branch is now officially certified as a KultureCity certified Sensory-Inclusive location. KultureCity is the nation's leading nonprofit on accessibility and acceptance for those with disabilities related to PTSD, autism, dementia, strokes, and other conditions. KultureCity partners with a number of

organizations like libraries, arenas, concert halls, zoos, and museums. APL's Southwest Branch is the 10th public library in Texas to be certified through KultureCity. When funding becomes available, additional APL locations will be certified. Southwest Branch was chosen for the pilot project because of its existing partnership with the Turn Center. Resources like sensory bags and weighted lap pads will be available for in-house use, and staff have been trained to better assist patrons with sensory processing challenges. Southwest Branch has been added to the KultureCity app, and a social story will be added to the app and to the library's website to help patrons know what to expect when they visit the branch. Funding for this project was provided by the Friends of the Library. A request was made by Mr. Bruce Fielder concerning the exact amount paid to become certified, and Director Barrera stated she would make that information available to the Board.

6. Discuss Items for Future Agendas. None

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

ATTEST: 
Amanda Barrera, Directory of Library Services



Monica Smith-Hart