

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTIES OF POTTER & RANDALL
CITY OF AMARILLO

MINUTES

On October 11, 2021, the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD met at 4:00 p.m. for a regular meeting at the East Branch Library, 2232 E 27TH Ave., Amarillo, Texas.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Monica Smith-Hart, Chair	NO	29	17
Vacancy, Vice-Chair			
Bruce Fielder	YES	3	3
Shawn Read	YES	8	7
Howard Rodriguez-Mori	YES	3	3

Also in attendance:

Amanda Barrera
Courtney White
Jacob Workman
Silvia Shaver

DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES, CITY OF AMARILLO
ASST CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF AMARILLO
EAST BRANCH LIBRARIAN, CITY OF AMARILLO
LIBRARY SECRETARY, CITY OF AMARILLO

1. Call to Order and Introductions. In the absence of the Chair, Mr. Shawn Read established a quorum and called the regular meeting of the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD to order at 4:03 p.m.
2. Public forum. None
3. Minutes. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on JUNE 14, 2021. Motion was made by Mr. Bruce Fielder, seconded by Dr. Howard Rodriguez-Mori, and carried to approve minutes as amended.
4. Presentation and Discussion by the Director of Library Services on current Departmental issues and activities.
 - A. Friends of the Library: Friends had a virtual book sale in September, with over \$3,500 in earnings. The Friends are confident that they will have in-person sale for the last book sale of the year, scheduled on December 3, 4, and 5.

The Friends of the Library did hold AMA-CON on Saturday, July 31. The event was divided into two parts. The first part was held outside, adjacent to the Southwest Branch. The Friends had vendor booths, as well as varied activities, including a Cosplay parade, Food trucks, Quidditch, and an Obstacle Course. The Sketch-Off Contests were offered in the meeting room at Southwest. The second part of AMA-CON took place in the North Exhibit Hall of the Civic Center, providing a Gaming Hall and the Geek Prom.

The Book Sale and AMA-CON are the major fundraisers for the Friends. They employ those funds to support programs and activities that the Library offers to the public. The Friends recently approved funding for a permanent StoryWalk at the Amarillo Zoo. This partnership between the Amarillo Public Library and the Amarillo Zoo allows visitors to read a story while visiting the species on exhibit at the Zoo. The story changes monthly.

Books to Broadway is the other major fundraiser that the Friends hold each year. It is a concert of songs from Broadway musicals based on books. Robert Hansen, director of the School of Music at West Texas A&M University, produces the show. The Friends hold a silent auction to raise funds. With COVID still a concern, the Friends Board decided to postpone the event until March 2022.

Amanda Barrera announced that Mobile Printing is now available at all APL locations at the usual price of 15 cents per page. Patrons can send a print job to the library from a computer, mobile device, or by email. You can find instructions on how to use this service on the Amarillo Public Library's website.

Amanda Barrera also announced that patrons of the Amarillo Public Library will have access to a new ebook and downloadable audiobook service. The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) has partnered with Amigos Library Services to offer the *SimplyE* app at no charge for public libraries in Texas that meet certain criteria. *SimplyE* was developed by the New York Public Library in partnership with other major libraries in the nation in response to challenges patrons face in accessing ebooks.

B. Programming and events at all APL locations: APL has not resumed any large in-person programming but continues having most of its programs online and offering take-and-make kits at all library locations.

One of the programs that APL offers in-person is Laugh and Learn in the Park, which is a story time designed especially for infants and toddlers. It is taking place at the Sam Houston Park twice a month.

Cynthia Hunt, Program Specialist, will offer the program Making Paper Beads. She will teach how to craft beads from paper and use them to create pieces of jewelry.

C. East Branch Activities. Jacob Workman, East Branch Librarian, talked about the activities and programming at East Branch. He has been visiting schools in the area to promote library services. He wants to have a partnership with school librarians and teachers to help students to be successful.

Jacob Workman and Elise Sutton are going to observe Harold Littlejohn teaching ESL classes to learn from him. Jacob wants to have ESL classes at East Branch, starting in Spring 2022.

Mr. Bruce Fielder asked if the Library offers ESL classes remotely. Amanda Barrera said that the Library just offers ESL classes in-person. It is better to offer in-person classes for people who are just learning English; they need interaction with the teacher. Citizenship videos are available on the Library's YouTube channel.

6. Discuss Items for Future Agendas. Mr. Shawn Read asked if there is anything for future agendas. Amanda Barrera said that at December's meeting she is going to offer a tour of the book sale area, and the Technical Services department.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Library Department.

ATTEST: Amanda Barrera

Amanda Barrera, Director of Library Services

Monica S. Hart
Monica Smith-Hart