

**MINUTES**

On February 14, 2022, the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD met at 4:00 p.m. for a regular meeting at the Northwest Branch Library, 6100 W 9<sup>th</sup>, Amarillo, Texas.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Monica Smith-Hart, Chair	YES	30	18
Vacancy, Vice-Chair			
Lillian C Withrow	YES	1	1
Shawn Read	YES	9	8
Howard Rodriguez-Mori	YES	4	4

Also in attendance:

<u>Amanda Barrera</u>	DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY SERVICES, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Courtney White</u>	ASST CITY ATTORNEY, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Jon Barnes</u>	NORTHWEST BRANCH LIBRARIAN, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Silvia Shaver</u>	LIBRARY SECRETARY, CITY OF AMARILLO

1. Call to Order and Introductions. Ms. Monica Smith-Hart, Chair, established a quorum and called the regular meeting of the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD to order at 4:07 p.m.

2. Public forum. Mr. Rusty Donelson, an Amarillo citizen, stated that he would like for the Board to consider adding in the next open agenda, an item to discuss the Amarillo Police Department presence in the Public Libraries and children. He mentioned the article published on the front page of *USA Today* "School arrests include kids as young as 5. Why?".

Ms. Monica Smith-Hart, Chair told Mr. Donelson that the Board may not discuss at this time items that have been brought out in this segment of the meeting, but we can choose to place the item on a future agenda.

Ms. Amanda Barrera explained to Mr. Donelson that the library has a Patron Code of Conduct in place and, when there is a behavior issue, the building supervisor or the branch manager takes care of that; library staff rarely ask the police officers to intervene. The only trespass orders the library ever had to issue had been to adults, and it is for repeated behavior. The library also has a Policy for Unattended Children that states that children must have a responsible adult or an older sibling over a certain age with them, so that will be the person that the library staff will interact with if there is a behavior issue.

3. Minutes. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on OCTOBER 11, 2021. Motion was made by Mr. Shawn Read, seconded by Dr. Howard Rodriguez-Mori, and unanimously carried to approve such minutes as written.

4. Discuss and Consider Election of Library Advisory Board Chair and Vice-Chair. Ms. Monica Smith-Hart nominated Mr. Shawn Read as Chair. Dr. Howard Rodriguez-Mori was nominated as Vice-Chair. The slate was unanimously approved as nominated.

5. Presentation and Discussion by Assistant City Attorney Courtney White on the Texas Open Meetings Act. Ms. Courtney White summarized her presentation as follows: if there is going to be a meeting, the public need to be able to attend. A meeting occurs anytime and anywhere that a quorum of three or more Board members are together and deliberates City business or receives information from a third party about City business. If you are having a meeting, you must follow the notice procedures. Notice of it must be posted at least 72 hours in advance. A copy of the report is attached.

6. Discuss and Consider a Potential Partnership Between the Amarillo Public Library and the Randall County Master Gardener Board.

The Randall County Master Gardeners Board is interested in pursuing a partnership with Amarillo Public Library that will result in the creation of a Seed Library at the Downtown Library. The proposal is as follows: A pilot project will take place at the Downtown Library. The Randall County Master Gardeners Board is going to invest an initial amount of \$500 to purchase seeds for the program. Informational material will be provided to patrons. The seeds on offer will be seasonally appropriate. Ms. Amanda Barrera mentioned that a policy has been drafted; it will be provided to the Board in April for approval.

Motion was made by Mr. Shawn Read, seconded by Ms. Lillian Withrow, and unanimously carried for the Board to continue this potential partnership between the Randall County Master Gardeners Board and the Amarillo Public Library.

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

A. Friends of the Library: The Friends held a virtual book sale in December; they made over \$1,800 for that sale. The total revenue from book sales in 2021 came to \$7,831.67.

B. Programming and events at all APL locations: ESL and Citizenship classes started up in-person for the spring semester in January. We are still having a restricted size due to COVID, but we are maintaining a waiting list for those who couldn't get in from the start. For the Citizenship students, Ben Wilting has posted the contents of each of the 10 classes on the library YouTube channel.

Ms. Amanda Barrera announced that the Amarillo Public Library received the "2021 TMLDA Achievement of Excellence in Library Award" for the seventh year in a row.

Our permanent StoryWalk installation is now available at the Amarillo Zoo. The first book we are featuring is "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie".

The second StoryWalk will be located at Medi Park. Layton Lutz has chosen to raise funds for the installation of the StoryWalk as an Eagle Scout project. The Friends agreed to provide a little over half of the funding that he will need for the fixtures. The director of the City Parks and Recreation department, Michael Kashuba, has agreed to provide some of the supplies needed, and the Parks staff will provide guidance and advice to the volunteers who will help with the installation.


C. Northwest Branch Activities – Jon Barnes, Northwest Branch Librarian: Mr. Jon Barnes talked about current and upcoming programs at Northwest Branch. The Northwest Branch staff are weeding some library materials to make space for new items.

8. Discuss Items for Future Agendas.

Mr. Shawn Read proposed to review our patron code of conduct, and if possible, if there are any data between the Library and the Amarillo Police Department on incidents, specifically with anybody under 18 years old.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Library Department.

  
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Monica Smith-Hart

ATTEST:   
Amanda Barrera, Director of Library Services