

MINUTES

On June 13, 2022, the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD met at 4:00 p.m. for a regular meeting at the North Branch Library, 1500 NE 24TH, Amarillo, Texas.

VOTING MEMBERS	PRESENT	NO. MEETINGS HELD SINCE APPOINTMENT	NO. OF MEETINGS ATTENDED
Shawn Read, Chair	YES	11	10
Howard Rodriguez-Mori, Vice-Chair	YES	6	6
Lillian C Withrow	YES	3	3
John Esler	YES	1	1
Christy Gagnon	YES	1	1

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>Rich Gagnon</u>	MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CIO, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Shaun McDonald</u>	NORTH BRANCH LIBRARIAN, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Marsha Bazan</u>	NORTH BRANCH YOUTH ASSISTANT, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Cynthia Hunt</u>	PROGRAMMING SPECIALIST, CITY OF AMARILLO
<u>Silvia Shaver</u>	LIBRARY SECRETARY, CITY OF AMARILLO

1. Call to Order and Introductions. Mr. Shawn Read, Chair, established a quorum and called the regular meeting of the AMARILLO LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. John Esler and Ms. Christy Gagnon were welcomed to the board.

2. Public forum. None

3. Minutes. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on APRIL 11, 2022. Motion was made by Dr. Howard Rodriguez-Mori, seconded by Ms. Lillian Withrow, and unanimously carried to approve such minutes as written.

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

- A. Friends of the Library: The Friends Board recently voted to support a new partnership between APL and Panhandle PBS on their podcast, *Check Me Out: A Podcast for Book Lovers*, which started as part of the PBS *Great American Read* project a few years back. APL library staff members have participated in at least one episode in each of the previous three seasons. With this partnership, APL staff will be participating in each episode of Season 4. The Friends Board have approved to contribute \$1,000 towards Season 4 to share some of the financial responsibility for production.

At their June meeting the Friends received an update on Layton Lutz’s progress on his Eagle Scout project “Installation of the StoryWalk at the Medi Park”. The estimated total for this project is \$6,000. The Friends approved half of it, and Layton is raising funds to collect the rest. He is close to achieving his fundraising goal.

AMA-CON will be August 6 and 7 this year. Ms. Christy Gagnon shared her experience as a volunteer for AMA-CON for 4 years. She invited the Board members to volunteer this year.

- B. Programming and events at all APL locations: Summer Reading Club began on June 1st, and we are off to a fantastic start. We are 13 days in, and we are already at 92% of our enrollments from last year.

The Summer session of our English as a Second Language Classes started last week at Downtown Library. At the registration session that we held on June 2nd, our contract teacher, Mr. Harold Littlejohn, visited with 35 students who represented 10 countries.

MakerSpace: June marks the First Anniversary for when we opened the MakerSpace at the Downtown Library; we had over 1,000 groups that have gone on tours since we opened the MakerSpace.

Cynthia Hunt talked about the program “Quilt of Many Hands”; this project is inspired by the Rajah Quilt story and the novel *Dangerous Women* by Hope Adams. The Rajah Quilt is a large quilt made by women in 1841 while aboard a convict transport ship. The Rajah Quilt is now on display at the National Gallery in Australia. The idea of APL staff was to involve the MakerSpace

in a similar project; patrons can participate by picking up a kit of fabric blocks and piecing them together to become part of a larger quilt. The quilt is going to be auctioned at the Books to Broadway event.

- C. Update on Mobile Hotspot Lending Program and Seed Library: APL Seed Library is a partnership between Randall County Master Gardeners and the APL. The program has been received positively by the community. We had 100 people show up for the launching event that took place on May 14th.

Mobile Hotspot Lending Program: The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 included \$7.17 billion for the Emergency Connectivity Fund. Through that program, libraries are eligible to use that funding to purchase connected devices and broadband internet connections for offsite use by library patrons who might not have internet access. Amarillo Public Library received 50 hotspots. Each library location will receive 10. Of those, nine will check out for two weeks, with up to three renewals allowed if there are not holds on the device. One hotspot at each of the libraries will be designated as a "Lucky Duck" hotspot; it only checks out for 5 days, and no holds or renewals are allowed on it. Anyone who wants to check out a device must sign a borrowing agreement. This program is going well; Michael Freeman, Library Technology Specialist, reported today that hotspot devices have 60 circulations already.

- D. North Branch Activities: Mr. Shaun McDonald talked about current and upcoming programs at North Branch.

The North Branch partnered with Panhandle Community Services to provide tax help this year. They helped with more than 400 tax returns.

Ms. Marsha Bazan, North Branch Youth Assistant shared information about Summer Reading Program this year; she provided to the Board members the combined reading log and calendar.

- E. *Americans and the Holocaust* overview: Cynthia Hunt, Programming Specialist, reported that APL is one of only 50 libraries nationwide selected to host this exhibition out of over 250 who applied. Out of the 50 chosen, only 25 are public libraries (the other 25 are university libraries). APL is the only public library in Texas selected to host.

APL is scheduled to host this fall. The exhibition will be open to the public September 17 – October 23, 2022.


One of the requirements we have as a host site is to hold a minimum of four events that are related to the themes of the exhibition. We will offer 11 events through the five weeks of the exhibition.

5. Discuss Items for Future Agendas. None.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m. This meeting was recorded, and all comments are on file with the City Library Department.



Shawn Read

ATTEST: 
Amanda Barrera, Director of Library Services