

**MINUTES FROM THE PATRICK HEATH PUBLIC LIBRARY
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Upstairs Conference Room
September 8, 2022**

In attendance: Susan Nelson, Laura Bray, Amy Bean, Trinh Arrieta, Pam Bransford, and Kelly Skovbjerg. Absent: Angela Kirby Buser, Jennifer Hackett, Sandy Johnston

The meeting was called to order at 6:01p.m. by the Chair, Susan Nelson

Citizens Comments

None.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 11, 2022 meeting were read. Trinh Arrieta moved to approve, and Amy Bean seconded. Motion carried.

Report of the Library Director

Kelly Skovbjerg, Library Director, presented the monthly report (attached) which highlights activities and accomplishments by each department and includes a calendar of upcoming events. Also included was the final schedule for the Boerne Book and Arts Fest, 10a.m.-4p.m. on Saturday, October 1 at Main Plaza.

Several library staff members received awards at the City's annual employee appreciation luncheon: Robin received the first ever Value award for Respect, Sandy received the first-ever Director's award, Caren and Megan received a 5-year service award, and Kelly, a 20-year service award.

41 people learned how to make basic cocktails from instructor Lillian Oler of Assemble Cocktail Workshop on August 25. A recent community survey indicated an increasing demand for homeschool family programs. A Homeschool Hoedown program in August featured a farm-animal petting zoo and horseback rides and drew 250 families. Even though August is a sleeper month, we still managed to register 369 new cards, as opposed to just 282 last year.

The Hub is the place to be, with four new programs each week, partially funded by the Friends of the BPL. Sister Chon Nguyen, with the Benedictine Order, has been working in the library with two ESL volunteers to improve her language skills to help with her studies. She recently graduated with her certified nursing assistant certification. We are in need of other conversational partners – we would match you with an emerging English speaker or with a caregiver seeking enrichment time for those in their charge with dementia or low vision.

Report of Committees

None

Continuing Business

Strategic Planning

The final Master Plan was in the document packet distributed to board members. Kelly is presenting to the City Council for their approval at their next meeting on Tuesday, September 13.

Support Groups Update

Kelly will take the Library's FY2023 funding request to the Friends Board next week. The Bookshop is regularly making \$400 each open day and will probably set a sales record this year.

Policy and Procedure for Materials and Displays Challenges

Across the state, book challenges are ramping up. The Decatur Library is working through a challenge to "It's Perfectly Normal," which has been out for years. Time magazine recently ran an article on the situation in Victoria. The Victoria City Council and County Commissioners are both supporting the challenge and are threatening the Library's funding and space. The Holy Bible has been removed from the shelves in Keller ISD (just outside of Ft. Worth). In Southlake (near DFW), a middle school is named for a former slave who wrote a book about his experiences. His book is now banned from the shelves of Southlake schools, including the one which bears his name.

Kelly shared Abilene's approach which is to move toward adopting a "Parental Responsibility Policy" and pull all child/youth policies into that one document. That new policy makes the parent responsible for what their child is and isn't able to view. Kelly will have more information on this approach at the next board meeting.

Bylaws Review

When Kelly presented the proposed changes to City Council at its last meeting, only four of the six council members were present. The discussion was tabled until the next meeting for "further research." After some discussion, the Board recommended that Kelly make the same presentation she made previously, when hopefully all six members will be present. Amy asked if it would be helpful for Board members to be present to make "citizen comments." She wants to make the point that having the Advisory Board hear any appeals takes that decision out of the political arena. Kelly thought that it would be helpful. The meeting is Tuesday, September 13 at 6:00p.m.

Kelly asked Pam Bransford if any other city boards have appeals processes. Pam said the Ethics Board probably does, but no others.

Update on Circulation Plan

Kelly stated that the library has made a few strides forward on financial processes. Staff is awaiting training.

Board Training

The Board watched a short training video from United for Libraries on "running effective board meetings."

Board Skills Assessment

Kelly has received input from all but one board member.

New Business

Reference Services Policy

Very minor changes. Laura Bray motioned to approve the policy as revised; Amy Bean seconded. Motion carried.

Computer Use Policy

The most major change makes parents explicitly responsible to monitor their child's computer user. Trinh Arrieta moved to approve this policy with revisions; Amy Bean seconded. Motion carried.

Partnerships Policy

Very minor changes. Amy Bean motioned to approve the policy with revisions; Pam Bransford seconded. Motion carried.

Election of Officers

The current officers are Susan Nelson (Chair), Laura Bray (Vice-Chair), and Jennifer Hackett (Secretary). Amy Bean moved to approve this slate going forward; Trinh Arrieta seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business/Board Concerns

Kelly mentioned that Lora Beth Escalante has resigned from the board. Kelly has several applications from earlier this spring. She will contact these candidates to see who might be interested in filling the vacancy.

Date for Next Regular Meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, October 13 in the library's second floor conference room.

Respectfully submitted on September 9, 2022,

Laura Bray
Vice-Chair