

MINUTES
CITY OF DENTON
DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
North Branch Library Meeting Room – July 11, 2022

After determining that a quorum was present, the Denton Public Library Board convened on Monday, July 11, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the North Branch Meeting Room at 3020 N. Locust, Denton, Texas. Chair Cleopatra Birckbichler, Vice-Chair Ling Jeng, and Members Jean Greenlaw, Sandy Swan, and Dallas Guill were in attendance.

PRESENT: Cleopatra Birckbichler, Ling Jeng, Jean Greenlaw, Laura Cantu, Sandy Swan, Dallas Guill

ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Bekker, Haley Phillips, Cynthia Carter

GUESTS: Lucinda Breeding-Gonzales

1. PRESENTATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

NONE

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. LB22-035

Consider approval of the minutes of the May 9, 2022, meeting.

The Board accepted and approved amended minutes of the May 9, 2022, meeting. Jean Greenlaw motioned for approval, Laura Cantu seconded, all in favor.

B. LB22-030

The Board received an informational report regarding the Friends of the Denton Public Libraries.

- The library submitted requests for reimbursement for \$6,000 for Summer Reading Challenge prize books and \$35.30 for the *Book Party with Martha Samaniego Calderon* program.
- Director of Libraries and Haley Phillips, Outreach Librarian met with Friends Executive Board President, Charity Broomfield on Monday, July 11 and discussed future opportunities for the Friends to work with the library to support library programs and outreach and to better engage with the community which will help promote their organization

The next meeting of the Friends Executive Board is Thursday, July 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the North Branch Meeting Room.

The next 2022 Friends Big Book Sales is Saturday, August 6 in the North Branch Meeting Room.

C. LB22-029

The Board received an informational report regarding the Emily Fowler Library Foundation.

The Foundation Trustees met with the Director of Libraries on May 20, 2022. During the meeting, Trustee Cary Cates notified the group that he would be moving and would need to step down in the coming months. He would recommend looking for someone in the financial field for his replacement. The Library Board appoints Trustees to the Emily Fowler Library Foundation.

The Foundation discussed a goal to spend the funds it currently has available. The library recommended that the Foundation fund the furniture for the new study rooms and conference room that are being built at the Emily Fowler Library and may have other projects. Trustees were interested in funding physical projects to enhance Library services and facilities.

The Trustees discussed spending some of the \$100,000 in the CD on various library projects, but the CD has already rolled over into a new 2-year CD. Those funds will not be available until April 2024. The funds in the checking account could be utilized until then. A proposal for the study room and conference room project and other future projects is being prepared by library staff.

Updating the Foundation brochure was discussed and will include the Foundation's support of the Nook Park at Emily Fowler Central Library. New brochures will be made available to the Trustees and at all library facilities.

D. LB22-031

The Board received a report, held a discussion, and gave staff direction regarding the Library's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEIC).

The department's DEIC Committee was created in 2020. Haley Phillips, Outreach Librarian, and a member of committee spoke to the Board regarding the committee's initiatives, partnerships, current programs and planning.

Ling Jeng shared several recommendations such as focus should be more centered on "equity", more so than anything else. Remembering the importance of where the library wants to be in 5 years and focusing on what others are *doing* rather than what they are *not* doing to form effective planning strategies and partnerships.

E. LB22-032

The Board received a report, held a discussion, and gave staff direction regarding a Customer Request for Reevaluation of Materials.

Board Members agreed to remove names in the minutes from this discussion. Jean Greenlaw motioned for approval, Sandy Swan seconded, all in favor.

Board members discussed concerns about removing materials for content and the difference between selection and banning materials in a library's collection. It was noted that the book was no different from other books explaining opinion. The library provides many opinion materials and that if one title were banned, how could other titles with a similar opinion viewpoint be retained. Board members noted that the complainant had not read the title. With the variety of materials in a library's collection, it was suggested that if someone did not want to read an item, they could instead check out other items to read. Board members recognized that the number of copies in the library's collection seemed higher than needed as the three copies had only circulated a total of two times.

The consensus of the Library Board is to recommend that the library retain one copy in the library collection, which aligns with the recommendation from the Reevaluation Committee.

F. LB22-033

The Board received a report, held a discussion, and gave staff direction regarding:

2022 Summer Reading Challenge Update

Jennifer Bekker shared as of July 7, 2022, 2,567 people have registered for the Summer Reading Challenge. The event runs through the end of July. Participants have read 872,004 minutes and 901 people have read at least 5 hours, earning a free book provided by the Friends of the Denton Public Libraries. To date, that is a 35.1% completion rate. In 2021, the program ended with 2,371 participants, 1,194,185 minutes read, and 749 people reading at least 5 hours which is a 31.6% completion rate.

Facility Improvements

New service desks have arrived and are installed at South Branch and North Branch.

- The South Branch installation went smoothly, and the desk is set up in its final location.
- The North Branch desk will need to be adjusted slightly due to an unexpected power set up under the old service desk. Once Facilities moves electrical and TS moves network cabling, the new desk will shift, and the two self-check kiosks will be moved where the desk is currently situated. Facilities is currently coordinating to have carpet added to the areas where the old desk was located.

- Emily Fowler Central Library’s study room and conference room project is progressing. A meeting with the City Facilities department and the architect in July allowed library staff to give a tour of the area and discuss the project. The current timeline has work beginning at the end of 2022 with a tentative completion by the end of March 2023.

Strategic Plan Update

The Library Strategic Plan process is being developed. The Library Leadership Team will be meeting in July to discuss a process like the process used in 2018. It would include staff input sessions, a leadership team input session, focus group input sessions with the Library Board, Friends of the Libraries, Emily Fowler Library Foundation Trustees, Teen Advisory Board, and possible focus groups for seniors, and educators/homeschool families, and at least one open community input session.

Staff, focus group, and community input sessions would be scheduled in August, September, and October. An online survey to the public will also be offered for 4-6 weeks.

Ling Jeng shared she found the SOAR Analysis to be the more beneficial method than SWOT Analysis. Jennifer Bekker agreed and noted that SOAR would be used during the input sessions.

G. LB22-034

The Board received a report, held a discussion, and considered approval of the Denton Public Library Community Use Policy for the Forge Makerspace.

Laura Cantu motioned for approval, Jean Greenlaw seconded, all in favor.

3. CONCLUDING ITEMS

None.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Cleopatra Birckbichler, President

Cynthia Carter, Administrative Assistant
City of Denton, TX

Minutes approved on: _____