

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
OF A REGULAR MEETING

KERRVILLE, TEXAS
MAY 15, 2012

On Tuesday, May 15, 2012, the Library Advisory Board meeting was called to order by Chairperson Judy Carr at 3:00p.m. in the Library Meeting Room, 505 Water Street, Kerrville, Texas.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Judy Carr	Vice-Chairperson
Diana Martin	Board Member
Ellen Connelly	Board Member
Lorrin Peterson	Board Member

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:

Elizabeth Baker	Kerrville Genealogical Society
T. Scott Gross	City Council Member

ABSENT MEMBERS:

Daniel Ehrenreich	Chairperson
Jonathan Letz	County Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

Kim Meismer	Director of General Operations
Laura Bechtel	Interim Library Director
Gretchen Atkinson	Recording Secretary

VISITORS PRESENT: List is on file in the Library for the required retention period.

CALL TO ORDER

1. VISITOR/CITIZENS FORUM:

Toni Hastings stated she is very impressed by aesthetics of building but the library needs books. As a homeschooling parent she needs books for her children. She stated eBooks will not meet needs of her four children who read 80-100 books each for required reading per year as well as their pleasure reading.

Susan Seibert stated her greatest joy as an avid reader is to explore the shelves. She stated ten electronic reader devices are forward thinking, but they cannot replace the tangible value of a book. Kids need the visual cue to read that book. She requested: 1. We want the books back. 2. If shelving is an issue, patrons may be willing to help find or acquire shelves. 3. If space is an issue, perhaps we can utilize the basement or find an easy access storage situation. 4. Who do we talk to as a patron? We need a name of the contact point to bring our concerns to you.

Laurie Beauchamp stated she has been a patron of the library for twelve years, and had a paid membership for nine of the twelve years. She said she homeschools her children and they need books. She said parents appreciate you are trying to move forward but we are middle America and don't necessarily want electronics. She noted many of the basic children's books are missing. She said, "We want to help. We need to know how."

Gail Brown, a librarian at a local private school, stated we need books on the shelves. She said she checked out 87 books in the Basket of Books program and used those during the school year. She stated children do look at the cover of a book and pick it based on the cover.

Kristin Chaney stated we need books. She expressed concern about the Xbox and thought we were trying to use it as a lure to get the young people in the library. She stated she thinks we need to do other things to bring them in and would like to see it on the next agenda.

Shelly Bolton, homeschooler of four children, said reading is important to her and her family. They use the library to find history and science books, as well as stories from other cultures. She said it is not easy to find something to spark the desire to read in eBook form. She stated she checked out over 100 books in the Basket of Books program; of those, 32 returned are no longer in our collection. She says she doesn't understand why they are gone because they were not in bad condition. She urges us to bring back the books.

Sara Kendrick said she homeschools three children, all avid readers with a designated reading time. She stated her father is an avid reader, and she has concerns with him using an e-reader. It is a technological challenge for him. She said they often leave with three bags of books when they are coming in for just one. She noted the *Redwall* series is missing. She stated many of the changes are improvements, but there need to be more books on shelves.

Scott Bolton stated he is an investment guy. He said he sees competing eBooks companies trying to sell eBooks to libraries. He sees our resources going to this new technology and feels books should not be chucked in lieu of technology. He said publishers are trying to make a profit and suggests letting Amazon fight the publishers for us. He feels we are throwing away valuable resources and our money is being wasted.

Councilman Gross said thank you to staff for taking a lot of heat, some of it unnecessarily. He said he would like us to go to books plus electronic resources. He said people who use the library determine what books stay and what books go. If it's not getting checked out, people are letting staff know they do not want that particular book. He asked for patience, stating we will see more books and more electronic resources in time.

Ms. Martin recognized Mr. Gross as library liaison for Council, stating he has been a leader and a mentor who never interfered and has been here consistently supporting the library.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

2A. Approval of minutes of the Library Advisory Board meeting held on April 17, 2012.

Ms. Connelly moved to approve the minutes as read; Mr. Peterson seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously, 4-0.

3. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

3A. Monthly Performance Measures

Ms. Bechtel reported as of April 30th the library had 5,228 card holders. She reported 12,487 items were checked out in April 2012. She stated public computer use significantly increased and we had 12,327 people through the front door in April. Ms. Bechtel reported the History Center had 229 people through their doors. She stated the library has 198 eBooks in its collection, and 109 eBooks were checked out in April. She reported the following circulation statistics for the electronic devices: Kindle Fire 24 times, Apple iPad2 43 times, Laptops 37 times, Mini laptops 9 times, Samsung Galaxy 16 times, Xbox games 50 times.

4. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY:

4A. Update on Friends Activities (Daniel Ehrenreich)

Ms. Meisner reported the Friends are moving books in the basement in preparation for a book sale in June.

5. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:

5A. Update on Kerrville Genealogical Society activities (Elizabeth Baker)

Ms. Baker invited the homeschool mothers to visit the History Center. She stated KGS's and the History Center's websites are now linked to the City's website. She reported they had 75 people using computers last month. She reported the History Center will be closed on Mondays during the summer. She reported they will be doing a special event at the History Center soon. They obtained the "Camel Files", the military files regarding Camp Verde, from the National Archives. She said Mike Bowlin made the project happen for the cost of copying. Volunteer Harriet Chesney put the files back in order at the History Center. She invited everyone to attend the KGS program tomorrow about the about the military and Texas Rangers and them trying to control the Indians in order to allow the settlement of the area.

5B. Next scheduled Library Advisory Board meeting –June 19, 2012

6. **ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

Victoria Wilson stated the Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth Library Foundation is working on the plans for the East Garden. She reported they have made some progress, talked to master gardeners and native plant horticulturists.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Martin motioned to adjourn the meeting; motion seconded by Ms. Connelly. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:38pm.

APPROVED:



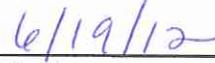
Judy Carr, Vice-Chairperson



Laura Bechtel, Interim Library Director



Gretchen Atkinson, Recording Secretary



Date minutes approved & signed