

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
OF A REGULAR MEETING

KERRVILLE, TEXAS  
January 21, 2020

On Tuesday, January 21, 2020, the Library Advisory Board meeting was called to order by Edna Wichman at 3:00 p.m. in the Library Meeting Room, 505 Water Street, Kerrville, Texas.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Edna Wichman	Vice-Chairperson
Erin Sullivan	Board Member
Tom Moser	Board Member
Megan Bean	Board Member
Joseph Conklin	Board Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

Laura Bechtel	Library Director
Danielle Brigati	Assistant Library Director
Cate Schulenberg	Recording Secretary

VISITORS PRESENT:

None

**1. VISITOR/CITIZENS FORUM:**

None

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

2A. Approval of minutes of the Library Advisory Board meeting held on October 15, 2019

Mr. Conklin moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Bean seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

**3. CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:**

3A. Appointment of Library Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair

Mr. Moser motioned that Ms. Wichman become Chairperson. Erin Sullivan seconded the motion and it passed 5-0

Mr. Moser motioned that Ms. Bean become Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Conklin seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

**4. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION:**

4A. Quarterly Update by Library Director (staff)

Ms. Bechtel provided the board with the first quarter FY20 statistics. Ms. Bechtel reported that as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 the library had 11,078 active card holders. In the month of December the library had 9,951 checkouts and a gate count of 10,025 people. The library checked out 957 eBooks in the month of December. Ms. Wichman asked how many eBooks the library currently held. Ms. Bechtel reported that the library had approximately 3000 eBooks in the collection. Ms. Bean asked about the geographic patron counts and what constituted inside city limits, outside city limits and other. Ms. Bechtel explained how those counts were collected with "other" being those outside of Kerr County. Fiscal year statistics to date included 20,822 items checked out, 2,232 reference questions and 31,405 people thru the door. Ms. Bechtel reported that the theme of summer reading would be Understanding Your Story and would focus on fairytales and myths. Ms. Bechtel reported that 99% of patrons come from Kerr County and the largest demographic was the 18 to 64 year old age group and the teens are the smallest group. Ms. Bechtel reported that 20 programs were held in December and over 400 people attended.

Ms. Bechtel presented the financial statements and revenue report for the Library and History Center. Both the Library and History Center were on track in terms of budget. Ms. Bechtel thanked the Friends for their annual gift of \$25,000 that

supports eBooks, summer reading and the large print collection. Ms. Wichman asked Ms. Bechtel if she would explain the different funds to the new members. Ms. Bechtel explained the difference between General Fund, Memorial Fund, and the Remschel-Deering Fund and what those funds support.

4B. Update on Friends of the Library activities (Joseph Conklin)

Mr. Conklin reported the Friends had a good turnout for their meeting in December. Phyllis Young has replaced David Jones on the Board and they are still in search of a Vice-President. The bookstore had their best year to date at \$13,000 and the Friends have purchased a Square device to process credit and debit transactions. Mr. Conklin reported that a volunteer luncheon would be held in the coming weeks. Ms Sullivan asked how many volunteers were active in the Friends. Mr. Conklin reported that although the number fluctuates it is around 15. Mr. Conklin reported the Friends donated \$25,000 to the Library and also helped fund Tivy High School's Little Free Library Project.

Mr. Conklin reported The Friends would host poet Carmen Tufalo on February 13<sup>th</sup> and would sponsor the Kilted Man in February as well.

4C. Update on History Center activities (staff)

Ms. Bechtel announced that Clifton Fifer, Jr. would be having a presentation on the Buffalo Soldiers on February 3, 2020.

Ms. Sullivan asked what the best way to get information on the Friends of the Library and the History Center was. Mr. Conklin responded that Facebook was the best for the Friends. Ms. Bechtel responded that the History Center works through the Stuart Cunyus, Public Information Officer for the City of Kerrville to distribute press releases to the newspaper, Facebook and the City of Kerrville webpage.

4D. Update on A.C. Schreiner House activities (staff)

Ms. Sullivan asked for clarification on how the Library, Kerr Regional History Center and the A.C. Schreiner House work together. Ms. Bechtel explained that Kerr Regional History Center is supported by the Remschel-Deering Trust and is the repository of genealogical and historical documents for Kerr County and surrounding areas. There is a Talking Texas Book Club and a non-circulating collection. Ms. Sullivan brought up the rotating exhibits, presentations as well. Ms. Bechtel discussed the public announcement regarding the A.C. Schreiner House and the Heritage of the Hills History Center. Ms. Sullivan asked what the library's role would be in the A.C. Schreiner House. Ms. Bechtel reported that the library would be involved in fundraising and that the A.C. Schreiner house would remain a city property. Ms. Bechtel further reported that the A.C. Schreiner House, Library, and Kerr Regional History Center would be complementary to one another. Ms. Bechtel explained that the Heritage of the Hills Group would be responsible for day-to-day operations but the library would ensure that the building was being used to its best purpose. Ms. Sullivan asked if library staff would be using the house or the grounds for programs or other endeavors. Ms. Bechtel reported that the library would be looking at programs and events that could utilize the amphitheater or terraced grounds. Ms. Bechtel reported that at this time the library did not know the possible cost of tickets to visit the Heritage of the Hills Museum as that would be determined by their staff.

Ms. Bean wanted to know if library staff would be involved in the development in exhibits and material, particularly in light of diversity. Ms. Bechtel reported that diversity was discussed at the launch. Discussion occurred concerning exhibits based on the Heritage of the Hills launch.

Ms. Wichman asked if a curator would be hired for the Heritage of the Hills Museum. Ms. Bechtel responded that a curator was to be hired by Heritage of the Hills based on information from the launch presentation.

4E. Next scheduled Library Advisory Board meeting – April 21, 2020.

**5. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST**

Mr. Moser discussed the archaeological and geological exhibit at the Dietert Center January 28<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Bechtel announced a Gardening 101 program series with Master Gardener Kim Courtright would be starting February 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.

Ms. Bechtel announced that the Blind Date with a Book Program would be starting February 14<sup>th</sup>.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Moser moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Conklin seconded. The Library Advisory Board adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

APPROVED:

Edna Carol Wichman Danielle M. Brigati  
Edna Wichman, Chairperson Danielle Brigati, Library Director

Cate Schulenberg  
Cate Schulenberg, Recording Secretary  
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10.20.2020  
Date minutes approved & signed