



Meeting Minutes - Final

Library Board

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

10:30 AM

La Retama Central Library

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A. Call To Order

Pat Craig called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

B. Roll Call

Present: Pat Craig, Carrie Moore, Jennifer Anderson, Joan Carrillo, Melinda De Los Santos, Carroll Matthews, Dolores Rabon, Dora Wilburn

Present Virtually: None

Absent: Alice Hawkins

C. Public Comment

- Tom Tagliabue thanked the board for posting materials related to Item 5, Further Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Support Letter. He asked for more data and sources and asked for a five-year comparison analysis for just Corpus Christi.
- Marilena Garza said that the community did something for the library, but not the board. She raised 656 dollars that has been donated to The Friends of The Library and has a gift card and donated books that she is waiting on someone from the library to reach out to get these books. Laura Garcia said she thought they were going to be donated through the Friends.
- Jazmene Evans said she is not seeing a lot from board members to support library programming and not following through with the goals the library board set. The library and staff are doing an amazing job, but she is not seeing efforts from the board to reach those goals.
- Julie Rogers submitted the following public comment on 7/1/2025 at 8:08am.

Make Corpus Christi Public Libraries a Priority

The Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Comparison provided for the July 1 Advisory Library Board meeting is very enlightening and demonstrates how the Corpus Christi Public Libraries

are not a priority. Out of the 15 cities compared*, Corpus Christi ranks twelfth (12th) among the top 15 cities in Texas. We are in the bottom three, along with Laredo and Lubbock, spending the least from their General Fund on public libraries. Corpus Christi spends 1.81% of the General Fund on our public libraries amounting to 6.2 million dollars while Laredo spends 1.73% amounting to 4.8 million dollars and Lubbock 1.56% amounting to 4.5 million dollars. Of the 15 compared Texas cities, Corpus Christi is last place for the least number of full-time employees (FTEs) per library.

Corpus Christi population of 317,317 is 56,057 greater than Laredo's 261,260 population and 45,231 greater than Lubbock's 272,086 population. Corpus Christi has 6 libraries. Laredo has 5 libraries, and Lubbock has 4 libraries.

Other cities comparable in size are Plano (293,286), Irving (264,762) and Garland (249,846) which have less libraries but spend more on them. Plano has 5 libraries with a budget of 15 million. Irving has 3 with a budget of 7.8, and Garland has 4 with a budget of 6.6.

In 2017, I became aware of the chronic underfunding of our Corpus Christi Public Libraries when I started serving on the Advisory Library Board. Since then, I have been told far too many times that we are not "the same" as Plano, Garland or Irving so we will never achieve the funding for libraries that they have. I have also tried to figure out what not being "the same" means and have ultimately concluded that our public libraries are not a priority for the decision-makers when it comes to funding. Maybe they don't see the value of them or they think people can find or buy the services elsewhere. Corpus Christi Public Libraries have a mission to improve literacy but we have not done what other cities have done which is to make the public libraries a priority.

Please use your influence and advocacy to make Corpus Christi Public Libraries a funding priority. We only need \$140,000 to increase the materials per the Library Director. Increasing materials will increase literacy. It's a priority. Increasing library staffing levels and improving the operating hours should be a priority also. This would not only improve literacy and enhance knowledge but it improves our public safety and quality of life.

Submitted by Julie Rogers, District 1 Resident

D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences

1. [25-1000](#) June 3 Library Board Minutes

Attachments: [June 3, 2025 Library Board Minutes - Draft](#)

A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Carrie Moore and seconded by Melinda De Los Santos. The motion passed unanimously. Carroll Matthews asked that her previous absence be excused. Jennifer Anderson motioned that she be excused, Melinda De Los Santos seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Committee Reports

2. [25-1001](#) Friends of CCPL Liaison Report

- The Friends of CCPL- Jennifer Anderson thanked Marilena Garza for navigating the donation process. She shared that the Friends are working with Laura on programming.

F. Staff Reports

3. [25-1002](#) Local History Department Overview

Attachments: [FamilySearch Presentation](#)

- Shelby Gonzalez, Special Collections and Archives Librarian gave an overview of the Local History Department. Topics included an overview of the department, starting your genealogy search, and an introduction to FamilySearch.

G. Director's Report

4. [25-1003](#) Director's Report

Attachments: [23181 - La Retama Central Library Exterior Renovation \(Bond22\) - DRAFT Presentation](#)

- Alan Carlos, Assistant Director, gave a presentation over the Bond 2022 renovation project at La Retama Central Library. Topics included the project background, project scope, project schedule, and renderings of the planned work.
- Laura Garcia gave statistics for the summer reading programs to date.

H. Unfinished Business

- None

I. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action

5. [25-1004](#) Further Discussion and Possible Action on Budget Support Letter

Attachments: [Library COMPS workseet for Jul 2025 mtg - Copy](#)

- Further Discussion and Possible Action On Budget Support Letter- Pat Craig shared data comparing CCPL to other cities in Texas for FY 2025. Melinda De Los Santos and Sony Peronel, Assistant City Manager discussed details of the budget. Pat suggested putting these charts in the budget letter. Pat then asked for more input from the board and encouraged those in attendance to contact their city council members requesting more funding for the library.

J. Future Agenda Items

- Budget letter to be sent to City Council.

K. Adjournment

Adjournment at 11:49 am.