



## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Library Board

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Tuesday, July 2, 2024

10:30 AM

La Retama Central Library, La Retama Room

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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, Joan Carrillo, Jennifer Anderson, Melinda De Los Santos, Alice Hawkins, Carroll Matthews, Dolores Rabon, Dora Wilburn

Present Virtually: None

Absent: None

#### **C. Public Comment**

- Pat Craig gave an overview of Robert's Rules of Order before Public Comment began.
- Kat Dutton loves books that represent different cultures, these helped find their gender identity. Books that show diversity, equity, and inclusion are needed. They also stated that without them, they would not be alive now – a happy trans kid at 15. DEI not only helps people learn, but also saves lives.
- Robert Kymes, director of Coastal Bend Pride Center did not see gay characters in books growing up and felt that DEI is important to keep in library policy.
- Carol Nash felt that if books about people who change their gender are on the shelves, books about people who change their gender back should also be on the shelves and that we should let kids be kids without giving labels or sexualizing them.
- Amy Cannon stated that she loves people no matter who they are but doesn't want things forced on kids. She thinks parents should decide what their children read. She has heard that there is pornography on the shelves, and that 6th grade is too young to be considered Young Adult.
- Shawn Flanagan stated that if we are going to seek truth, library procurement policies must change. Our policy is pulled from Austin, which is pulled from ALA. His research, not done at the library, says DEI is racist. The library board should be commended for removing censorship in our policy. He also thinks the process of challenging books

should be done by the community, not the library who chose the material.

- Dan Resley was upset that at the June meeting someone complained about too many Public Comments. He felt that as many people should speak as possible. He was also frustrated that our policies come from Austin and felt that nothing good that he's seen, comes from Austin.
- Martha Asuncion felt that we shouldn't be like other states, pushing children to change their gender. She stated that pornography destroys marriages. She also stated that we will all have to face God for our decisions. Asked how we are supposed to raise children the right way?
- Glenda Jefferies read the minutes from June and found comments that said our kids need a safe space to explore and terms like censorship, book banning, and what is legal and what is not. She also felt that childhood development should be considered when organizing library sections.
- Rocio Gonzalez stated that when she read as a child nothing directed her path toward a specific gender. She supports the LGBTQ community, but we need to not put those ideas in people's minds and stated that the human brain is still developing up to age 23.
- Sylvia Whitworth stated that being gay is not a choice that can be learned. If that were true heterosexual materials would have made gay people straight. She felt that if a book saves a life or raises self-esteem it is a good book. She also stated that people who claim to be pro-life but are against these books are lying to themselves.
- Esteban Macias stated that Moms for Liberty or Citizens Defending Freedom, that have infiltrated our city, they aim to destabilize and cause chaos in our library system. They use scare tactics and misleading tools to persuade others. He felt that some things should be censored but it should be up to the parents and felt that we should have a diverse collection.
- Maryann McGregor has loved the library since she was a little girl and feels that it is a place for learning and enriching lives. Parents should decide what their children read, and our librarians have done a wonderful job.
- Shannon Mayo stated that she agrees with Maryann McGregor's comments.
- Tom Tagliabue spoke on Item 3, the subcommittee report. He felt that the Collection Development Policy Subcommittee should be dismissed, it is useless. He supports the current policy and felt that the board is not a place for some members to act as the morality police. He felt that if DEI is removed some information about people, such as Hector P. Garcia and even Selena, who are important to the area could be erased. He stated that librarians are trained to follow TLA, TSLAC, and ALA. He also stated that people should be honest about their objections about current policy and the reason they want to change it.
- Becky Moeller spoke on Item 3, the subcommittee report. She stated that a draft of the subcommittee report should have been provided sooner. She felt that things shouldn't be done in secret, that it makes people wonder. She also felt that books do not change a person from who they are going to be anyway.
- Eli McKay spoke on Item 3, the subcommittee report. She stated that the Collection Development Policy isn't due for review until 2025, and that the committee seems premature. She supports the current policy and, quoted the section that supports diversity. She then defined diversity, equity, and inclusion. She stated that she hasn't

heard anything about how to use buildings, capital improvements, or increasing budgets. She felt that time could be better spent discussing those things.

- Vickie Natale spoke on Item 3, the subcommittee report. She stated that this is a public library, not a school library. She felt that a public library should serve everyone, not a few with an agenda. She felt that the LGBTQ community should have materials that support them, and sex education materials to help people identify sexual abuse and protect themselves. She felt that we should expand our collection to better understand people from other walks of life.
- Pat Craig stated that there has been no discussion to getting rid of LGBTQ books, sexually explicit books is all that's been talked about, and clarified the Board has no say regarding challenged material unless it has been appealed.

#### **D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences**

1. [24-1075](#) June 4 Library Board Minutes

Attachments: [June 4 Library Board Minutes - Draft](#)

A motion to approve the June minutes was made by Melinda De Los Santos and seconded by Alice Hawkins. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **E. Committee Reports**

2. [24-1076](#) Friends of CCPL Liaison Report

- Summer Reading programs are halfway through.
- Dr. William Chriss will be speaking at the Friends Annual meeting on October 12.
- Last month the National Association of Retired Federal Employees presented a donation to increase and expand sensory spaces.

3. [24-1077](#) Collection Development Policy Subcommittee Report

- Laura Garcia stated that the subcommittee, which consists of four board members, will provide recommendations regarding the Collection Development Policy. Staff makes the final decision regarding recommendations.
- Jennifer Anderson stated that they have met twice and are scheduling a third meeting. They are reviewing the Collection Development Policy and comparing it to similar policies to comparable cities.
- Melinda De Los Santos stated that Texas is no longer associated with ALA and started to share an article from the Caller Times, which she has previously cited she has shared previously citing concerns with the Library Board.
- Alice Hawkins made a point of order stating that Melinda's report was not agreed upon by the subcommittee. Laura reminded Melinda that any documents shared in a report should have been provided ahead of time. Pat Craig asked for clarification about what was agreed to and stated that Melinda's additional report needs to be added to the agenda before it can be shared.

**F. Director's Report****4. [24-1078](#) Director's Report**

- Laura provided statistics for the Summer Reading Programs.
- Alan Carlos, Assistant Director, stated that the credit card terminals have been installed at the self-checkout kiosks.
- Michelle Miller, Youth Services Librarian at La Retama Central Library, gave statistics for the sensory room usage at La Retama Central Library.
- Hopkins Library held the grand opening for the Family Place Library on May 30th.
- Summer hours will end on August 1st. Summer hours started on June 10th to provide more hours for cooling centers.
- The FY2025 budget will have a 5% reduction due to General Fund shortfall. This will reflect a 30% decrease in the materials budget.
- Alan provided a preview of the updated library website. It will be better for ADA compliance and a better use of resources.
- We are working on Parent Awareness brochures but will not print them until the website is updated.

**G. Unfinished Business**

- None

**H. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action**

- No New Business

**I. Future Agenda Items**

- Melinda De Los Santos motioned to add the reasons for reviewing the Collection Development Policy, including the Caller Times article she wanted to share, to the agenda. Carrie Moore seconded. Pat Craig opened the floor for discussion. Alice Hawkins stated that this has been shared before and is part of the minutes and asked for clarification on when to add an agenda item. Carrie Moore stated that it is good to be reminded but felt that the material could be printed out and distributed instead of rehashing. Laura stated that Legal went over this and that some of their materials could be provided. Carol Matthews stated that she doesn't have a problem with providing material but does not want to rehash the same information over again and that we should be focusing on the budget. Carrie Moore called the question, Joan Carrillo seconded. The motion to move to the previous question passed unanimously. Joan Carrillo, Melinda De Los Santos, and Dolores Rabon voted to add the reason for reviewing the Collection Development Policy to the agenda, Pat Craig, Carrie Moore, Jennifer Anderson, Alice Hawkins, Carroll Matthews, and Dora Wilburn voted against it. The motion did not pass.
- Laura added: discuss the priorities of the Library Board.

**J. Adjournment**

Adjournment at 11:48 am.