



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Library Board

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Tuesday, August 6, 2024

10:30 AM

La Retama Central Library, La Retama Room

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**Meeting cancelled, rescheduled to August 9th.**

**The City of Corpus Christi promotes participation regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or political belief. Reasonable accommodation is provided upon request and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For assistance or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact (361) 826-3300 at least 48 hours in advance. Upon request, this information can be available in larger print and/or in electronic format.**

**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**

- Tom Tagliabue stated that the only legitimate vote taken at the meeting should be to dissolve the Collection Development Policy Review Subcommittee. Stated that they are exceeding their authority in proposing policy changes. Decisions on what is pornographic or sexually explicit should be decided by the courts. Not all material dealing with LGBTQ subject matter is inappropriate. Collection development policies should be left to professionals.
- David Cobb stated he was disappointed in the recommendations and changes being suggested. Energy and resources should focus on things that will make a real impact on library services. It is the role of the parent to decide what a child checks out. There is a process to move and remove material wants a process in place to bring it back.
- Adair Apple, former school librarian, stated libraries provide books for the entire community, and you can decide what to read or not to read. She likes diversity and inclusion as part of current policy. When you work with people in poverty, the books in the library are the only books they have access to, restricting books would lose access to different world views.
- Daniel Resley wanted to thank the board for trying to move inappropriate books to the adult section, more work needs to be done and some board members need to

have their positions replaced.

- Catherine Cox spoke against banning books, and listed books that have been banned in schools in the past. If books that are banned in schools are not available in public libraries where might ban logically end? Intolerance speaks for itself.
- Bob Wilson stated that nobody will admit reading or seeing the movie "Hillbilly Elegy". He asked what would the library's position be of this book being in the library? He also said he cannot find anyone to say why this book has been available where kids can access it. Pat Craig clarified that he should speak to a librarian after the meeting for answers.
- Jan Kettenring stated that as a retired teacher she felt that instead of attacking the library board we should thank them for looking out for children by preventing exposure to obscene material in the library and schools. She stated we should use common sense.
- Sarah Corbett opposes removal of DEI in Collection development policy.
- Gail Bush stated that public libraries serve the needs of the entire community, and the community is diverse. Professional librarians have the training and expertise to meet the needs of everyone in our community. Let them do their job; they know what they are doing and are doing it very well. Parents can remove books from their child's stack to checkout, not from the library shelves so nobody else can read them. Decide what your kids can read but don't prevent other people's kids from finding themselves in the pages of a book. No small interest group or groups should impose their values on the tax paying citizens in a public library.
- Rhenn C. Bass Sr. banning books in public library is fundamentally a flawed policy that not only undermines free speech and an open society but hampers intellectual growth of the public. It limits access to diverse views and empowers a narrow subset of individuals to impose their limited world view on the public. When books are banned, the educational experience becomes diminished for students and denies them the opportunity to engage in complex and controversial topics. By limiting access to certain material, we prevent students from developing the ability to think independently. The undemocratic practice of banning books often requires the prejudices of a small group of individuals who seek to impose their moral, political, or cultural values on the entire educational system. This is contrary to free speech. Public institutions are responsible for upholding the first amendment. Removing books furthers ignorance and intolerance. Education should be a tool for empowerment.
- Dana Posey thanked the board and subcommittee. She stated that she was not raised in a religious home, but she was a voracious reader. She remembers reading a book with a sexually explicit scene. She said it left an ugly feeling inside since it would have been a wonderful book without the scene. She stated that children are only children for 18 years then they are adults. Sexually explicit materials are available on the internet. She stated that we are responsible for protecting their innocence while they are children. She stated that sexually explicit material should be moved to the adult section where parents can have access to it.
- Bill Isaacson over the years he has bragged about the library system. He spends time at the Neyland Library and asked when did you see a child reading a book that was inappropriate in the library? He stated that he has never seen pornography in the library or ever seen a child reading pornography. He said Parents go in with their

child. We're not all white Christian heterosexuals, there are books about people who may not look like you or sound like you. Children have computers in their pockets, they can read about DEI. Iran and Russian ban books, we need to keep our library from people trying to push political points.

- Justin Love stated that as a student and college pastor the board is being pressured to think that unless they force DEI and LGBT materials on students, liberty and freedom will be lost. As public servants, it is your duty to serve to the benefit of the public, some materials are not beneficial to minors. You are told by its supporters that age restriction is freedom inhibiting, that democracy will be lost. However, we block underage kids from all sorts of things; from bars, from watching pornography, getting tattoos, from getting life altering surgeries, from getting jobs. Nobody claims that these are freedom inhibiting. Why is it that it is freedom inhibiting when it comes to protecting children from sexual perversion at young ages, especially from materials? This is a lie from a perverse religion that demands obedience. I urge you as Timothy urged the cult of Dionysius to turn away from this. Obey Christ, fear Him, and do not cause children to stumble. Friends do not be intimidated. I urge you not only to restrict these materials, but to remove them completely from our libraries. Several members of the audience were intentionally disruptive, and the Chairperson warned that she would clear the room if they continued.
- Sylvia Whitworth said you need to remove all books from prying eyes that contain sex except the sex scenes from The Bible. Let kids learn about sex behind the bowling alley, penicillin is always available, and girls can be sent to a mothering home for nine months. Don't worry about the stepfather, strange uncle, or older man next door, they say its okay and buy her new lipstick and candy. The preacher says he can make her into an angel but don't tell anybody or it will break the spell. Those are the people who don't want professional books for teens available in the library, they might find out they can say no to predators. Without books in the library, kids can learn about sex from their phones. As for the holocaust, it is better to teach the American Revolution. The revolution won't happen again but if we don't watch ourselves, the holocaust might happen again. Wouldn't it be easier to let the professionals run the library instead of a bunch of radical outsiders?
- Guillermo Gallegos told the board not to be confused by how things are phrased (referring to subcommittee's CD proposal). They're trying to hide gay and trans people from their kids. Don't give in.
- Ruth David said she is impressed with meeting and all the people talking. She supports and volunteers at the libraries. She does not believe in book banning. Was shocked by the last two YA books she read but doesn't think anyone should be banned from reading them. If you don't like something in the library, don't let their kids read it. Thank you for keeping Garcia open. Concerned about La Retama – throwing money into it, but this room isn't big enough for the meetings, we need a microphone for people to speak and be heard. This is the United States, we don't need to ban books, we just need to control our children. Go with your kids when they check out books, if you don't like them, don't let them read them.
- Pat Craig made two statements of fact. There have been no discussion on removing any books from the library, and nobody on the board is employed by Citizens Defending Freedom.
- Marilena Garza Spoke on Item 5, The Collection Development Policy Subcommittee

Review Outcome and Possible Action. In regard to DEI references and articles, Citizens Defending Freedom has some of their members and employees on the board. On their website they claim to support and champion the American citizen whose freedom and liberty have been breached. They also say they support declaration of Independence. Yet – in revisions you're proposing, you're removing words like democracy, Bill of Rights, and freedom. This has leaked into City Council; many public comments have been about the board lately. She quoted the Declaration of Independence, including the pursuit of happiness. In order to have happiness you need a diverse, equitable, and inclusive approach. She also quoted that congress should make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the exercise thereof.

- Becky Moeller spoke on Item 5, The Collection Development Policy Subcommittee Review Outcome and Possible Action. She stated that she is glad there was no vote taken and objects to public business being conducted in private. She stated the Texas Open Meetings Act prevented doing so. She wanted to know what citizens had provided the input to the subcommittee. Were these citizens at the subcommittee meetings, which would have been inappropriate as would taking e-mails from those citizens. She said City ordinance 10.2.4 prevents closed meetings and the subcommittee should be disbanded. DEI was not a term ten years ago, but its is today. Brown v. The Board of Education was a steppingstone to get there, as was the civil right legislation. She then stated that we should give public comment three minutes to speak.

- Vickie Natale spoke on Item 5, The Collection Development Policy Subcommittee Review Outcome and Possible Action. She stated that Moms for Liberty tried to ban two bestselling books, "The Kite Runner", and "Slaughterhouse Five", from a high school in Florida this year. The school board did not agree with them and kept them on the shelves. This is an example of books being challenged because of references to sex buried deep in their complex story lines. Adding language to our library policies that removes materials from our young adult section, meaning ages 13–17-year-olds on materials that reference sex would lead to targeting books like "The Kite Runner" and "Slaughterhouse Five". It could also include "To Kill a Mockingbird" because the storyline centers on a courthouse case about rape or the Diary of Anne Frank because it talks about her body or sex in general. If you think a ban on the classics can not happen, just look at Rio Grande Valley and Mission ISD that banned 676 books in June of this year, including the Diary of Anne Frank and a number of books with Jewish themes. Citizens Defending Freedom in the valley are advocating for removing books about the holocaust, lumping them together with books containing sexual content. This is like trying to rewrite history and pretend the holocaust did not happen. The proposed changes removes all parental responsibilities and places that responsibility on our librarians. It requires books that contain any refence to sex not be accessible by children or teens, which would require placing all such materials in a locked room and hiring a bouncer at the door to check IDs before entering. How else can you prevent a 17-year-old from walking over to the adult section, picking up a book, and reading it? These groups say they are not doing this but look at their track record.

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

A motion to approve the July minutes was made by Carrie Moore and seconded by Jennifer Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.

1. [24-1291](#) July 2 Library Board Minutes

**Attachments:** [July 2 Library Board Meeting Minutes - Draft](#)

#### **E. Friends of CCPL Liaison Report**

2. [24-1292](#) Friends of CCPL Liaison Report

- The Children's and Teens' summer reading programs have finished but the adult programs are ongoing.
- The Friends summer newsletter will go out next month.
- The Friends are looking for new ways to raise funds.

#### **F. Director's Report**

3. [24-1293](#) Director's Report

- September is national library card sign up month
- 3,357 children participated in the summer reading program from June 5 through July 29. During that time 104,391 books were checked out.

#### **G. Unfinished Business**

- None

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

4. [24-1295](#) Proposed Budget Presentation and Possible Action

**Attachments:** [August 9 Library Board Budget Presentation](#)

- Proposed Budget Presentation and Possible Action-Laura gave an overview of the proposed changes to the FY2026 budget. These had previously included the temporary closure of Dr. Clotilde P. Garcia Library with a total reduction of \$648,000. The alternate proposal changes include reducing 6 positions across 6 libraries and a decrease in hours at all locations with a total reduction of \$192,329. Patricia Craig asked if we are happy with the proposal and what the board can do. Laura suggested voting to support it. Alice Hawkins made a motion to support the proposed budget changes, Joan Carrillo seconded. Everyone but Dora voted to support the proposed changes except for Dora Wilburn who abstained. The motion passed.

5. [24-1294](#) Collection Development Policy Subcommittee Review Outcome and Possible Action

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**Attachments:** [Table of Recommendations Per SC Member](#)  
[Recommendations for Revisions of CCPL CDP](#)  
[CCPL CDP Tracked Changes](#)  
[Recommendations for Terminology Removal](#)  
[Excerpts of Reconsideration Policies from Benchmark Cities](#)  
[DEI References](#)  
[DEI Articles](#)  
[Dallas Reconsideration Policy](#)  
[Corpus Christi Library Board Subcommittee Recommendation](#)  
[Committee Recommendations from Citizens](#)

- Collection Development Policy Subcommittee Review Outcome and Possible Action- Pat Craig asked if the Collection Development Policy Review Subcommittee had come to a consensus. Jennifer Anderson replied that they had not met a consensus. Pat stated that it was brought to her attention by city staff that if no consensus was met there could be no vote. No action was taken.

6. [24-1305](#) Vote to Dissolve the Collection Development Review Subcommittee

- Vote to Dissolve the Collection Development Policy Review Subcommittee – A motion to dissolve the Collection Development Policy Review Committee was made by Jennifer Anderson and Seconded by Alice Hawkins. All voted in favor of dissolving the subcommittee except Dora Wilburn who was not in the room at the time of the vote.

7. [24-1296](#) Library Board Priorities Discussion

- Library Board Priorities Discussion- Pat Craig opened the floor for board members to list their priorities for the board. Alice Hawkins asked if it was possible to get feedback on what the priorities are other than more money for the library. Laura suggested discussing services at the library. Alice then asked about the survey mentioned previously. Laura said we are working with a survey company and will have an update at the next meeting. The library is looking at ways to move forward into a digital future. She encouraged the board to research other services that can be offered and gave the sensory room as an example of a service that was suggested this way. Alice asked if a presentation on services can be given later. Pat stated that feedback would be welcomed later, and Joan Carrillo agreed that it would be a good idea to research services.

I. **Future Agenda Items**

- None

J. **Adjournment**

Adjournment at 11:52 am.