



Meeting Minutes - Final

Library Board

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

10:30 AM

La Retama Central Library, First Floor

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

Present Virtually: None

Absent: Dolores Rabon

C. Public Comment

- Guillermo Gallegos thinks that the new library cards are too expensive, and that the library should make financially responsible decisions.
- Julie Rogers was dressed as a character in the book "Maus". The book "Maus" is in the library, and she says they will keep it in the library. Pat Craig made a statement of fact that nobody is trying to remove books from the library.
- Christina English was in costume from "Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress". She said LGBT books are segregated and banned elsewhere.
- Marilena Garza was in costume from "The Handmaiden's Tale". She thought it is refreshing to talk about getting appropriate funding for the library. Then, in character, said we must protect our children from freedom of choice.
- Becky Moeller said the idea to remove, relocate, or make it difficult to find books is scrubbing people from history. She said some libraries are being "cleansed" of things that don't have the "right" ideology and doesn't think we should remove from the cemeteries the black soldiers and Navajo code talkers. She then asked to allow 3 minutes for public comment.
- Shawn Flanagan said that moving books is a compromise and the cost is miniscule compared to warming centers. He also said we should not focus on things happening elsewhere, only on Corpus Christi and move on to other issues that need to be addressed.

- Written Public Comment received 3/31/25 11:52am

My name is Elena Martinez and I am a citizen of Corpus Christi. I am writing to express my concern that so many religious arguments are not only being made but listened to at library board meetings. The library board meetings happen at 10:30 am on Tuesday and I, like most working citizens, am unable to attend and rely on individuals livestreaming to get an accurate portrayal of what is actually happening during these meetings. Although I am a devout Catholic, I am also a staunch believer in separation of church and state. Religious ideology, whether I agree with it or not, has no place in our government, and should have no bearing on policies. When you, as a board, attempt to placate and mollify the militant religious community, you are placing a single faith and belief system above the rest in a governmental capacity, this is not only immoral and unethical, but illegal. I am SHOCKED that so few individuals seem to care about this separation that is outlined in our constitution. Additionally, I hear over and over again that X number of books contain inappropriate material in the children's section as well as vague accusations of pornographic and illicit material. I implore you to DEMAND evidence and examples of these books. For these claims to be credible, they must come with evidence. Not once has a list of these so-called "inappropriate materials" in the children's section been provided. If they can provide a number, then a list of titles should be a simple matter to produce.

Please remember that becoming a qualified librarian requires Masters Degree at minimum and that library staff are underpaid and overworked as it is. Please allow experts in their field to put their education and training to use instead of listening to individuals who do not realize that book burnings always end up on the wrong side of history.

Stop worrying about making everyone happy and focus on doing the right thing.

Thank You,

Elena Martinez

- Written Public Comment received 3/31/25 2:16pm

Dear Sir - as a concerned resident of Corpus Christi, I would like to express my opposition to the issuance of restricted cards for juveniles and teens at our public libraries. The projected cost of \$15-25,000 would be better spent on increasing library hours, staff and materials instead. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. -

Beth Stockley

- Written Public Comment received 3/31/25 4:10pm

It seems as though the current appointed by council library board has the wrong priorities. For years, city council has determined that libraries serve no function and have underfunded the library system. As a result, location hours and staff hours have been cut.

I am one of the few, if not the only Corpus Christi resident who was grounded in high school for being at the library. The library was, and continues to be, my safe space.

I could sit for hours reading, whatever book I chose.

Rather than continue limiting what people can read, the library board should be promoting reading. Rather than requesting \$15,000-25,000 for a new system of library cards, instead request the city to keep libraries open. Rather than shoving their values down our throats, they should be promoting development of our own values based on the knowledge we have; that gotten by using the library to learn more.

Thank you.

Lisa Orsborn Hernandez
5826 Llano Dr.
Corpus Christi, TX 78407
Lisa81412@gmail.com
361-946-7707

Sent from my iPad

- Written Public Comment received 3/31 9:24am

I am a resident in Corpus Christi (78414).

We don't need to spend \$15-25,000 on new restricted cards for juveniles and teens.

We want and deserve a strong, vibrant and well-funded public library system in Corpus Christi. In cities like Seattle, their public library system has thrived by offering innovative programs such as digital literacy workshops and community engagement events. Additionally, the New York Public Library has successfully implemented extensive after-school programs that support youth education and development. These examples demonstrate how a well-funded library system can significantly benefit and enrich a community.

Corpus Christi could implement similar initiatives by introducing digital literacy workshops to help residents navigate technology more effectively. Additionally, hosting community engagement events like book clubs, author talks, and cultural festivals can foster a sense of community and promote lifelong learning. These programs can enhance the library's role as a central hub for education and social interaction

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission reports in its latest statistics (2023) that the operating revenue per capita for Corpus Christi was \$18.13 while the average for cities of similar size was \$25.98.

We need to focus on additional funding so we can have things like: convenient and expanded hours of operation; more staff; full and secure accreditation; a collection of print and electronic materials that is current and growing; programs and presentations in partnership with community organizations; current and up-to-date technology; access and support for local history archives; reference services that help the community formulate questions and access resources; security for patrons, personnel and resources; and well maintained facilities and equipment.

Margot Moczygomba
6105 Jessica Drive
956-460-7956

- Public Comment received 4/1/25 9:38am

My name is Christine Galus. I live in Corpus Christi, postal code 78413.

I'm writing to oppose the proposed implementation of an enhanced library card for use in limiting access to certain books by those 17-25 years old.

The cost, estimated \$15,000 to \$25,000, is better used to expand library hours and the catalog of materials.

Sent from my iPhone

- Public Comment received 4/1/25 9:44am

Concerns about parental "rights" expressed at board meetings bothers me.

Parenting lesson #1 : with rights come huge, long-term responsibilities!

Parental responsibilities include Knowing what your children are doing. Learn about and go through their phones and computers. Hard work. I did it as a single parent,

while working full-time. Public money is for the public good,, hundreds of thousands whom the library serves.

Parental responsibilities are best left to parents, neighbors, friends, relatives, religious communities, etc I vehemently disagree with using Our money for those new library cards, while the library is being intentionally defunded.

Thank you.

Alma Garcia

• Public Comment received 4/1/24 10:09am

Hello, my name is Gail Busch, and I live in Corpus Christi, city council district 2.

Corpus Christi public libraries do not need to spend \$15,000 or more to solve a non-existent problem. We do not need email restricted cards for children and teens. Parents who want to control what their children read are already free to do so. They are not free to control what other peoples' children read, and this city should stop wasting resources to satisfy a small sectarian interest group.

What our libraries do need is expanded hours of operation, *books and other materials*, and staff; more librarians to join the qualified and excellent librarians that serve our community so well.

Best Regards,

Gail Busch

• Public Comment Received 4/1/25 10:59am

Good morning,

I'm still very frustrated about the

\$15,000 - \$25,000 not needed extra expense the lib bd & the city manager Peter Zaroni approved.

We don't need to spend that nor do we need new restricted cards for juveniles and teens.

What we do need is better operating hours, more materials and staff instead.

Thank you,

Merida Forrest

361-249-8579

aleli420@yahoo.com

D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences

1. [25-0477](#) March 4, 2025 Library Board Minutes

Attachments: [March 4, 2025 Library Board Minutes - Draft](#)

A motion to approve the March minutes was made by Carrie Moore and seconded by Melinda De Los Santos. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Committee Reports

2. [25-0478](#) Friends of CCPL Liaison Report

• The Friends of CCPL- No report was given.

F. Staff Presentation**3. [25-0479](#) Early Literacy in Library Programs**

Attachments: [Early Literacy in library programs](#)

- Marlena Ferretiz, Youth Services Librarian at Owen Hopkins Public Library, Presented on early literacy in library programs. Topics included early literacy skills, library programs, the importance of play, and an overview of Family Place Play Areas at Corpus Christi Public Libraries.

G. Director's Report**4. [25-0480](#) Director's Report**

- La Retama bond 2022 exterior renovation project – bids are due at the end of April.
- Summer Reading theme is “Color Your World” and will run from June 2 to July 27. Staff will provide a brief overview in May.
- The Week of the Young Child celebration will be Saturday April 12, from 12pm-3pm at La Retama Central Library.

H. Unfinished Business

- None

I. New Business for Discussion**5. [25-0481](#) Board Member - Proposed Budget for FY 2026 Discussion**

Attachments: Library Budgets

- Board Member – Proposed Budget for FY 2026 Discussion. Joan Carrillo presented library budgets of comparable cities and the Corpus Christi Health Department. She included Shreveport, Louisiana because she felt that it is in one of the poorest states. Discussion was held on personnel cuts during the previous fiscal year. Jennifer Anderson asked if the library will be affected by less IMLS funding. Laura said we are not pursuing hot spot funding as a result. Pat Craig asked for an update on the new design for Garcia Public Library and then asked the board members for possible ideas she could take to City Council.

J. Future Agenda Items

- Further budget discussion and detail.

K. Adjournment

Adjournment at 11:30 am.