



City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
cctexas.com

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Library Board

Tuesday, December 3, 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, Carroll Matthews, Dolores Rabon, Dora Wilburn

Present Virtually: None

Absent: None

C. Public Comment

- Daniel Resley is glad to see the library board is making progress. It looks like the problem has been solved. He noticed the absence of an irritating member. It looks like the board is making good progress moving books to an appropriate section for adults. He is glad to see that.
- Michael Rittgers read excerpts from "Foul is Fair" by Hannah Capin that he thinks is inappropriate. This can be found in the Young Adult section of the Garcia Library. He said this book has zero socially redeeming value and should not be offered to anyone, much less anyone under 18. He requested that the book be removed from the Young Adult section and be moved to the adult section of the library. Laura Garcia clarified the distinction between Young Adult and Adult would be made later.
- Dara Rittgers read excerpts from "And They Lived" by Steven Salvatore that she thought were sexually explicit. This can be found in the Young Adult section of the Garcia Library. It is incomprehensible that young adults have easy access to this type of literature in our public libraries. She believes they should not have access to material like this without parental involvement. She then asked that this book be relocated to the adult section. This simple action would help minimize their access to this sexually explicit literature.
- Tom Tagliabue asked that materials presented at the meetings be posted at the same time the agenda is posted as City Council does with their documents. The

public deserves the opportunity to review and make informed comments about your business. For transparency purposes, making them available 30 minutes prior to the board meeting opening is a disservice and does a disservice to open government. On item 8, Legal Review, the document only talks about one case. I hope that a more robust legal analysis will be done than looking at one single case. Finally, he noticed that there are documents related to current and draft Collection Development Policy. That item is not on the agenda for discussion or action, it would be inappropriate to have that item discussed. Laura Garcia clarified that staff puts out the materials and it is on staff for not having it out sooner and the documents related to the Collection Development Policy are for the legal presentation and there is no voting on anything today.

- Marilena Garza wanted to speak about agenda item 5, the Homeless Initiatives. She commends the work that La Retama has done offering services only available at La Retama. The last count at the beginning of this year had 1,100 homeless people, and the next count in January will be 1,400 minimum. Emergency shelter grant funding is available from HUD that is not in the budget. Over \$150,000 is available for emergency shelter funding. They are using the library as a scapegoat, just as they use the police as a scapegoat. They don't want to deal with them, so just put them over there. We know what's been going on, and what they have been using the library for. This has me concerned. She hopes the board will talk about funding, and how we are going to go about this. It is hard to be optimistic when looking at the proposed revisions. She is worried because people who ban books, burn books, and those same people ban people like her from going places and eventually drag them off to the gas chambers. She is not going to sit here and watch that. She learned about that in the fourth and fifth grade in the library and public education. She is not going to sit here and have you guys attack certain groups like you have been doing.

- Dana Posey read excerpts from two different books that she thought were very sexually explicit at the last two meetings. Both were found in the section for teenagers, one of which was found in the Young Adult section. Teenagers are not adults. Teenagers are not young adults, they are kids. Anyone under the age of 18 is still a kid. She appreciates the fact the library is going to consider looking at moving books around but unless you go through each book or look it up on websites that rate them for their graphicness, you are going to have the same issue. We have two groups of people here. People who think that it is ok for kids to read sexually explicit material and those that do not. Who is right? I think that it would do us well to listen to the ultimate authority, which is Jesus. She then read from the Bible in John chapter 3 verses 19-21. "This is the verdict; light has come into the world but men love darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light so that it may be plainly seen what has been done through God." She then encouraged the members who are on the board who are trying to keep sexually explicit material away from children who are doing God's work.

- Shawn Flanagan said we all have a cell phone. You can get any kind of pornography known to man on a cell phone if you allow it to happen. The issue here is not banning books, the issue is deciding what our taxpayer funded money is going toward for juveniles and kids under 18. At the last meeting, staff made the statement that there is

no pornography in the library. He gave an example of "Gender Queer" which is available at the Neyland Library under the K in the biography section. He said it is pornography. There are sexually explicit materials in the library under the Young Adult section. He checked this book out yesterday. What we are arguing about is not whether we are trying to marginalize certain people or not. What we are trying to do is make sure our taxpayer funded books actually provide a safe space for parents to send their kids with the idea that they are not going to be exposed to everything they can be exposed to on our cell phones. This is not about denigrating anybody, this is about keeping our children safe or allowing the parents to have the ability to do that so that when they go into the library it's not necessarily going to be a place where they are not knowingly exposing their kids to sexually explicit materials. God bless you for doing this, I know there is a lot of thought that goes into it. We do need changes made to these policies. What you are putting forward are good, please don't allow them to be propagandized.

- Katy O'Callaghan appreciates all the work the board has been doing to update the processes and procedures. She knows that it is a huge task. She wanted to think about other options for children in the preteen/teen category. The bond has passed so it looks like we will be separating out the Garcia Library from Kaffie Middle School. In the process of choosing which way to vote in the fall, she thought "how great would it be to have a cooperative effort with the school right there on the campus and find out if the choir teacher or the band instructor would be willing to come into the library and have a songwriting session for middle school students?" How great would that be? You could incorporate prose, poetry, and help them express themselves. I think that would be something you might want to consider until it gets separated out. Once it does, what about the possibility of using space at the new Del Mar south campus? Why couldn't we promote generational interaction? We already have the library there for early childhood, we could have them come to the community college and they might want to go to school there. Laura Garcia clarified that the Kaffie Middle library is no longer part of the Garcia Library. They have their materials in the school. Garcia Library closes from 4-6pm since students have their own library inside the school. Katy O'Callaghan stated that her proposal was as a cooperative effort to promote using the resources at the middle school with those trained in music. Laura thanked her for her suggestions and stated that we have tried numerous programs, but students do not want to participate after school and the students came to socialize instead.

- Rachel Caballero said she doesn't come to the library board meetings because she hears they are scary. She thinks that we are all adults in this room, and we have the same common interest, protecting our kids and making sure they have safe materials. She is lost at the fact that as adults, we can't come to some kind of agreement and understanding. We are behaving more like the children we are trying to protect, instead of using common sense as adults, coming to the table understanding each other instead of anger, name calling, and all those other things. The last meeting she came to was earlier in the year and she hoped the environment had changed because people were understanding this and got some wisdom through all the different things happening in the world. We all live in the same city; we all have to understand each other and speak to both sides. We all have a common denominator in our kids and keeping them safe. Hopefully at some point we will get to a point where we can be

adults, have civilized conversations and take the anger and emotion out of it. She talked to everybody and knows that nobody wants to put anybody in a concentration camp. I think we can find some peace in this. We are all adults, both sides are intelligent, and I think we can do this. It is alarming that we are still here.

- Shana Fuller appreciates all that the board and library staff are doing. As a kid she moved more than 30 times, and the library was one of her favorite places to go wherever they lived. When she was a young teen, she picked up a book for young adults that she thought was fine, but her parents did not. The book was about a young girl and a man that was teaching her piano lessons but was grooming her and leading her into pedophilia. She is thankful that she had parents who were attentive.

- Dorothy Dundas asked if the public had the right to videotape the meeting. Pat Craig replied that she can. Dorothy stated that child pornography is illegal under federal law. In all states, it is punishable by up to life in prison and fines up to \$250,000. The supreme court found child pornography to be outside the protection of the First Amendment. It is not okay or allowed. She defined child pornography per the Webster's Dictionary, including causing an intense emotional reaction. Having had three teenagers, the books read earlier would cause an emotional reaction. She does not appreciate that our libraries are allowing pornography to be available to children. There is a law against pornography for children, so she does not understand why we are discussing this. She has always been a fan of the library; her own children used the library. She will not take her grandchildren while this material is available, it is offensive, and it is inappropriate. Have a background in child development, this is not good role modeling at all. It is not healthy, and it is not appropriate to try to put this in children's hands.

- Samuel Fryer said we need to clean our ears out from the filth read earlier. He read from the Bible. "For you know the instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, the sanctification that you abstain from sexual immorality that each one of you know how to control his body in sanctification and honor and not in passion and lust like the Gentiles who do not know God. That no one should take advantage of or wrong a brother or sister in this manner, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things. As also, we forewarned you and testified for God has called us not for uncleanness but for the sanctification. Therefore, he who rejects this, does not reject man, but God who has also given his spirit to you." For those who were standing firm to make sure kids don't get filth in the ears or in their minds and corrupting them, I thank you. You are on the right side of judgment. For those who decided this is book banning to keep it from children, we all will be judged. He thanked and encouraged the board to keep doing what they are doing.

- Eli McKay spoke before Item 9, the Annual Report Update. I'm always amazed how professional and qualified our city staff are. Some things were said that are upsetting. Nobody thinks that kids should read sexually explicit material. It is the parent's job to be in their life and see what they're reading. Some things being talked about need to discuss things with a therapist. I have never seen a group so hyper focused on sex. In your report – please embrace the community as a whole. It is diversity that makes our community strong and beautiful.

1. [24-1977](#) Sally Palmer December 2024 Public Comment

Attachments: [Sally Palmer December 2024 Public Comment](#)

D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences

2. [24-1978](#) November 12 Library Board Minutes

Attachments: [November 12 Library Board Minutes - Draft](#)

A motion to approve the November minutes was made by Carrie Moore and seconded by Dolores Rabon. The motion passed unanimously. Jennifer Anderson asked that her previous absence be excused. A motion to excuse her previous absence was made by Carrie Moore and seconded by Joan Carrillo. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Friends of CCPL Liaison Report

3. [24-1979](#) Friends of CCPL Liaison Report

- The Friends of CCPL are working on the winter newsletter that should go out soon.

F. Director's Report

4. [24-1980](#) Director's Report

Attachments: [December 3 Director's Report](#)

- Corpus Christi Public Libraries will be closed starting December 25 and will reopen January 2, 2025.
- Work on the ceiling and floors at La Retama Central Library is continuing.
- Laura Garcia gave a brief overview of parental awareness material including paper copies and electronic resources. A program titled Library 101 was offered in the fall, but nobody attended.
- In 2025, presentations by partnering organizations such as the Corpus Christi Literacy Council and Success by Six will be provided. Staff will give a presentation on programs such as the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program.

G. Unfinished Business

- None

H. Staff Reports

5. [24-1999](#) Homeless Initiatives

Attachments: [Item 5. Homeles Initiatives](#)

- Jayne Atokuku-Vitz, reference librarian at La Retama Central Library, gave a presentation of services provided to the homeless population. Topics covered

included a social work intern at La Retama Central Library who distributes hygiene kits provided by TAMUK and donations, our Winter Coat Drive, storage container at La Retama Central Library, resources on our website, and cooling/warming centers at La Retama Central Library. Pat Craig asked where the funding for the storage container came from, Laura said it costs about \$100 per month and comes from the library budget but we are looking at getting a smaller one.

6. [24-2002](#) Library Card Current Options and New Option Under Consideration

Attachments: [Item 6. Library Card Current Options and New Option Under Consideration](#)

- Laura Garcia provided an overview of current library card options and clarification on similarities and differences of the new Parent Must Be Present Youth Card with the current Youth Card. Joan Carrillo asked if we would be switching from one to the other, Laura explained that it is just an option. Carrie Moore said that these changes cost money and that we don't have that money to spend. Pat Craig asked if this was done anywhere else and Laura said that Victoria has something similar and gave statistics that showed it wasn't used much. If it would not be used it might not be worth it to implement and could be brought up in a survey. Carrie said if we educate parents with the informational pamphlets, we will not have to spend the money on the new card. Dora stated that it is up to parents to decide what their children can read. Melinda De Los Santos suggested putting parental advisory on the youth card like the application. Laura stated that we are not going to censor, and this is the only way we would restrict what children would check out.

7. [24-2003](#) Brief Overview of Teen Section Under Consideration

Attachments: [Item 7. Brief Overview of Teen Section Under Consideration](#)

- Laura Garcia provided a brief overview of the new Teen section under consideration. Medical and legal definitions of young adult do not use the same age range as libraries and YA reading material. In libraries, professional standards categorize reading materials for ages 13-17 as "Young Adult." The material in the YA section is age appropriate according to publishers and professional reviews. During board meetings and public comments, concerns have been expressed over using the term "young adult" for minors. The new Teen section under consideration will be of interest to younger teens ages 13-17. The current Young Adult section will be moved closer to adult books and be geared toward older teens. Pat asked if the publishers say they are young adult, Laura said that yes, they come categorized. Dora Wilburn asked if we always agree with the ratings on booklooks. Laura said that we don't always agree. Melinda asked how we are determining where the books will go and Laura said we are looking at a variety of things, but she made it clear we are not going to censor, and it is still up to the parent if their child can check out a book.

8. [24-1981](#) City Legal- Update on Case Law and Recommendations for Collection Development Policy

Attachments:[Legal Update Texas Libraries](#)[Legal Highlights CCPL Collection Development Policy Recommendations](#)

• Jacqueline Salinas-Bazan, assistant city attorney, gave an update on current case law and recommendations for the Collection Development Policy. Topics covered included an update on Leila Green Little, et al. v. Llano County from the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, and recommendations for the proposed changes to the Collection Development Policy. Joan Carrillo stated that the case was not similar to what the board wanted to do. She said they want to move books because of obscenity not because we do not like the books. Jacqueline said we need to look at similar cases and Laura pointed out that some public comments have mentioned removing books. Melinda pointed out that the removal in the case was done through weeding, not the reconsideration process. Laura stated that weeding was common practice. Pat asked for clarification on what weeding means. Laura clarified and explained the differences between weeding and the reconsideration process. Recommendations from Legal include using appropriately specific language in the proposed changes.

I. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action**9. 24-1982 Annual Report Update**

• Pat Craig gave an update on the annual report. Goals are to increase literacy and increase funds. The library has increased attention this year but not necessarily increased attendance. She then asked for input from the board members. The report will be ready in January.

J. Future Agenda Items

• None

K. Adjournment

Adjournment at 1:11pm.