



Meeting Minutes - Final

Library Board

Tuesday, May 7, 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

- Julie Rogers –Wants to be on record that she supports and voted for the Collection Development Policy, when she was a Board member, because it mentions we must follow the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which Board members as well as elected officials are sworn to uphold. She recommends focus be given to the budget and consider funding for the library as they serve as cooling centers. Also, she felt the public did not have enough time to review the information regarding the book that is up for reconsideration.

- Marilena Garza – Stated that she is a native of Beeville which is a very conservative town; however, her school offered sex education classes. She was also able to get factual information from her local library, which prepared her to handle unwanted sexual advancements as a young adult. She voiced strong concerns on the negative impact challenges to books will have on members of the LGBTQ community and result in them further being isolated and becoming homeless individuals. She addressed comments to Shawn Flanagan (afterwards the Chair reminded everyone that comments should be addressed only to the Board). She mentioned that she has a 501c3 non-profit and works with the homeless population and sees their struggles, often these individuals have been raped and sexually abused.

- Shawn Flanagan- Reconsideration Appeal Item 8 – Stated that he found a book that's a

grooming tool for pedophiles, does not like kids abused that's why does not like books of this nature in the young adult section of the Garcia Library on the grounds of Kaffie Middle School. He recommended the book be removed from the library, which was rejected and is appealing that decision to the Board. He states that throughout the book the author says children should refer to parents or trusted adults when making sexual decisions, and that a pedophile to a child is a trusted adult. To understand why he calls this book a pedophile grooming book he read a segment from page 63 regarding anal sex. He stated this is not educational, it is enticement. He feels the entirety of the book is about sexual exploitation of children, that's the purpose it was written for. The book is designed to sexualize children for the advantage of adults who take advantage of them. Additionally, as a result of going through this process to remove this book, it's apparent that the current system needs to be reformed. Through this appeal he has provided some suggestions.

- Dr. Vickie Natale spoke during Agenda Item 8 Reconsideration Appeal. On the agenda is the appeal by Shawn Flanagan to remove a book. This book is an informative guide on topics of sex education written by a middle school teacher who has graduate education on human sexuality. It is described as a non-judgmental, informative and easy to understand. It covers definitions on a topic, explains the reproductive anatomy and puberty, explains about STDs and how to protect against them, about birth control and what is LGBTQ. These are essential topics for teenagers to understand.

D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences

1. [24-0729](#) April 2 Library Board Minutes

Pat Craig motioned to amend the April minutes to say, "school superintendents", not "school librarians" under item 4 and "'Kingdom of Ash' in CCISD middle schools" under item 6. Carrie Moore seconded. The motion passed unanimously. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Joan Carrillo and seconded by Jennifer Anderson. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Friends of CCPL Liaison Report

2. [24-0730](#) Friends of CCPL Liaison Report

- The Friends are working on updating their logo.
- The June newsletter will be sent out soon.
- The Friends are supporting the Summer Reading program which begins on June 1st.
- The Friends annual meeting will be held in October and will be open to the public.

F. Director's Report

3. [24-0731](#) Director's Report

- Family Place Library ribbon cutting at the Hopkins Library, details pending. The Friends of CCPL were awarded \$25K from the Barbara Bush Houston Literacy Foundation.

- Neyland Public library may close for one week at the end of May as construction crews demolish the restrooms as part of a renovation project.
- The E-rate Network Equipment purchase will be on the May 14 Council Agenda.
- Presented excerpts from the Public Service Policies available on library website.
- Library Operations - Customer Service 100.02 To Meet Diverse Needs of the Community. Discussion of confidential patron issues will be handled discreetly, preferably in non-public areas. Staff will not offer personal opinions or advice to customer queries.
- Patron Guidelines Privacy and Confidentiality 100.12 - Confidentiality of Library Records per Texas Government Code Title 5 Section 552.124. Patron confidentiality is ensured during the Request for Reconsideration process. Confidentiality does not apply during a Request for Reconsideration appeal to the Library Board.
- Presented FY2022 Annual Report comparisons. During the April meeting, a Board member read portions of the collection development policies of the Autauga Prattville Public Library (Alabama) and the Campbell County Public Library System (Wyoming) and asked if that information could be included in the CCPL collection development policy. FY2022 annual reports were used to compare information such as their population service area and collection size with that of CCPL.

G. Unfinished Business

H. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action

4. [24-0732](#) Engineering Services Presentation - Proposed Bond 2024 Program

Attachments: [Proposed Bond 2024 Program - Townhalls \(1\)](#)

- Engineering Services presentation- Dr. Young of engineering services presented possible projects for the 2024 Bond initiative.

5. [24-0733](#) Presentation - Texas Administrative Code - Title 13, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter A - Repeal of Rule 2.4 Principles

Attachments: [May Texas Administrative Code Attachment](#)

- Agenda item 5 - Director provided information regarding the repeal of Texas Administrative Code – Title 13, Part 1, Chapter 2, Subchapter A – Rule 2.4 Principles.

6. [24-0734](#) Review of the Adult and Youth Library Card Applications

Attachments: [May Review of Youth and Adult Library Card Applications Attachment](#)

- Agenda item 6 – Director presented the revised library card applications for adults and youth and requested feedback from board members. Carrie Moore suggested moving the parent information to the top of the library card application. Melinda de Los Santos asked if an alert on materials of concern could be placed. The Director said the library would not label specific material. Melinda asked if parents could get alerts on titles checked out. The Director indicated the system provides alerts at checkout and

requested staff to elaborate. Daniel Schwartz, Hopkins Library Managing Librarian, explained how e-mail notifications can be set up for parent/guardians to receive an alert regarding what is checked out on their child's card. Text notification is available; however, there are some issues, more information can be provided at another meeting. The Authorization for Checking Out Materials form was also presented as it now includes a section for minors. Pat Craig recommended some grammatical changes. She and Carrie will email their recommendations.

7. [24-0735](#) Discussion to Establish a Subcommittee to Review the Collection Development Policy

Attachments: [May CD Policy Subcommittee Attachment](#)
[Collection Development Policy](#)

• Agenda item 7 – Subcommittee to Review the Collection Development Policy (CDP)- Director provided a list of Texas cities that are used as a benchmark and should be considered when researching CDP's. Sony Peronel, Assistant to the City Manager, explained that the standard is to use Texas cities when comparing best practices, rather than cities from other states. He provided several examples of why we compare to the 7 cities above us as well as a few below us in population. A motion to form a Subcommittee to review and make recommendations on the CDP was made by Melinda De Los Santos and Seconded by Carrie Moore. Pat then opened the floor for discussion. Melinda wants the subcommittee to review polices and quoted from an article in which some Corpus Christi Council Members expressed concerns regarding some library material. Melinda stated that the Council wants the Board to address some of the concerns that individuals have been bringing to them and Board members, specifically material with sexually explicit content. She stated that the Council voted new members in because they wanted them to put a system in place that would limit/restrict minors access to sexually explicit material by age appropriateness. Sony asked that the Board should consider what they want their top priorities to be, to provide at least 3. If the top priority is to consider the placement of books in certain sections, then that can continue being the focus of every meeting. If it's literacy, then focus can be placed on that. He clarified that adoption of City policy rests with the City Manager. He stated that it's up to the Board who is on the subcommittee; however, if the committee is composed of individuals with the same viewpoint, then what's the point of forming the committee. Alice Hawkins asked that during these discussions, going forward, information brought to the table be validated to the extent possible. She stated that Melinda was reading something, and she would like to know about the information she was putting out there. She would like to see or hear some kind of validation regarding all these concerns that have been voiced to the City Council or other people because she has not heard any of these things over the past several years. She realizes that sometimes we are not privy to the source but to the extent possible statements should be validated. Melinda stated that the article she read from was from the Caller-Times. Pat stated that the discussion on the table was just for people to bring up their opinions. Dora Wilburn asked for further clarification on the purpose of the subcommittee. She stated that the Request for Reconsideration of Material is the process available to patrons concerned about material. Like Mr. Flanagan, he submitted a Request for Reconsideration, Therefore, she does not see a

need to form a subcommittee. Pat indicated that challenges and the review of the CD policy are different. Dora and Carroll Matthews stated that they do not feel it is up to the committee to develop policy. Pat stated that they would work with staff to review the CDP. Pat stated that the subcommittee look at the policy and see if updates are needed. Melinda suggested looking at library boards across Texas. Dora and Alice recommended making suggestions without forming a subcommittee. Carroll stated that the board is small so why have a subcommittee. Laura explained that staff would not be part of the subcommittee but would meet with subcommittee members to discuss any recommendations. The subcommittee could review and advise on the policy, but it would be up to the staff to adopt or reject the recommendations. The decision would be brought back to the rest of the board. Pat stated that a subcommittee would save time for the rest of the board. Joan Carrillo stated that this would save time that is being used during the meeting. Dora asked how the board would know what's going on in the subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee will be reporting back to the Board. Pat explained how to give input to the subcommittee. Joan, Dolores, Melinda, Pat, and Carrie voted to form the subcommittee. Alice, Jennifer, Carroll, and Dora voted against. The motion passed. Alice suggested having even numbers for representation. A motion to nominate members at the June meeting was made by Dolores and seconded by Melinda. Pat, Carrie, Joan, Jennifer, Melinda, Carroll, Dolores, and Dora voted to approve the motion. Alice voted against the motion. The motion passed.

8. [24-0736](#) Discussion and Possible Action To Be Taken On The Appeal Filed By Shawn Flanagan Regarding The Staff Determination Of *Doing it Right: Making Smart, Safe, and Satisfying Choices About Sex* By Bronwen Pardes, 2013. The Recommendation Of The Staff Reconsideration Committee Was That The Book Could Be Moved To The Adult Non-Fiction Section As The Book Covers Topics That A Wide Range Of Ages Would Be Interested In Reading. The Library Director Agreed With The Recommendation And Relocated The Book To The Adult Non-Fiction Section.

Attachments: [May Reconsideration Appeal Attachment](#)
[Request for Reconsideration - Redacted](#)
[Decision on Doing It Right - Excerpt](#)
[Doing It Right Appeal Letter](#)

• Agenda Item 8 - Discussion and Possible Action to Be Taken On the Appeal Filed By Shawn Flanagan Regarding the Staff Determination Of "Doing It Right: Making Smart, Safe, and Satisfying Choices About Sex" By Bronwen Pardes, 2013. Each board member was provided a packet which contained the response to the patron, information on the reconsideration process and an excerpt of the CDP which is available on the library's website, a summary and review sources. The packet included information found on Baker & Taylor, the vendor used by the library, on the audience, age-level and grade on how it compares with Amazon and Barnes and Noble. The book was added to the collection in 2016. Six locations in Texas have the book in the young adult section and three have it in the adult section. The recommendation of the Reconsideration Committee was that the book could be moved to the adult non-fiction section as the book covers

topics that a wide range of ages would be interested in. The Director agreed with the recommendation and relocated the book to the adult non-fiction section. Pat stated that board members can vote to agree or disagree with the staff decision. She asked if the board disagrees, does it go up the chain of command? Laura said yes, if the Board does not support the staff decision the Board's recommendation would go to the City Manager or his designee, this process has been verified with City Legal. Alice asked for clarification on what happens after the vote. She stated that the book has been moved to the adult section and taking it off the shelves makes decisions for others. Pat stated that they could vote now, vote to form a subcommittee, or vote at the next meeting. The Director indicated that there is only one copy of the book, and the recommendation is that the book be read in its entirety before a decision is made. Alice asked how many times the book had been checked out. Laura replied once on an adult card. Laura reminded the board that the Collection Development Policy states that we do not need to agree with the content of the material but must represent all views. Alice stated that the book is already moved to the adult section and taking it off the shelves makes decisions for others. Alice, Carroll Matthews and Dora Wilburn suggested taking a vote. Carrie motioned that the vote take place next month. Melinda seconded the motion. Pat Craig, Carrie Moore, Joan Carrillo, Jenifer Anderson, and Dolores Rabon voted to vote at the next meeting. Alice Hawkins, Carroll Matthews, and Dora Wilburn voted against voting at the next meeting. The motion passed.

I. Future Agenda Items

- Collection Development Subcommittee Member Nominations
- Vote on Reconsideration Appeal

J. Adjournment

Adjournment at 12:25 pm.