

MINUTES  
CITY OF DENTON  
DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD  
Council Work Session Room at City Hall – March 11, 2021

After determining that a quorum was present, the Denton Public Library Board convened on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas. President Jean Greenlaw, Secretary Kate Margolis and Members Laura Cantu, Vicki Byrd, and Benjamin Huttash participated in the meeting via video/teleconference.

PRESENT: Jean Greenlaw, Kate Margolis, Laura Cantu, Vicki Byrd, Benjamin Huttash  
ABSENT: Ling Jeng (excused), Jim Owen (excused)  
STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Bekker  
GUESTS: None

**1. PRESENTATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

NONE

**2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- A. LB21-017**      Receive nominations and election of a President, Vice President, and Secretary for the Library Board. The following individuals were nominated/elected:
- President – Kate Margolis  
Vice President – Jean Greenlaw  
Secretary – Laura Cantu
- Kate took over the meeting as President and Laura Cantu took over the minutes.
- B. LB21-018**      Library Board President will appoint library board members to serve as liaison to:
- The Friends of the Denton Public Libraries Executive Board – Laura Cantu
  - The Emily Fowler Library Foundation Board – Laura Cantu
- C. LB21-019**      Consider approval of the minutes of the February 11, 2021 Library Board meeting. Jean Greenlaw – moved to approved, Benjamin Huttash – 2<sup>nd</sup>
- D. LB21-014**      Receive an informational report and hold a discussion regarding the Friends of the Denton Public Libraries.

The Friends had a virtual meeting on Feb 25, 2021. They were one member short of a voting quorum, however, they held a voting meeting and put it out for a vote in an email. The library has requested \$6,000 for Summer Reading Challenge books. The Friends unanimously approved the funds.

The Friends are planning on the opening their bookstore to coincide with library reopening. They will possibly have a summer book sale. They will know more as things start to open up but are making plans and getting volunteers already. Discussed requiring their Board to be members of the Friends of the Denton Public Libraries.

**E. LB21-013**

Receive an informational report and hold a discussion regarding the Emily Fowler Library Foundation. Basically, no change. There is a \$1,094.73 bank balance. They still have the \$100,000 CD.

**F. LB21-015**

Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding library phased reopening plans during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is constantly evolving. They are in Phase II right now which is limited to core services. Next Monday (March 15) they are expanding to add browsing appointments (30 minutes). During the appointments, people can browse and check out materials. They are also adding evening hours for curbside. The planned evening hours for curbside are:

- North Branch - open until 7 on Tuesdays
- South Branch – open until 7 on Wednesdays
- Emily Fowler – open until 7 on Thursdays

Otherwise, the curbside is open 10 am to 5 pm. The browsing appointments can be made by calling the library. You can make one appointment per household per each location. This is already set up in their system, so you can call and make an appointment now. There will be a social media push tomorrow and they are updating the web site with the new information.

**G. LB21-016**

Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding:

**2021 Winter Storm** – The library was very lucky. They knew the storm was coming so they prepared. They knew ahead of time that facilities were going to close. The libraries were open on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> but they were closed the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Staff tried to work from home, but a lot of people had rolling outages and lack of internet. The outgoing phone message and the web site were updated when they closed. No overdue fees were charged for this period. On Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>, the library opened back up. On Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, during the storm, the South Branch

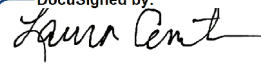
had a pipe burst in front entry way, but luckily, they caught it early and only 3 items were lost. The carpet and some drywall got wet. A scanner at Emily Fowler stopped working at this time, but they are not sure what caused it. It was an old piece of equipment though. They did claim all the damage on the city's policy.

**RFID Technology Upgrade** – (approximately \$160,000) They are working with purchasing on updating this. The RFID technology includes self-checkout machines, security gates and smart chutes. Also, each workstation had an RFID pad. Their current RFID equipment is older and a lot of it is no longer supported. This has already gone thru the RFP process and it goes before council next Tuesday, March 16th.

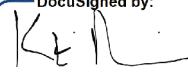
### 3. CONCLUDING ITEMS

The American Rescue Plan Act which has been signed by the President includes some library funding. There is \$200 million in funding that will be eligible to libraries. These funds will be passed thru the State of Texas. There is also \$135 million for the national endowment for the arts and humanities that includes programming grants that will be eligible to libraries. They won't know exactly what they will get or what they can do with it until Texas gets their funds. Jennifer will add it to next month's agenda.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

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Laura Cantu, Secretary

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Kate Margolis, President