

MINUTES
CITY OF DENTON
DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Council Work Session Room at City Hall – April 8, 2021

After determining that a quorum was present, the Denton Public Library Board convened on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 3:30. The meeting was held at the Council Work Session Room at City Hall, 215 E. McKinney Street, Denton, Texas. President Kate Margolis, Vice President Jean Greenlaw, Secretary Laura Cantu and members Vicki Byrd, Benjamin Huttash, Jim Owen, and Ling Jeng participated in the meeting via video/teleconference.

PRESENT: Kate Margolis, Jean Greenlaw, Laura Cantu, Benjamin Huttash, Jim Owen, Vicki Byrd, Ling Jeng

ABSENT: none

STAFF PRESENT: Kimberly Wells, Emily Fowler Central Library Manager; Tyler Smith, Rebecca Ivey

GUESTS: Rosa Rios, City Secretary

1. PRESENTATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- A. LB21-024** Consider approval of the March 11, 2021 Library Board meeting. Jean Greenlaw moved to approve and Laura Cantu seconded the motion. All approved.
- B. LB21-020** Receive an informational report on the Friends of the Denton Public Libraries.
- No significant changes. The agreement between the Denton Public Library and the Friends (Denton Public Libraries Agreement), is in effect until September 30, 2021. The agreement includes two optional three-year renewals if both parties agree in writing to extend the term.
- C. LB21-022** Receive an informational report on the Emily Fowler Library Association.
- No significant changes.
- D. LB21-021** Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding the Library Strategic Plan 2019-2021.
- The current plan was scheduled to end in 2021, but it has been delayed because of COVID. Traditionally library staff would begin the process of gathering public and stakeholder input and developing a new Strategic

Plan by this May. But because of the delay, library staff recommends extending the current Strategic Plan one additional year, providing time for more community and stakeholder input as COVID safety precautions are no longer necessary and library services to be restored. Laura Cantu moved to approve Vicki Byrd seconded. All approved.

E. LB21 – 025

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

They are in Phase 2.5 where they have reopened some services like browsing by appointment. The library will soon move into Phase 3: Limited Core Services on May 1. They will slowly open services as they see how it works. The readers who want to go to the library and sit at a table to read do not have that option yet.

A public comment was received online from Sherry Darby that read, “Hi! Got library cards to Flower Mound and Roanoke libraries this year. Why are the Denton libraries all closed? My husband is working at hospital 5 days a week and I’m working retail. Stop visiting the tacky shot and testing shacks in the parking lots and get the place opened. We are finding out who is classy and trashy this year. Parking lot pandemic. Virtual/remote means you really don’t like your patrons.” The comment was not read during the meeting but is included in the notes.

F. LB21-023

Receive a report and hold a discussion regarding:

American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Library Funding - Funds have yet to be distributed and no specific grant requirements or opportunities have been made available at this time. Staff will continue to monitor federal, state, and professional organizations for updates. The staff will continue to discuss the best ways to use the funds when they are received. Jean Greenlaw suggested using some of the funds to have authors into the library. They have done this in the past and it was very successful. The staff will need to determine the parameters of the grants when they get the funds. Ling Jeng suggested emphasis on people that are underserved, and focusing on using the funds in this area. The library should be ready to submit grants and to show how they are going to help the community. Telehealth is very big right now and so is internet access and broadband. The funds could possibly be used to expand the hot spots. She also suggested contacting senators and representative to advocate for the Build America’s Libraries Act.

With the last grant the library received, it added 15 more hot spots. They would like to add more because it has been very popular. They have looked at expanding their WIFI range. They could also investigate adding

a kit at the libraries such as a "telehealth kit" that could include a blood oxygen and blood pressure monitors.

The Forge Makerspace update - The library has started to receive furniture. This project has been partially funded with a Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) Special Projects Grant. This is in progress.

Library 2021 Summer Classes & Events – A schedule of events was provided to the board. There are a mix of virtual and in-person events. They are starting with more virtual events and as it progresses there will be more in-person events. Most of the events will be in the meeting room (limited to maybe 15 people). Some of the children's programs will be in the Nook. They will also be having an outdoor program on the square. They will need to see what works and then reevaluate. One thing that did not make it into the schedule was the Crafters Corner that is returning to Emily Fowler. Printed copies of the programs will be available if anyone wants one.

FY21/22 Budget requests - Budget planning is in progress. The Library is seeking reinstatement of 2 FTE's, (team librarian at South Branch, a part-time library technician, and a part-time technical position). Also, they are asking for funding to replace and add video cameras at all 3 library facilities and building improvements to build a conference room at South Branch and study rooms downstairs at Emily Fowler and replace the large built-in service desks at North and South Branches. They would like to have the circulation and reference desks combined.

1,000 Books before Kindergarten - Rebecca Ivey provided information on this program. Hopefully, it will be kicking off in the next 2 weeks. They are waiting to receive the growth charts that will be going in the packages. This is an early literacy program that encourages families with children aged 0 – 5 to read to their children every day. They are encouraging care givers and parents to read one book a day to a child. Funded by a grant from Denton Benefit League. There will be an enrollment packet for people who want to participate. It will give them all the information they need to sign up. There are rewards based on the number of books read. When they have read 250 books, they will get a book bag, 500 books they will get a free book, 750 books they get a color changing cup, 1000 books they will get a certificate, another free book, and a puppet. There will be a graduation on August 7. Everything will be in both English and Spanish. The program announcement will go out on social media and the library's website.

Achievement in Library Excellence Award - Denton Public Library was awarded the 2020 Texas Achievement in in Library Excellence Award.

Library card youth art contest - The contest is to design library cards. Children and teens aged 4 – 17 are invited to enter their designs. Entries will be divided into three age groups, 4-8, 9-13, and 14-17 with one winner for each group. All 3 winning entries will be featured on limited edition library cards. This is on the library's web site. They have judges from local art institutions. Only open to people who live in the City of Denton and who have a full-service library card.


3. Concluding Items

The Meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

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Laura Cantu, Secretary

DocuSigned by:

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Kate Margolis, President