

MINUTES
CITY OF DENTON
DENTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Emily Fowler Central Library Meeting Room – December 13, 2021

After determining that a quorum was present, the Denton Public Library Board convened on Monday, December 13, 2021, at 5:41 p.m. The meeting was held at the Emily Fowler Central Library Meeting Room located at, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, Texas.

PRESENT: Jean Greenlaw, Ling Jeng, Cleopatra Birckbichler, Jim Owen, Sandy Swan

ABSENT: Secretary-Laura Cantu

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Bekker, Stacey Irish-Keffer

GUESTS: None

1. PRESENTATION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

NONE

2. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

A. LB21-076

The minutes from the November 8, 2021, board meeting minutes were approved. (Jim Owen Motioned to approve the minutes. Ling Jeng seconded the Motion. Motion Passed.

B. LB21-069

Receive an informational report and hold a discussion regarding the Friends of the Denton Public Libraries.

The Friends of the Denton Public Libraries is a nonprofit organization that supports the Denton Public Library through community service and fundraising to provide materials and equipment to improve and extend Library services.

The January meeting date was moved to one week earlier to allow additional planning time before the February Big Book Sale. The meeting times for future meetings are also shifting from a 6pm start to a 5:30pm start. There have been no other changes since the November Library Board meeting.

C. LB21-070

Receive an informational report and hold a discussion regarding the Emily Fowler Library Foundation.

There has been no Foundation activity since the last meeting.

D. LB21-075

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the November 20th Rainbow Family StoryTime.

Library staff is seeking input regarding the events regarding the November 20th program and direction regarding future inclusive programming, program naming and descriptions, marketing, and safety planning.

The Library scheduled a StoryTime to coincide with the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20. Previous StoryTimes in observance of the day had been held successfully at the library.

Following library procedures, the special StoryTime was separated from the weekly StoryTime schedule, and a detailed program description was included in the classes and events schedule. The program was submitted to and approved by the Library Board as:

Uniquely You! A Transgender Storytime Transgender Day of Remembrance is November 20. Join us as we recognize transgender families through children's books that share a message of honesty, love, and inclusion! Ages 2-8

While Uniquely You! programs were offered in 2019, library staff modified the program to appeal to a broader audience and changed it to Rainbow Family StoryTime in 2020. The program title and description for the November 20th program should have been:

Rainbow Family StoryTime Transgender Day of Remembrance is November 20. Join us at this special StoryTime about being your authentic self with children's books that share a message of friendship, honesty, and inclusion! Ages 2-8

Staff did not realize the program title and description error until a library patron shared their concerns about the program on Tuesday, November 9. Library staff updated the program information on digital platforms to the Rainbow Family Storytime, as staff has done in the past when any error in program information is discovered.

A suggestion was made to contact the Office of Intellectual Freedom for insight. A comment was made to consider eliminating the social media and have mixed topics for LGBTQ and Traditional Families. The library was encouraged to continue to serve the whole community.

E. LB21-072

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding a submitted Statement of Concern for Library Programs or Displays.

Library Staff received A Statement of Concern for Library Programs or Displays regarding Rainbow Family StoryTime on December 2, 2021. The

program was originally scheduled on November 20, 2021 and was cancelled for safety reasons. The submitted form was attached as Exhibit 2. The Library Program Policy, describing the process for reviewing objections to library programs, was attached as Exhibit 3.

Library Staff is seeking Board input regarding the Rainbow Family StoryTime event and the submitted Statement of Concern.

The Library Board had a discussion regarding the Statement of Concern and the consensus was the Statement of Concern was not the focus of the Program and that the complainant should be invited to the program to see what it entailed.

F. LB21-071

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the 2022 Library Strategic Plan Action Items:

Each year, projects, initiatives, and plans that meet the library's Strategic Priorities and Goals are proposed, prioritized, and then selected for the library to pursue. The Strategic Priorities and Goals were developed with public input from community meetings, focus groups, and online and print surveys. Proposed action items are developed to support those priorities and goals and are developed by library staff with Library Board input. At the November 8 Library Board meeting, Board members suggested the following items which are included in the 2022 Action Items:

- Author visits-youth, teen, and adult book authors; and when possible, include an accompanying program with the author visit to make it an event.
- Library staff learn more about local non-profits, who they are, how to refer patrons to them, and develop additional partnerships with local non-profit agencies.
- Conduct diversity, equity, and inclusion audits-staffing, programming, collections, outreach, etc.

The proposed Action Items for 2022 are attached as Exhibit 2. The Action Items in the X Matrix are attached as Exhibit 3

RECOMMENDATION: Library staff recommends that the Library Board approve the identified projects for the 2022 Library Strategic Plan Action Items.

Jim Owen motioned to approve the identified projects for the 2022 Library Strategic Plan. Ling Jeng seconded the motion. Motion Passed.

G. LB21-073

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding the Library's 2022 Spring Classes & Events:

The 2022 Spring Classes and Events list was attached as Exhibit 2. The Library Board reviewed the proposed programs for January-April.

The Library Staff recommended that the Library Board approve the 2022 Spring Classes and Events list.

Jim Owen made a Motion to approve the Spring Classes and Events list. Cleopatra Birckbichler seconded the Motion. Motion Passed.

H. LB21-074

Receive a report, hold a discussion, and give staff direction regarding: Virtual StoryByte Program Reposts, StoryWalk on the Square, and Forge Makerspace Hours.

The library is bringing back the weekly StoryByte program to its Facebook. From Dec. 1 – Jan. 6, staff will post a weekly video of an on-camera reading of a library book. The virtual program gives busy families a chance to relax, read stories, and have fun on demand. StoryBytes were created as a virtual programming option in 2020, taking advantage of special COVID-19 publisher permissions allowing recorded book readings online. Some publisher permissions are still active which allows the library to re-run existing StoryBytes for the next six weeks.

Dec. 1 – “Bear Came Along” by Richard T. Morris

Dec. 8 – “What Riley Wore” by Elana K. Arnold

Dec. 15 – “I Spy in the Sky” by Edward Gibbs

Dec. 22 – “Snow on Snow on Snow” by Cheryl Chapman

Dec. 29 – “All My Friends Are Fast Asleep” by David Weinstone--
A pajama StoryByte!

Jan. 6 – “Red: A Crayon’s Story” by Michael Hall-a “*Storytime with Will*” recording

The Library’s StoryWalk® on the Square is a literacy activity in Partnership with local businesses on the Denton Square. A two-page spread of the book “A New Kind of Wild” by Zara Gonzalez Hoang is posted in the window of each participating business. StoryWalk® on the Square promotes reading, family bonding, community engagement, and walking for exercise. The starting point is Discover Denton, 401 N. Elm St. Bookmarks are available at Discover Denton, showing the path. Each stop on the StoryWalk® also has arrows directing readers to the next stop. A video was created by DTV and posted on library social media

(<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=734381070778606>). The StoryWalk® featured title will change periodically, with the next change coinciding with Discover Denton's Hot Coco Trail event in January of 2022. The StoryWalk® concept was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and was developed with the help of Rachel Senechal, Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

StoryWalk® on the Square Stops in order:

- Discover Denton
- Norman Roscoe
- Atomic Candy
- Recycled Books
- Half Pint Children's Boutique
- Bearded Lady Barbershop
- UNT CoLab
- Gnome Cones
- Rose & Thorn Co.
- Summit Denton
- Salvage Secondhand Shoppe
- Dix Coney Island
- Theatre Denton
- TB Winds
- Patchouli Joe's Books & Indulgences
- Ready Rosie

The library will be adjusting the Forge MakerSpace hours of operation, starting January 1, 2022. With current library staffing levels, the library is unable to maintain the current hours of operation. Wednesday hours will shift to Thursdays. North Branch is open 12 hours on Wednesdays, with staff split into two shifts. It is open 9 hours on Thursdays, with one shift and stronger staff coverage. Tuesday hours would be reduced 2 hours. The library will be requesting funding for additional staff in the FY22/23 budget cycle. If approved, the additional staff would allow the library to expand Forge Makerspace hours and schedule additional classes and events in the Makerspace during non-open hours. The Forge Makerspace hours will be revised as below:

Current (Fall 2021) hours
Tuesdays 12-8:30 p.m.
Wednesdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 20.5 hours

New (Spring 2022) hours
Tuesdays 2-8:30 p.m.
Thursdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturdays 10 a.m.-3 p.m. 18.5 hours

3. CONCLUDING ITEMS

None.

The Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Cleopatra Birckbichler, Member


Laura Cantu, Secretary


~~Kate Margolis, President~~

Cleopatra Birckbichler