

AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

July 8, 2024; 4:30 p.m.

Board Chairperson Stephanie Postma called the regular meeting of the Austin Public Library Board to order at 4:30 p.m., on Monday, July 8, 2024, at the Austin Public Library.

PRESENT: Gema Alvarado-Guerrero, Kristi Beckman, Melissa Bonorden, Jwokamer Debock, Sue Grove, Ted Hinchcliffe, Nitaya Jandragholica, Stephanie Postma, Valerie Sheedy

ALSO PRESENT: City Council Liaison Jeff Austin, Julie Clinefelter, Sara Steinhoff

ABSENT WITH NOTICE:

AGENDA:

Melissa Bonorden moved to approve the agenda; Gema Alvarado-Guerrero seconded. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Gema Alvarado-Guerrero, seconded by Kristi Beckman, to approve the June 10, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Carried.

EXPENSES AND FINANCE REPORTS:

A motion was made by Ted Hinchcliffe to approve expenditures and accept the finance reports for June 2024. Sue Grove seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous roll-call vote.

SELCO REPORT: Julie Clinefelter reported on the recent resignation of SELCO's advisory board president.

CITY/COUNTY LIAISON REPORTS:

City Council Liaison Jeff Austin reported council is focused on work for the 2025 budget. He also updated the board on the progress of the employee engagement workshops, which have shifted from the leadership sessions to the department groups.

County Liaison was not present.

POLICY REVIEW:

Library board members reviewed the *Policy on Bulletin Board Postings and Distribution of Community Information*, and the *Policy on Sales, Solicitation, Petitioning and Demonstrations*. Following brief discussion, Kristi Beckman moved to approve the policies as presented; Ted Hinchcliffe seconded. Motion carried.

OPERATIONAL REPORT:

Julie Clinefelter provided a written report prior to the board meeting, and discussed the following items:

Library Staff:

Julie reported library staff members' employee engagement workshop is scheduled for August 6, and the library will close that day for the event. She noted the library will also be closed on August 7 for follow-up work with the staff and for carpet cleaning.

Library Programs:

Clinefelter noted Summer Reading Program has been going well, with strong numbers for sign-ups and in attendance at the events and activities. She also advised the Discover Science day, for which the library partnered with the Hormel Institute, was well-received and led to an increase of interest in the summer robotics and STEM offerings at the library.

Administration and Facilities:

Julie reported the library was closed on June 26 because of the flooding in the area (although there was no damage or flooding at the actual library building) to reduce traffic in the affected areas immediately adjacent to the library property. She also stated the work to repair the defective emergency lighting inverter panel - installed last fall - has been completed and everything is now in working order.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Julie pointed out the regular meeting times for the board in October and November will both fall on holidays, so the August agenda will include discussion of alternate times for those meetings.

The Finance Committee presented the proposed 2025 budget for the library to the board for approval and submission to the City Council. The 2025 Proposed Library Budget was approved by the board and will be submitted for consideration by City Council as part of the entire City Budget for 2025.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Sue Grove noted that former KAUS radio announcer John Wright is launching a podcast in July and suggested the library consider it as an advertising platform, given the established listener base of Mr. Wright, as well as his past role hosting a weekly segment focused on the library with Director Clinefelter.

ADJOURNMENT:

Kristi Beckman moved to adjourn at 5:15 p.m.; Gema Alvarado-Guerrero seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Steinhoff, Secretary

NEXT BOARD MEETING – Monday, August 12, 2024, 4:30 p.m.