

Bastrop Public Library Board Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2021

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

Members present were President Mary Jo Jenkins, Barbara Clemons, Rebecca Bennett, Sally Keinarth, Jennifer Leisure, Meagan Webb, Laura Goodwin, Director Bonnie Pierson, and Mayor Connie Schroeder.

Announcements:

State Rep. Krause has sent a 16-page list of 814 book titles to large, urban school districts, requesting information on these titles. As of now, there has been no similar request of libraries. Director Bonnie Pierson is planning upgrades to the meeting room, including speakers and a new screen. Mayor Connie Schroeder commended the library staff for the Boo Bash.

Staff Report:

Activities -

The Library has begun a new storytime series, "City Friends Storytime." Every other month, a city employee talks with the children about his or her job. The next program is Dec. 15. The Library held the ACE partnership program. Sixty-two people attended and four signed up for library cards. Twenty-two people attended the quilt code program that was presented in partnership with the Bastrop History Museum. Saturday's Boo Bash brought 875 attendees. There have been computer problems since Oct. 13. The adult computers are the only ones currently working. A request for a new server, which should solve the problem, has been submitted. The Master Naturalists planted the pollinator garden Oct. 18. They will complete the garden this week. They will maintain the garden and the Library will purchase books on nature and pollinators. The Library will be closed Nov. 11 for Veterans Day and on the Saturday of the car show.

Friends of the Library –

The Friends met Oct. 6 with 48 members attending. The book and plant sale went very well. The tentative date for the spring sale is March 25-26.

Statistical and Financial Reports and Report on Fiscal 2021 –

Non-resident circulation is 66% of total circulation. Reference transactions are down from last year. However, this category includes phone calls, where the Library saw a high volume when they were closed last year due to the pandemic. Meeting room use is also down, also because of the pandemic, but is increasing. Wifi use is up; website visits are up; and general computer use is up this year. Registrations are up, as are renewals. Social media engagement is down, likely also due to the very high volume during the pandemic closure.

Ladd and Katherine Hancher Foundation Grant Report

In the section on value to the community, the report cites patron praise for the parking lot wifi. Data and wifi use has increased dramatically since the parking lot wifi was installed. Several patrons have praised the hotspots. In eight weeks, the hotspots have been checked out 40 times.

Citizen Comments:

There were none.

Consent Agenda:

The minutes from the Oct. 4 meeting were approved as written.

Items for Individual Consideration and Discussion:

Election of Officers

Barbara Clemons and Rebecca Bennett presented the slate of officers. Chair: Mary Jo Jenkins; Vice Chair: Rebecca Bennett; Secretary: Meagan Webb. Mary Jo called for nominations from the floor. There were none. The slate was approved by acclamation.

Charter and Bylaws

The Charter needs revision. The bylaws include procedures. The Library Board is governed by "Rules and Procedures for the City Council and Boards & Commissions of the City of Bastrop."

Memorial Plaque for Dr. Gurwitz

Sally Keinarth reported on two vendors and recommended that the Board purchase a plaque from The Living Room book store. All Board members were in agreement.

Holiday Open House

Last year the Library purchased 200 cookies for the Open House. Bonnie said that we will probably need 300 this year. Meagan Webb reported that Tough Cookie could supply the cookies at a cost of \$1 per cookie. Bonnie and Jennifer Leisure discussed details about the performers. Bonnie will send an email this week to those who have volunteered to assemble the graham cracker houses.

Individual Requests for future addenda

There were none.

Adjournment:

Sally Keinarth moved and Barbara Clemons seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted Rebecca Bennett

Rebecca Bennett, Secretary

Approved Mary Jo Jenkins

Mary Jo Jenkins, President