



City of Corpus Christi

1201 Leopard Street
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
cctexas.com

Meeting Minutes - Final

Library Board

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

10:30 AM

La Retama Central Library, La Retama Room

Special Meeting, Rescheduled from March 5th

The City of Corpus Christi promotes participation regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or political belief. Reasonable accommodation is provided upon request and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For assistance or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact (361) 826-3300 at least 48 hours in advance. Upon request, this information can be available in larger print and/or in electronic format.

A. Call To Order

Pat Craig called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

B. Roll Call

Present: Pat Craig, Carrie Moore, Joan Carrillo, Melinda De Los Santos, Alice Hawkins, Dolores Rabon

Present Virtually: None

Absent: Jennifer Anderson, Carroll Matthews, Dora Wilburn

C. Public Comment

- Shawn Flanagan has put three books up for reconsideration. He recommends changing the library's materials reconsideration process to have taxpayers review materials to eliminate conflict of interest.
- Ken Weston wants to support Godly morals in our materials. He wants the board to support materials that teach boys to be gentlemen, girls to be ladies, and be mindful of pornographic and obscene material. He wants the board to remember the Bible says to love others by protecting minors by keeping obscene and pornographic materials out of the library.
- Vickie Natale wants to know when the annual report will be available to the public.

D. Approval of Minutes and Action on Absences

1. [24-0402](#) February 6 Library Board Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the February minutes was made by Joan Carrillo and seconded by Carrie Moore. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Friends of CCPL Liaison Report**2. [24-0403](#) Friends of CCPL Liaison Report**

Friends Report - By Assistant Library Director:

- The Friends are working on their annual budget.

F. Director's Report**3. [24-0404](#) Director's Report**

Director's Report- By Assistant Director:

- Sensory Room grand opening- The Sensory Room grand opening was held on February 29. It is now open for reservations. Alan Carlos, Assistant Director, and Patricia Herrera, Managing Librarian at La Retama Central Library, provided details on how it will be used.
- CCISD book review winners- CCISD held a book review contest. The winners are published in our Spring Brochure. There are two elementary, one middle, and one high school winner. Their video submissions are published on the library's website.
- Capira mobile-app testing has been completed, the developer is working on a few bugs. The app will be used to view library accounts, the catalogue and events calendar.
- FE self-checkout kiosk credit card terminals testing is complete, we are waiting on hardware to install.
- E-Rate Category II- bids will be closing and going to Council next month. Alice Hawkins asked if the state participates or provides grants. Alan clarified that the state provides other resources but not E-rate.

G. Unfinished Business**4. [24-0405](#) Annual Report Approval Vote**

A motion to approve the Annual Report, filed with City Secretary, was made by Joan Carrillo, and seconded by Dolores Rabon. The motion passed unanimously.

H. New Business for Discussion and Possible Action**5. [24-0416](#) Agenda Item Procedure Discussion**

Pat Craig detailed the process of adding an item to the agenda. The agenda must be posted 72 hours before the meeting and anything discussed at the meeting must be on the agenda.

6. [24-0417](#) November Meeting Date Change Discussion

November Meeting date change will be discussed again in October.

7. [24-0418](#) Library Materials Discussion

Pat Craig mentioned ways to raise public awareness of library materials such as form a subcommittee and hand out promotional materials for library events. She then opened the floor for any concerns over library materials.

Dolores Rabon provided excerpts from two books found at our libraries, Kingdom of Ash by Sarah Maas, and Let's Talk About It by Erika Moen and Matthew Nolan. Kingdom of Ash is also at CCISD libraries. Topics of concern included sections she considers obscene and sexually explicit.

Alice Hawkins asked what the guidelines from the Library Association for pornography and sexually explicit materials are. Alan stated that we have a policy in place that provides guidelines as well as a reconsideration process. Michelle Balis, Managing Librarian at Neyland Public Library, clarified that pornography is illegal in public spaces. Alice asked what constitutes pornography?

Dolores said that she does not want the materials removed, only moved to a different section so parents can decide if their children can check out the materials. Alan reminded the board that children's library cards tell parents to monitor what their children checkout and we must serve everyone. Dolores stated that not all minors are accompanied and can checkout materials without parental knowledge. Alan stated that we try to monitor unaccompanied children. Dolores pointed out that some of our libraries are on school campuses. Alice clarified that only two are on school campuses and suggested re-instating curfew or requiring parental presence to check out certain materials.

Melinda De Los Santos stated that a definition of pornography should be in place before ordering some books to keep them out of the hands of minors and keep libraries as safe places. She then stated that she has been showing parents materials on our shelves to make them aware. Sony Peronel, Assistant to City Manager, stated that a definition of pornography would need a legal definition. Melinda stated that the materials shown qualified as pornographic to her and asked if we can move them to an area that need parental consent to checkout. Sony stated that we need proper definitions before moving books and stated that there is a process in place to consider moving books. Melinda then asked if that process can be assigned to city citizens to avoid conflict of interest. She also suggested monthly parental awareness programs.

Carrie Moore wanted definitions of Juvenile and Young Adult. She also wants community involvement and would like to form a committee to discuss materials and promote programs at the library. Sony stated that the board should be patient and not rush while library staff works with the city's legal team to evaluate the reconsideration process. Pat stated that these books are labeled young adult and wants to work with the library because parents trust that materials are age appropriate and doesn't want to lose that trust. Alan gave an example of labeling in House Bill 900 and used the example of sex education materials. Pat stated that this was not sex education but taught kids how to

have sex. Alan reinforced the reconsideration process including looking at multiple points of view. Carrie stated that House Bill 900 says that public schools cannot possess sexually explicit materials.

Alice asked where Dolores sourced the handouts that rated materials. She also stated that she would entertain the concept of more accountability while understanding that changes take time. She suggested children should be accompanied when checking out materials and that books should not be removed based on personal opinions.

Joan stated that the City Council showed that they must be concerned by choosing new board members. She also stated that moving books is not censorship and should not get pushback. Sony stated that we should respect the views of all our citizens. Melinda stated that opinions differ and wants parents to be aware of our materials to make informed consent.

Pat stated that obscenity is not protected by the first amendment and is defined by community standards and asked how to get community input. She then stated that ALA says all materials should be available to minors but not promote obscenity. Sony again asked for patience since reconsiderations come in for other reasons too.

Melinda asked if she could get in trouble for distributing the materials we were given at high schools. When Carrie said yes, she asked how it was okay for them to be in the library.

Carrie asked to get definitions of juvenile, young adult, obscenity, and pornography, and let the public know the reconsideration process so they can make recommendations. Sony stated that we must cover other topics in the reconsideration process too. Alan stated that you must read the entire book for context in the reconsideration process. Pat stated that only one page is needed to sexualize a child's mind. Alice stated that CCISD reviewed materials and would check if they still had the material in question.

Pat stated that she would like to form a subcommittee to find out what is really going on and will add it to the agenda for next month.

I. Future Agenda Items

- Library Day Proclamation
- Materials awareness committee

J. Adjournment

Adjournment at 12:01 pm.