

**ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 2024**

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board met in the Council Chamber at City Hall at 4:00 PM on November 4, 2024. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Judith Phaneuf, Elizabeth Norman, Katie New, Joe Biles, Kristi Brokaw

Board Members Absent: None

Also Attending: Julee Hammer, Library Director; Trent Dietz, Assistant City Attorney;
Linda Camacho, Library Administrative Assistant

Media Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

MINUTES

1. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and take action on approving the minutes from the regular meeting held on August 5, 2024.
2. First Approval: Elizabeth Norman; second from Joe Biles

PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was open for public comment. The following person/s addressed the Library Advisory Board.

- Tammy Fogle

With no other speakers coming forward, the public comment period was closed.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Review on-order catalog comments and make a recommendation to the Library Director on pending book orders (discussion and possible action).
 - a. Judith Phaneuf reported there were no comments on the pending book orders from the online on-order review catalog, so a review was not needed. Elizabeth Norman made a motion to recommend approval of the pending book orders, which Kristi Brokaw seconded. The vote was unanimous, and the motion carried. The Advisory Board's recommendation will now go to the Library Director, who will oversee the completion of these book orders. This is a standard agenda item for regular board meetings.
2. Library Director's Report
 - a. Ms. Hammer reported on the Abilene Public Library Annual Report FY 2024. The fiscal year runs from October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024.

APL had an increase in total visits at all locations. In FY 2024 there were 367,034 visits, which is an increase of 4.1% over last year. From 2022 to 2024 there was a 12% increase. The breakdown by location shows 103,240 visits at the Main Library, 205,726 at the South Branch, and 58,068 at the Mockingbird Branch.

Circulation of materials also rose with 487,791 items checked out including 184,989 digital and 302,802 physical items. This was a 1.6% increase from FY 2023. The circulation of digital items jumped 10% from FY 2023. We continue to have an increase with every year.

Participation in programs increased as well. A total of 1,527 programs were offered, attended by 39,680 people. This was a jump from FY 2023's 1,355 programs with 35,114 attendees. This was an increase of 12% in programs offered and 13% increase of attendees. 4,451 individuals of all ages participated in our Summer Reading Challenge. We would like to give thanks to the Friends of the Library for their support in funding the prizes.

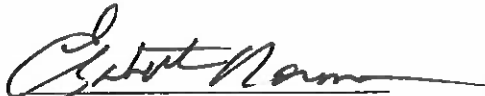
This summer marked our second year of partnership with the Children's Art + Literacy Festival (CALF) and the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature (NCCIL) for the library's Summer Reading Challenge. Together we celebrated CALF's 2024 honoree, author LeUyen Pham.

During the summer, we held 377 programs with 11,840 participants. The Main Library hosted CALF's live performances of "The Itchy Book" on Friday and Saturday of CALF. The library also engaged in the community art project with the Abilene and Wylie school districts. The students decorated leaves for the summer art installation, inspired by the book "The Together Tree" which was illustrated by Pham.

FY 2024 marked the libraries' first full year of 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten's early literacy initiative that challenges parents to read 1,000 books to their children before starting kindergarten. We had 337 participants with 10 graduates.

The meeting adjourned at 4:08 PM.

The next Library Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2025, at 4:00 PM at City Hall, 555 Walnut St., 2nd Floor Council Chambers.


Judith Phaneuf, Vice-Chair
Elizabeth Norman

Linda Camacho
Linda Camacho, Library Administrative Assistant