



## City of Abilene

### Library Advisory Board Agenda

Notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Abilene Public Library Advisory Board of the City of Abilene to be held on November 10, 2025 at 4:00 pm in Council Chambers at City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, Abilene, Texas, for the purpose of considering the following agenda items.

#### CALL TO ORDER

#### MINUTES

1. Receive a Report, Hold a Discussion, and Take Action on Approving the Minutes from the Regular Meeting Held on August 4, 2025.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

#### AGENDA ITEMS

2. Review on-order catalog comments and make a recommendation to the Library Director on pending book orders (discussion and possible action).
3. Library Director's Report (discussion)
  - A. Recreation Center Branch Libraries project update
  - B. Abilene Heritage Square project update

#### ADJOURNMENT

#### *Notice*

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Abilene will provide for reasonable accommodations for persons attending meetings. To better serve you, requests should be received forty-eight (48) hours prior to scheduled meetings. Please contact the City Secretary's Office at 325-676-6208. Telecommunication device for the deaf is 325-676-6360.*

#### **CERTIFICATION**

*I hereby certify the above meeting notice was posted on the bulletin board at the City Hall of the City of Abilene, Texas, on the 31st day of October, 2025, at 1:20 p.m.*

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*Kaitlin Richardson, Deputy City*



**LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**August 4, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.**

**ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, TEXAS**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL**

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board met for a regular meeting on August 4, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut Street. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Elizabeth Norman, Kristi Brokaw, Vicki House, Karen Turner, Katie New

Board Members Absent: Joe Biles, Judith Phaneuf

Also Present: 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 by Elizabeth Norman at 4:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**1. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and take action on approving the corrected minutes from the regular meeting held on November 4, 2024.**

Kristi Brokaw moved to approve the corrected minutes. Katie New seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (5): Board Members Norman, Brokaw, House, Turner, and New

NAYS (0): None

**2. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and take action on approving the regular meeting held on February 3, 2024.**

Kristi Brokaw moved to approve the regular minutes. Vicki House seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (5): Board Members Norman, Brokaw, House, Turner, and New

NAYS (0): None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Elizabeth Norman opened the public comment period. The following addressed the Library Advisory Board:

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

## AGENDA ITEMS

### 3. Review on-order catalog comments and make a recommendation to the Library Director on pending book orders (discussion and possible action).

Elizabeth Norman reported there were no on-order catalog comments, so a review was not needed. Kristi Brokaw moved to approve the pending book orders, Karen Turner seconded the motion; motion carried. The Advisory Board's recommendation will be forwarded to the Library Director for completion of book orders. This is a standard agenda item at regular board meetings.

AYES (5): Board Members Norman, Brokaw, House, Turner, and New  
NAYS (0): None

### 4. Library Director's Report

#### a. Summer Reading Challenge:

Ms. Hammer reported that the 2025 Summer Reading Challenge concluded on July 31. Final participation data is being compiled, and prize drawings will follow. Prizes were generously funded by the Friends of the Library.

This year's program, presented in partnership with the Children's Art + Literacy Festival (CALF), celebrated author and illustrator Matt Phelan. A community art project, Plum the Peacock, received more than 5,000 feather submissions from children and patrons for a large-scale exhibit at the Main Library.

The library completed its first full year using the Beanstack digital reading logging platform, which had more than 1,200 registered readers, 27,800 books logged, and over 446,000 minutes of reading tracked. The platform also supports the library's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program, with six children completing the program and 518 currently enrolled.

More than 175 programs were presented across all locations, including Zoo Ambassador visits, weekly STEAM activities, and the popular new "Try That Art Night" series for teens and adults.

#### b. Rec Center Branch Libraries Update:

Ms. Hammer provided an update on the new recreation centers that will replace the existing Cesar Chavez and G.V. Daniels facilities. Each new center will include an integrated branch library and is scheduled to open in spring 2026. The libraries will share space within the recreation facilities and collaborate closely with the Parks and Recreation Department to deliver joint programming. While both centers will feature identical floor plans, their orientations will vary based on site-specific design needs.

She noted that the Mockingbird Branch Library will close prior to the expiration of its current lease on December 31, 2025, with a projected closure in November. All staff currently assigned to Mockingbird will be reassigned to the new locations, and no staff positions will be eliminated as part of this transition.

#### c. Abilene Heritage Square Update:

Ms. Hammer reported that the lease for the library's space at Abilene Heritage Square was presented to City Council in July and approved as a 40-year agreement. Construction remains on schedule, and a topping-out ceremony will be held in August to mark the completion of the building's structural framework with the placement of the final beam.

Substantial completion is scheduled for March 13, 2026, with owner move-in expected to begin around March 16, 2026. The grand public opening is planned for May 18, 2026, though all dates remain subject to change. The new facility will encompass more than 65,000 square feet and will require the addition of 10 new staff positions in 2026, including six (6) full-time and four (4) part-time employees. The second floor will be dedicated to children and their families and will require full staffing to support expanded services.

Ms. Hammer further reported that dealer quotes for furniture have been received and are under review. Planning is underway for a forest-themed children's area that will feature built-ins, trees, animals, and other interactive elements. Furniture purchases are expected to be presented to City Council for approval next month. A total of \$3,000,000 from the Minor Improvement Fund has been allocated for library furniture, fixtures, and equipment for the new Main Library at Abilene Heritage Square.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

The next Library Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, 555 Walnut St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers.

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Linda Camacho  
Library Administrative Assistant

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Kristi Brokaw  
Board Member

Minutes approved on: \_\_\_\_\_