

**ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board met for a regular meeting on February 9, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut Street. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Joe Biles, Kristi Brokaw, Vicki House, Judith Phaneuf,  
Karen Turner

Board Members Absent: Katie New, Terry Young

Also Attending: Julee Hammer, Library Director; Trent Dietz, Assistant City  
Attorney; Alyssa Crow, Public Services Manager

Media Present: None

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Judith Phaneuf at 4:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

- 1. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and take action on approving the minutes from the regular meeting held on November 10, 2025.**

Vicki House moved to approve the minutes from November 10, 2025. Kristi Brokaw seconded; motion carried.

AYES (5): Board Members Biles, Brokaw, House, Phaneuf, Turner

NAYS (0): None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Judith Phaneuf opened the public comment period.

Speaker: Tammy Fogle

Judith Phaneuf closed the public comment period.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- 2. Election of officers for 2026 (discussion and possible action).**

- a. Officer Election: Chair**

Joe Biles moved to approve the nomination of Judith Phaneuf as Chair for 2026. Kristi Brokaw seconded; motion carried.

**b. Officer Election: Vice-Chair**

Judith Phaneuf moved to approve the nomination of Karen Turner as Vice-Chair for 2026. Kristi Brokaw seconded; motion carried.

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

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.

Karen Turner moved to approve the pending book orders. Vicki House seconded; motion carried.

AYES (5): Board Members Biles, Brokaw, House, Phaneuf, Turner  
NAYS (0): None

The Board's recommendation will now go to the Library Director, who will oversee the completion of these book orders. This is a standing agenda item for regular board meetings.

**4. Library Director's Report**

**a. Recreation Center Branch Libraries Update:**

The Director provided an update on the Recreation Center Branch Libraries. She noted that staff are actively coordinating with IT and two technology vendors to prepare self-service systems for the new locations. Each location will feature library lockers, allowing patrons to retrieve holds. Laptop kiosks at both branches will provide public computing options.

Cesar Chavez Recreation Center is entering the final stages of interior and exterior work. Concrete and protective bollards have been installed for the dumpster pad. Exterior metal paneling continues to be applied, and interior painting remains ongoing. Installation of millwork, including built-in cabinetry, is underway. In the restrooms, ceramic tile is being installed, while in other areas, ceiling tiles and HVAC diffusers are being placed within the ceiling grid. The gym floor has been fully installed.

At the G.V. Daniels Recreation Center, similar progress is being made. Exterior metal panels are being added to the outer walls, and fencing is being erected around the new outdoor basketball court. Interior carpeting has been laid and is now protected by cardboard sheeting. Plumbing fixtures are being installed throughout the building, and interior doors and related hardware are currently being installed.

**b. Abilene Heritage Square Update:**

The Director then shared updates on the Abilene Heritage Square project. Auditorium seating has been fully installed, and window muntins have also been added. Ceiling installation continues throughout the facility. The south and southwest parking lots have been completed and striped for use.

In addition, the Director reported that the library is collaborating with Museum Arts, Inc., based in Dallas, for the fabrication and installation of themed elements in the Children's Storytime Area. The design of the area will be a "storybook forest" and will create an immersive environment for young patrons. The same vendor also designed elements for the Spark Science Center, located within Abilene Heritage Square.

The project remains on schedule. The certificate of occupancy is expected by March 12, 2026, with substantial completion scheduled for March 13. Owner move-in is set to begin on March 16, and final completion is anticipated by April 10. The grand public opening is scheduled for May 18, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 4:14 p.m.

The next regular Library Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, 555 Walnut St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers.

  
Judith Phaneuf

Board Chair

Alyssa Crow

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Public Services Manager

