

ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 27, 2026

The Abilene Public Library Advisory Board met for a regular meeting on April 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 555 Walnut Street. A quorum was present.

Board Members Present: Judith Phaneuf (chair), Karen Turner (vice chair),
Kristy Brokaw, Terry Young

Board Members Absent: Joe Biles, Vicki House, Katie New

Also Attending: Julee Hammer, Library Director; Kelley Messer, Assistant City
Attorney; Linda Camacho, Library Administrative Assistant II

Media Present: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Judith Phaneuf at 4:23 p.m.

1. Receive a report, hold a discussion, and take action on approving the minutes from the regular meeting held on February 9, 2026.

Kristi Brokaw moved to approve the minutes, Terry Young seconded the motion; motion carried.

AYES (4): Board Members Phaneuf, Turner, Brokaw, Young

NAYS (0): None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judith Phaneuf opened the public comment period. No speakers came forward, so the public comment period was closed.

AGENDA ITEMS

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

Judith Paneuf reported there were no comments on the pending book orders from the online on-order review catalog, so a review was not needed. Kristi Brokaw made a motion, which Karen Turner 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.

AYES (4): Board Members Phaneuf, Turner, Brokaw, Young

NAYS (0): None

3. Library Director's Report

a. Recreation Center Branch Libraries Update

Ms. Hammer reported that the ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the Sears and G.V. Daniels Recreation Centers were held on April 22, 2026. Both events were well attended.

Each new branch library includes 12 public-use laptops, printing, copying services, and remote lockers. Library staff will also collaborate with recreation center staff to provide programming at both locations.

b. Abilene Heritage Square Update

Ms. Hammer reported that the Main Library at 202 Cedar Street permanently closed on April 10, 2026, after serving the community at that location for more than 66 years.

The relocation of the Main Library collection to the new facility at Abilene Heritage Square began on April 13 and was completed on April 24. All materials have been moved onto the new shelving.

Installation of design elements continues in the Storybook Forest children's area, along with furniture installation and completion of project punch-list items. Installation of the three-story glass sculpture, *Gathered Radiance*, by artist Carlyn Ray, is also underway. The artwork incorporates hundreds of blown-glass pieces and also glass ribbons created by community members during public participation events.

The Abilene Heritage Square Grand Opening is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2026. It was moved from the original date of May 18, in the hope that more families can attend on a weekend. The ribbon-cutting ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will include the dedication of the sculpture *Inspiration Takes Flight* by artist K.T. Taylor. The library will open to the public following the ceremony. Public tours of Owen Hall and the Heritage Event Center will also be available. The Spark Science Center, a satellite location of The Grace Museum, will offer free 45-minute guided preview tours with attendance limited to ensure visitor safety.

Ms. Hammer concluded by noting that library staff continues preparations to ensure the new Main Library is ready for opening.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

The next Library Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall, 555 Walnut Street, 2nd Floor Council Chambers.

Karen Turner

Judith Phaneuf – Chair

Karen Turner

Linda Camacho

Linda Camacho, Library
Administrative Assistant II