

Minutes of the Library Advisory Board Meeting, Monday, April 29, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Angie Torres. A full board being present, it was decided that the meeting should proceed.

Present were: Chairman Angie Torres, Vice Chairman Michael Bankson, Board members Terie Hafner, Brendan Tolley, and Priscilla Spitler, and Library Director Pat O'Hanlon. There was also one guest, Mr. Ron Fenn, present. The agenda for the meeting was approved; the motion to approve was made by Brendan Tolley and seconded by Angie Torres. The minutes of the last regular meeting were approved as read, motion to approve made by Mike Bankson, and seconded by Terie Hafner. The affirmative votes on both motions were unanimous.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Ron Fenn attended the meeting with comments as follows: He began his comments, shouting, with a demand that the Board "remove the Library Director from her position and replace her with someone who is willing to do the job." He proceeded to state his reasons for the demand, starting with the stack of books that are being held for the new branch. He states that "This town does not need two libraries!" He says – among other things – that when he was a librarian, things were not done this way. He also thinks we should get rid of our VHS tapes, and when told that people still use them, he said that is not how libraries are supposed to work. He asked when the last "New books list" was published in the paper the way they used to be, and when the director tried to answer he told her not to interrupt him. After he had continued to harangue the Board for around twenty minutes, Board Member Brendan Tolley stood up and told him that 1) he (Mr. Fenn) was out of order, that 2) he had considerably exceeded his three minutes, and 3) that the purpose of the public comment section was to comment, not to start arguments.

At that point, Mr. Fenn left the building. Mr. Fenn's borrowing record shows that since June 2010, he has borrowed two books, both in March 2022. He has not borrowed anything since. He is not considered a regular library user.

REPORTS:

- Board members: After Mr. Fenn left the meeting, Board Member Michael Bankson, made a motion that the Board issue a statement, to be made part of the record, voicing the board's support for the library director. The motion was seconded by Angie Torres. Since this subject was not on the agenda, the status of the motion is unclear at this time.
- Priscilla Spitler, who had volunteered to work on re-activating our Friends of the Library support group, is again working on re-establishing the group. She reports that she has found some people willing to help with the effort.
- Library Foundation: The current value as shown on the March 28, 2024 statement is \$25,031.44.
- Director's report: 1. Workforce Solutions is preparing to move out of the Gardner Building, which will clear the way for our branch to move into this much nicer office area.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Term renewals coming in June: Michael Bankson and Brendan Tolley have both accepted another three-year term on the Library Advisory Board. Terie Hafner has one year remaining, but she is moving to Las Cruces, and will need to be replaced. Chairman Angie Torres' term expires in 2025, And Priscilla Spitler's in 2026.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the motion to adjourn was made by Mike Bankson and seconded by Brendan Tolley. The motion was approved unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m. The Board's next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 29, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela D. Torres, Chairman
Pat O'Hanlon, Library Director