

**Auburn Public Library Advisory Board  
Minutes from March 21, 2023**

The Auburn Public Library Advisory Board met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 in the Library Conference Room of the Auburn Public Library. The following individuals were present:

Board Members	Marcia Boosinger, Chair Bonnie MacEwan, Vice Chair Daniel Surry Karen Herring Betty Burgess
Staff	Tyler W. Whitten, Library Director Ashley Brown, Public Services Librarian Manager Kari Carpenter, Collection Development Coordinator Daisy Griffin, Library Assistant Leslie Johnston, Collection Development Librarian Cynthia Ledbetter, Engagement and Outreach Librarian Brandon Rowland, Digital Services Librarian Valerie Temple, Programming Specialist Paul Clark, Attorney, City of Auburn Kristen Reeder, Human Resources Director Keith Williams, Public Services Executive Director
Guests	Debra Beil Pamela Kent Sue Ann Balch Cynthia Williford Bean Sonny Moreman Martha Shamp Deja Ruddick, Director, Horseshoe Bend Regional Library Nancy Pack, Director, Alabama Public Library Service

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Boosinger at 10:00 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 21, 2023, meeting were distributed to Board members in

advance of today's meeting. Herring moved to approve the minutes as written and Surry seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## **CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS**

Boosinger reviewed the procedures for Citizens' Communications from the Library Board Bylaws.

The following individuals spoke against diversity in the library collections:

Martha Shamp, 307 Camellia Dr.  
Sue Ann Balch, 2231 Springhill Dr.

The following individuals spoke in support of the library collections and services:

Pamela Kent, 808 Cahaba Dr.  
Debra Beil, 802 Tullahoma Dr.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Boosinger introduced the report that was included in this month's packet from the Board subcommittee that reviewed recent challenges to Library materials. Bonnie MacEwan moved acceptance of the report and Dan Surry seconded. Boosinger asked Board members if there was any further discussion. There was no further discussion and the report passed unanimously.

## **LIBRARY SERVICES PRESENTATION**

### **Learning Challenge Development Team**

Cynthia Ledbetter, Engagement and Outreach Librarian, along with Valerie Temple and Daisy Griffin provided an overview of their programs, using the presentation at the following link:

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAFcKElwEXM/uFX5VgFkE8E4YxVxuKpCuA/view?utm\\_content=DAFcKElwEXM&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link2&utm\\_source=sharebutton](https://www.canva.com/design/DAFcKElwEXM/uFX5VgFkE8E4YxVxuKpCuA/view?utm_content=DAFcKElwEXM&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton)

They described the seasonal challenges and the successful effort to increase participation from adults and children.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Impact Stories

Four impact stories were included in the Board packet.

A thank you note from the Christian Women's Job Corps thanking Valerie for a presentation. Valerie noted that most of the women already had library cards and many signed up for the reading challenge.

A request from a student for a library card as part of a school project to collect cards from all over the country.

A thank you note from Betty Weeden for the recent Reading Rally with Malcolm Mitchell. She requested the library participate in the summer reading camp. Cynthia Ledbetter reported that the library will participate, targeting the second graders.

An article from **APLSEEDS, March 2023** featuring Malcom Mitchell's program.

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Marcia Boosinger shared a note she received from a member of the community thanking the library for its collections and services and describing the pleasure the writer takes in exploring the library with his five year old grandson.

Leslie Johnston and Marcia Boosinger described a series of emails and phone calls with someone who no longer lives in the community. She shared that the library was so important to her as a child in Auburn that she still has her library card as a memento. She followed with a second contact that included a gift of \$1,000 to purchase materials that will strengthen the diversity of the collections for children and young adults. Boosinger noted that this is an unusually large gift to the Foundation.

Karen Herring shared Bill Alford's obituary and noted that he had served on the Library Board from 2002 to 2010.

## BOARD DEVELOPMENT

- a. **BOOKS UNBANNED (BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY)** – [www.bklynlibrary.org/books-unbanned](http://www.bklynlibrary.org/books-unbanned) Marcia Boosinger reminded the Board that we had discussed this project of the Brooklyn Public Library at an earlier meeting. The Library has provided library cards to over 6,000 teenagers across the country so they can access books not available in their local libraries. Over 52,000 items have been checked out.

- b. ALA Launches Banned Book Club Series on NBC Chicago – American Libraries (March/April 2023)** Marcia Boosinger drew our attention to a brief notice regarding this banned book series. Bonnie MacEwan noted similar banned book reading groups.

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- a. February 2023 Statistics** – Board members noted that Circulation statistics continue to increase and that all categories continue to recover from the impact of the pandemic. Brandon Rowland noted that the problem with the gate counts has not yet been fixed but he hopes to recover the months of statistics in the category soon.
- b. Mission Alignment Plan Update** – There were no questions. Dan Surry praised the format of the plan.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Marcia Boosinger reminded us that this was the last meeting before the end of Betty Burgess's term. She thanked Burgess for her good work on the Board and presented a resolution of appreciation. Betty Burgess expressed her appreciation to Tyler Whitten and all of the Library staff. She shared that she is very much looking forward to the new library location and plans to continue Betty's Book Blog. She brought bundtinis for a brief farewell celebration.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 11:02.

Prepared by Bonnie MacEwan, Vice-Chair