

Auburn Public Library Advisory Board Minutes from April 18, 2023

The Auburn Public Library Advisory Board met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 in the Library Conference Room. The following individuals were present:

Board Members	Marcia Boosinger, Chair Bonnie MacEwan, Vice Chair Bernard Anderson Karen Herring
Staff	Tyler W. Whitten, Library Director Ashley Brown, Public Services Librarian Manager Kari Carpenter, Collection Development Coordinator Cynthia Ledbetter, Engagement and Outreach Librarian Brandon Rowland, Digital Services Librarian Keith Williams, Public Services Executive Director
Guests	Debra Beil Lorna Wood Jim Newton Billye Welburn Sonny Moreman Martha Shamp

Paul Clark, City Attorney, was also in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Boosinger at 10:00 a.m. She welcomed new Board member Bernard Anderson and asked Library staff in attendance to introduce themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 21, 2023, meeting were distributed to Board members in advance of today's meeting. Boosinger noted a misspelling and requested a correction of Betty Burgess' name. Herring moved to approve the minutes as amended. MacEwan 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.

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

Debra Beil, 802 Talahoma Dr.
Lorna Wood, 1030 South Gay St.
Jim Newton, 827 Cotswold Way
Billye Welburn, 112 N. Debardeleben St. #5

NEW BUSINESS

The May meeting date was moved to May 9, 2023, to accommodate travel schedules.

LIBRARY SERVICES PRESENTATION

Brandon Rowland, Digital Services Librarian, provided an overview of Mango Languages, a recently acquired digital resource. It provides instruction in 70 languages and dialects from French to Japanese to Pirate. In addition, there are 20 sets of instruction for speakers of other languages to learn English. The Board was impressed and eager to try this new resource.

CORRESPONDENCE

a. Impact Stories

Five impact stories were included in the Board packet.

A Thank You note about Programming Specialist Valerie Temple from the After School program at Auburn Early Education Center (AEEC). Beverly Pitt described her as AMAZING and expressed a hope Valerie can come again in the Fall.

Educators for Pride wrote to express appreciation for the diversity of the Library collection.

A note of appreciation from Auburn City Schools for providing space for the art show.

A formal letter of thanks written by a student at Ogletree Elementary expressing thanks for the library.

A note of thanks and baked treats from Bill Brown and Emily Myers.

In addition, Karen Herring expressed appreciation for the Living Proud series and related that it has been useful in her mentoring.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

A memo from the Alabama Public Library Service was included in the packet. It outlined a new plan for the April Administrators Meeting. In lieu of the meeting, the public library directors were encouraged to ask their Boards to reach out to local government to raise awareness about the work of the Library. Marcia Boosinger shared that in celebration of National Library Week, she and Bonnie MacEwan would attend the City Council meeting and speak during Citizens' Open Forum about the work already in

progress at the Boykin Community Center to plan for new services and prepare for the coming library branch. The two presentations, along with a photograph of a Council member's visit to the Library, will be forwarded to APLS to fulfill the requirements outlined in the memo.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

- a. **National Library Week** – Marcia Boosinger described the ALA nationwide program. Among other activities planned, the APL Foundation will provide a staff lunch on April 26 to show their appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the Library staff.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. **March 2023 Statistics** – Board members noted that all statistics continue to increase. The increase at Boykin was noted. The staff was commended for the excellent work that has gone into recovering from the pandemic and the continued growth in all categories.
- b. **Mission Alignment Plan Update** –
 - a. The Board asked Tyler Whitten to review the planning process and the space standards that led to the decision to develop the new library in the Northwest part of Auburn. Whitten noted that although the study strongly supports the addition of space, collections, and staff, it is based on information that is beginning to be out-of-date and the need is even more pressing now. The Board discussed the relatively low budget for materials and the high use of each item added. The Board praised the Library staff for the careful use of resources.
 - b. Marcia Boosinger led the Board through the Mission Alignment Plan and asked detailed questions to help us learn more about the operations and short-term goals of the Library.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bonnie MacEwan reported she had heard from former Board member Betty Burgess, and her husband continues to recover well.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 11:27.

Prepared by Bonnie MacEwan, Vice-Chair