

Auburn Public Library Advisory Board

Minutes from May 21, 2024

The Auburn Public Library Advisory Board met at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in the Program Room of the Auburn Public Library. The following individuals were present:

Board Members

Bonnie MacEwan, Chair
Karen Herring, Vice Chair
Marcia Boosinger
Dan Surry

COA Staff

Tyler W. Whitten, Library Director
Ashley Brown, Public Services Librarian Manager
Cynthia Ledbetter, Engagement and Outreach Librarian
Brandon Rowland, Digital Services Librarian
Leslie Johnston, Collection Development Librarian
Luke Brown, Public Services Librarian
Kari Carpenter, Collection Development Coordinator

Guests

Debra Biel
Paul Clark
Carrie Hill
Sonny Moreman
Jim Newton
Martha Shamp
Keith Williams
Brian Woodham

CALL TO ORDER

Before officially calling the meeting to order, Board Chair MacEwan announced Agenda item V.b. would not be discussed today since there really isn't enough information available; this will be discussed at a future meeting. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair MacEwan at 10:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 16, 2024 meeting were distributed to Board members in advance of today's meeting. Boosinger moved to approve the minutes as written and Herring seconded. None opposed.

CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS

MacEwan reviewed the procedures for Citizens' Communications from the Library Board Bylaws and reminded the attendees that visual aids must be submitted prior to the meeting. Whitten reported no materials were received prior to the meeting. MacEwan also reminded attendees that this is the sole opportunity during the meeting for attendees to speak.

The following individuals spoke:

- Martha Shamp shared concerns about the collections within the library and read 1 Timothy 1:10.
- Jim Newton expressed concern about the suicide rate among LGBTQ+ youth being three times higher than the average. He noted that books with LGBTQ+ topics are helpful to youth and good to have available in the library.
- Debra Biel spoke about the variety of beliefs that Christians in our community have and shared that her belief has led her to be a member of PFLAG and this group believes in the inclusion of everyone. She appreciates that the library collection includes a variety of theological views for the Auburn community.
- Carrie Hill complimented the library's diverse collection and the engagement and outreach opportunities, especially for children and families. She noted that the public services staff at our library are exceptionally friendly and welcoming compared to her home library

MacEwan closed Citizens' Communications.

Herring thanked the citizens for their attendance and sharing appreciation and concerns about the library and denounced the claims made earlier by Martha Shamp. Herring stated that her Christian beliefs include sharing love with all people and she will continue to support the library as they show love to all members of the community.

CORRESPONDENCE

- MacEwan asked a question about "Just Ask" referenced in the Reading Dragons note and Ledbetter confirmed it was a book that was given to all of the third graders this year.
- Boosinger inquired about "LitWits" included in Engagement and Outreach stories. Ledbetter shared this is an outreach book club where a programming staff member goes to some of the schools during lunch wave, and students volunteer to attend the book club during their lunch.
- MacEwan noted that one of the digital reviews raved about the facilities and shared this was a nice addition to all the positive comments typically received about the services at the library.

NEW BUSINESS

- The Computers and Internet Use policies were slated for review this month; neither the staff nor the board had any changes to suggest.

SERVICES PRESENTATION

- Brown shared a presentation about the readers advisory service that involves suggesting fiction and non-fiction titles to a reader through direct or indirect (e.g. displays) means.
- Always reader-driven and available for all ages and genres; librarians never start an interaction about titles a patron should explore.
- Brown provided a demonstration of this service through the library website.
- Boosinger asked about common scenarios patrons would utilize this service, and Brown suggested they often hear from patrons that have just finished a book series and need help knowing what to read next (“book hangover”).
- Herring asked that the presentation deck be included in the minutes for today’s meeting to help raise awareness about this service.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, IMPACT STORIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVOCACY

- Boosinger shared that she is excited about OLLIE partnering with the library for an author visit in August and believes this may help attract non-library goers.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

- None planned for this month

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

April 2024 Statistics

- Boosinger inquired what the rise in number of requests filled might be attributed to; Whitten responded that it’s most likely patron awareness and interest in the items they want being available (patron requests that are filled and completed hold requests are included).
- Boosinger also noted the patron assistance transactions was also showing an increase over the prior year and month stats.
- Ledbetter noted that the Off-Site Events statistic is typically related to the Reading Dragons program and often an increase relates to timing issues.

- Surry noted the continual increase in Boykin's numbers.

Mission Alignment Plan Updates

- MacEwan inquired about the "Launch Internal Polaris/SQL Working Group" item in the Access Delivery section. Brown shared that she'd recently taken over as Polaris administrator and they have a group pushing to learn more about the database and how to leverage that.
- Boosinger asked about the timetable for reviewing the FY 2024 budget progress and evaluating FY 2025 request; Whitten responded that an internal review would be done by the end of May and then with the city council later in the summer. The budget request for FY 2025 should be finalized by August or September.
- Herring inquired about the Collections Programs & Outreach focus on expanding in multiple collections; Johnston responded that typically weeding is done after summer learning and decisions will be made about orders at that time. Additionally, segments of our population are the basis for some of the other collection additions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- MacEwan reminded everyone that the board will not meet in June or July; the next meeting is slated for August 20, 2024.
- Ledbetter announced that summer reading challenge registration will open June 1 and will run through July 31. Patrons should read or listen for 1000 minutes to complete the challenge; this will contribute to the overall community goal of one million minutes read. A promo video is available and was shared during the meeting.
- Ledbetter shared that the Seed Library is now open; take seeds from the library, take them home and plant them, and then bring your seeds back to donate back to the Seed Library. This was created and curated by Auburn High School's Blue Chapter of the FFA.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other items of business, MacEwan adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Karen Herring