

Auburn Public Library Advisory Board

Minutes From February 18, 2025

The Auburn Public Library Advisory Board met at 10:00a.m. on Tues, February 18, 2025, in the Conference Room of the Auburn Public Library. The following individuals were present:

Board Members Bonnie MacEwan, Chair
 Bernard Anderson
 Marcia Boosinger

COA Staff Cynthia Ledbetter, Director
 Luke Brown, Public Services Manager
 Ashley J. Brown, Engagement and Outreach

Guests Jim Newton
 Carrie Hill
 Harriette Huggins

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair MacEwan at 10:00 a.m. Karen Herring was absent due to her training for a new job. The meeting commenced with that understanding and acknowledged her absence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 21, 2025, meeting was distributed to the Board members in advance of today's meeting. No additions or corrections were offered. Boosinger motioned for approval of the minutes as presented, Anderson seconded. None opposed.

CITIZENS' COMMUNICATIONS

There was no communication from any of the citizens present.

CORRESPONDENCE, IMPACT STORIES, ECT.

- MacEwan commented on her favorite story in the packet. It was a letter about an individual visiting Auburn from Turkey. They had visited the library and were appreciative at how warm and welcoming everyone had been.
- MacEwan also made note of the citizen that wrote in stating they have had a library card since childhood and still loves the library.
- Boosinger inquired about the Hot Wheels truck display that had been in the library.
- A discussion was shared concerning Alabama House Bill 4 (HB4), which is a bill that aims to update and define obscenity crimes in the state. This bill could potentially affect libraries. Those present were encouraged to seek more information about it and contact your legislator with any concerns.

STATISTICS UPDATE

- Boosinger expressed her delight in the fact that there was a 92% increase in Total Attendance/Participation at meetings and programs. Ledbetter explained that the increase was from December to January rather than annually. The December number was down due to the holiday break.
- MacEwan commented on the steepness of the line graphs. She noted that the steepness has declined and appears to be leveling off since the pandemic.
- Boosinger commented on Database hits. She expressed her pleasure in the fact that the hits have increased.
- General approval was given by Boosinger, MacEwan, Anderson and staff that things are going well and that the attendance numbers, both physical and digital, are on the increase.
- Anderson commented on his concern that the number of Active Boykin Borrowers as well as the percentage of Boykin Borrowers had decreased significantly on the annual chart. Boosinger noted that there is not a continual presence there; that could possibly contribute to the decline.
- Ledbetter and Boosinger offered suggestions as to what might help increase participation at Boykin. These included reaching out to Al Davis, the center Director, and increasing social media promotion to increase awareness.
- Ledbetter commented on the completion percentage of the Boykin location. She will provide any updates that she receives at future meetings.

DIVISION UPDATES

- Anderson inquired about the library van. Ashley J. Brown stated that the shelves have been ordered and should be in within the week. The van should be operational very soon.

- Ashley J. Brown announced that Spring Break programming will be offered March 11-13th by the Engagement and Outreach Division.
- Luke Brown has been selected as the new Public Services Librarian Manager. He is vacating his previous position as Public Services Librarian. The search to fill that position will begin soon.
- Brandon Rowland has returned to working under the umbrella of the Public Services Division.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Ledbetter announced that the completion of library restrooms is expected to be done by late February.

ADJOURMENT

- The meeting was officially adjourned by MacEwan at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernard Anderson