



New Braunfels Public Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

City Hall- Council Chambers
Tuesday, November 28, 2023

1. Call to Order

Amy Stone called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. on Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

2. Roll Call

a. Members Present Kristen Fain, Cheri Ortega, Carol Bissett, Dana Watson, Amy Stone

b. Others Present

Gretchen Pruett, library director; Natalee Corbett, library assistant director, Jordan Matney, Deputy City Manager.

3. Approval of Minutes

Carol Bissett made a motion to approve the October 16 minutes as written, and Dana Watson seconded. The minutes were approved.

4. Communications

a. Citizens:

Steve Ceh: spoke for 5.72 minutes to challenge books with LGBTQ and sexually explicit books for children.

Kim Hutchinson: spoke for 3.15 minutes saying we need to “clean up the library” of inappropriate books for children.

Judy Rothell- wants to speak about books that are already on the agenda. Will have to wait until that part of the agenda.

5. Reports

a. Library Director- For the first time since the pandemic we will reach a million circulations this year.

b. New Braunfels Public Library Foundation- Library Foundation President, organizing the book ball will be sending out invitations. Finishing off the WS library, and Virtual Reality. May 14 spring luncheon with Wizard of Oz theme. New Board members.

c. Friends of the Library: book sale cleared just short of \$40,000 dollars that will go to library programming.

The mission of the New Braunfels Public Library is to provide the community with equal access to physical and virtual environments that support and encourage lifelong learning and enrichment.

www.newbraunfels.gov/library



6. Discussion & Action

a. Review and possible action on an appeal of staff determination on Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials filed by Deborah Leimbach.

Gretchen states the collection development policy and purpose. Ms. Leimbach has asked that three titles be reconsidered for age appropriateness of collection placement.

Board Questions:

What is the process for reviewing a book that is being reconsidered?

What review sources are used and how are those collected and what are they?

Do journals that review Youth books rate by age and reading level?

Public Comment:

Ms. Leimbach public comment – 2.35 minutes to ask that the three named books be transferred to the adult section.

Judy Rothell – public comment – 3.20 minutes to discuss the three named books and ask to reconsider removing these books from the library.

Suzanne Collins- 50 sec – Support the library in their efforts.

Friday I'm in love- Kristen moved to leave book in the Youth fiction section, Cheri seconded. Favor 5, opposed 0. Book will remain where it is.

This book is Gay- Cheri moved to leave book in the Youth section, Carol seconded, 5 in favor, 0 opposed, Book will remain where it is.

What's the T- Kristen moved to uphold the decision to leave in the Youth section, Carol seconded. 5 in favor, 0 opposed. Book will remain where it is.

b. Review and possible action on an appeal of staff determination on Requests for Reconsideration of Library Materials filed by Mark and Susan Peloquin.

Gretchen states that in the challenges that are filed by the Peloquin's it states that the book should have a label of explicit. However, because we do not have that designation, the motion will be to move the book to the adult section.

c.

Public comment:

Susan Peloquin- 3.30 minutes - reconsider denial of request for the books listed in appeal.

Jim Hollister- 3.20 minutes – Neutral on the issues, asked about the mayor’s request for reconsideration and the process of asking for reconsideration.
Debra Nelson- 30 sec respect what the library is doing and their procedures.

Hello cruel world- Kristen moved to go to review committee, Carol seconded. Favor 3, opposed 2. It will be referred to the Reconsideration Subcommittee.

All boys aren’t blue- Cheri motion to leave book in the Youth fiction section, Dana seconded. Favor 5, opposed 0. Book will remain where it is.

Bodies are cool-Carol motion to leave in Easy fiction collection, Kristen seconded. Favor 5, opposed 0. Book will remain where it is.

Cramm this book- Dana motion to leave book in the Youth nonfiction section seconded by Kristen. Favor 5, opposed 0. Book will remain where it is.

Dating and sex – Carol moved to leave in Youth nonfiction, Kristen seconded. Favor 5, opposed 0. Book will remain where it is.

I have something to tell you-Cheri moved to leave book in Youth nonfiction. Favor 5, 0 opposed. Book will remain where it is.

It doesn’t have to be awkward- Carol moved to leave book in Youth nonfiction, Kristen seconded. Favor 5, opposed 0. Book will remain where it is.

LGBTQ-the survival guide-Cheri moved to leave the book in Youth nonfiction, Carol seconded. Favor 5, opposed 0. Book will remain where it is.

Queerfully and wonderfully made- Kristen moved to leave the book in Youth nonfiction, Cheri seconded. Favor 5, opposed 0. Book will remain where it is.

The awesome autistic guide for trans teens- Carol moved to send to review committee, seconded by Kristen. Favor 3, opposed 2. Book will be referred to the Reconsideration Subcommittee.

Trans teen survival guide- Kristen moved to leave in Youth nonfiction, seconded by Cheri. Book will remain where it is.

Understanding sexual orientation and gender identity- Dana moved to leave in the Youth nonfiction section, seconded by carol. Favor 5, opposed 0. Book will remain where it is.

You do you-Motion by Cheri to leave the book in the Youth nonfiction, seconded by Kristen. Favor 5, opposed 0. Book will remain where it is.

Review committee will consist of Kristen Fain, Dana Watson, and Connie Born.

- C. **Review and possible action on Library Policy 2.17: Records Retention:** State of Texas sets retention for local government, we review to make sure there are not any changes, there have not been any changes. Carol moved to review the policy in another year. Kristen seconded. Favor 5, Opposed 0.
- D. **Review and possible action on Library Policy 2.24 Naming Rights;** policy was updated as part of the opening of the Westside branch. We are not recommending any updates at this time. Cheri made a motion to endorse policy with no changes, Kristen seconded. Favor 5, Opposed 0. Motion was passed.
- E. **Discuss and possible action on cancellation of December meeting:** Amy moved to postpone meeting to January. Seconded by Cheri. Favor 5, Opposed 0. Motion passed to postpone December meeting to January 16.

7. Items for Next Agenda

No action may be taken at this time.

8. Adjournment

Amy Stone adjourned the meeting at 6.53 p.m.