



New Braunfels Public Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes

New Braunfels Public Library – In-Person
Monday, Sept. 20, 2021

1. Call to Order

Library Advisory Board President Connie Born called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 20, 2021.

2. Roll Call

a. Members Present

Connie Born, Amy Stone, Carol Bissett, Kay Cartwright, Deb Wigington

b. Others Present

Gretchen Pruett, library director; Jenny Rodriguez, Youth Services manager; Lynn Norvell, New Braunfels Public Library Foundation; Brenadette Faust, Capital Programs project specialist; Chuck Gilman, Freese & Nichols

3. Presentations

a. Freese & Nichols CIP Presentation

Freese & Nichols staff are working with individual city departments to determine the capital needs and capture relevant data on each project as part of an overall Capital Improvement Plan for the City of New Braunfels. The projects the library identified for the CIP are the Southeast Branch, the expansion of the main library and interior renovation projects until that time, as well as outdoor projects such as a programming space and garden. According to Chuck Gilman, the CIP is intended to be a living document ideally evaluated each year. Amy Stone, who represented the library on the previous bond advisory committee, noted that it would have been helpful to have a clearer breakdown/explanation of the project costs from the get-go because the perceived high costs of the projects caused contention last time. Gilman agreed, noting the differences in the costs of materials and the difference in residential vs. commercial costs.

b. COVID-19 Operations

We're now back to "new normal" hours, which are Mon.-Thurs. from 9 AM-8 PM, Friday from 9 AM-6 PM, Saturday from 9 AM-5 PM, and Sunday from 1-5 PM. Youth Services is emphasizing outdoor programming, and storytime is held at three different parks three days a week, once a week at Westside, and once a week virtually. Baby Rhyme Time is in the main library. At Westside, operations are affected more by lack of parking than anything else.

c. Westside Library Branch Update

A construction meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. Rain is still slowing things down.

d. Family Place Community Partner Presentation

Jenny Rodriguez introduced Family Place Libraries to the advisory board. The library was awarded a grant that provided funding toward becoming Family Place certified. This presentation describes the purpose of Family Place Libraries, the library's role in early literacy efforts, and the community's role in supporting the library.



4. Approval of Minutes

Kay Cartwright made a motion to approve the August minutes and Amy Stone seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

5. Communications

- a. Citizens
- b. Library Advisory Board Members

6. Reports

a. Friends of the Library

Friends are still planning on having a general meeting in September and the book sale in October, but as with everything nowadays, both are subject to change.

b. New Braunfels Public Library Foundation

Lynn Norvell reports that the Foundation is co-hosting the spelling bee at Krause's on Dec. 6. There will be 15 teams, and tickets are available on EventBrite. This coming Thursday is the Big Give. If you could give at 8:01 a.m. or 8:01 p.m., your donation will be matched. Jean Becker will be speaking Jan. 26.

c. Library Director

The budget process is underway; so far, City Council hasn't pulled or questioned anything. The library's major requests include staffing the new Westside branch.

d. Treasurer

No report this month.

7. Discussion & Action

a. Review and Possible Action on Library Policy 2.1 – Use of Library Facilities

The recommended change closes a loophole whereby members of a group make a reservation under each member's name and effectively book a study room for a full day. Kay Cartwright made a motion to approve the policy; Carol Bissett seconded. The policy was approved as revised.

b. Review and Possible Action on Library Policy 2.6 – Publicity

RIOver has been included to be available at events. Amy Stone made a motion to approve the policy; Deb Wigington seconded. The policy was approved as revised.

8. Items for Next Agenda (No Action May be Taken)

These items will carry over to the October agenda.

9. Adjournment

Connie Born adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.