

Library Advisory Board – Regular Quarterly Meeting

May 10, 2022

Chambers County Library, Anahuac

Little called the meeting to order at 4:02. A quorum was met. The following members were present: Sam Little, Carolyn Caldwell, Heather Puppa, Rhonda LeBlanc, Susie Davis, and LaShebia Haskin. Also present were County Librarian Valerie Jensen and Assistant County Librarian Annie Vass.

A phone number was updated for Caldwell on the Board Contact list.

LeBlanc made a motion for the minutes from the previous meeting to be approved as written, with a second by Davis.

Old Business

Little reiterated that the reception of the new library in Winnie has been very positive. LeBlanc mentioned an issue with some returned items not being properly checked in. Vass commented that it could be an issue with RFID tags in the items. An inventory is being conducted at the Winnie library and that should clear up this issue.

New Business

The draft of the Fine Free Policy was presented and discussed. Jensen explained that this policy eliminates fines for items returned late, but patrons would still be responsible for the cost of lost and damaged materials. Vass reported that currently none of the branches has more than 2% of their collection 180+ days overdue. Puppa mentioned she has heard of other libraries with similar policies. Haskin made a motion to approve the policy, with a second by Puppa. This policy will remain a draft until approved by Commissioners' Court.

Librarian's Report

Jensen gave an update on the upcoming Summer Reading Program, which will have a circus theme. Branches will be hosting mostly do-it-yourself programs, with one paid program for the end of summer party. All reading will be tracked online using the Beanstack app. Each branch has done a great job of getting sponsors this summer. Additionally, Houston Museum of Natural Science will be out with their Discovery Dome at each library in August.

Jensen also discussed the part-time children's programmer position vacant at Juanita Hargraves Memorial Branch, Winnie. The position was posted, but was pulled until after the Summer Reading Program ends.

Next, Jensen shared that the library system had recently added Mango Languages, which includes 70+ languages to learn. The county is also offering weekly Spanish classes to county employees hosted at the Chambers County Library, Anahuac. Vass gave a brief description of Scholastic Teachables, another recently added database. It includes worksheets, lesson plans, arts & crafts, & learning games for pre-K through 8th graders.

Lastly, Jensen outlined the outreach services provided by the library. Aquilia visits a nursing home in Liberty for crafting, schools have been to the Anahuac & Winnie libraries for field trips, Winnie drops off library items at the Arboretum, and Mont Belvieu has been delivering book boxes to daycares.

Little adjourned the meeting at 4:34pm.

Respectfully submitted, Annie Vass