

Liberty Municipal Library Board Minutes July 20, 2023

The July 20, 2023, meeting of the Liberty Municipal Library Board was called to order at 5:03 p.m. in the library conference room by President Tinya Griffin.

Members present: Bill Buchanan, Tinya Griffin, Stacy Sundgren, Sharon Brown, Gloria Stratton, Sandy Pickett, and June Damek. Also present were Friends of the Library President Cathy Harbour, guests Gary and Joshua Sundgren, Library Director Dana Abshier, and Administrative Assistant Amber Ursprung.

Members absent: Mychal English and Farrah Harper.

The minutes of the April 27, 2023, meeting was reviewed. Bill Buchanan made the motion to approve, and Sandy Pickett seconded. The motion passed.

There were no public comments.

The treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Stacy Sundgren. The motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by June Damek and was seconded by Bill Buchanan. The motion passed. Dana reported that a recent \$5,000 donation to the Elizabeth Anne Fund was deposited in a local bank but will soon be transferred into the Elizabeth Anne Trust Fund at Loan Star Trust in Bryan at the donor's request.

Cathy Harbour gave the Friends of the Library report and said planning for the book signing party for Valencia Arceneaux's recently published children's book is underway. The party will be held on July 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the foyer.

Dana Abshier gave the librarian's report. She described the library's activities over the last three months in a PowerPoint photo presentation. She said the Story Time children had two special visitors in May, including Officer Desiree Stanislas of the Liberty Police Department, who read a story, and Lincoln Graham Motes, an eight-year-old author who read his first book, *The Little Black Mouse*, which was recently published. Story Time attendance has been very high.

She also reported on the enjoyable Friends staff appreciation luncheon, held in May, which many board members, Friends and staff had attended.

Dana said the Summer Reading Program was hugely successful this year. The kickoff featured a special appearance by the Houston Astros Mascot, Orbit, who entertained a very large crowd at Liberty Center. The following week's event was snow cone day with a visit from the Liberty Fire Department. The next week ScienceTales appeared in Liberty Center. The return of craft day found a huge audience of perhaps 300 children and parents. The next events featured magician John O'Bryant and puppeteer Greg Ruhe, and both performed in the Humphreys Burson Theatre. All the programs were outstanding. The final event was the foam party, which was held outside on the lawn at city Hall. This year's teen summer program was very successful as well with digital game tournaments, a Nerf gun war, craft day, movie day, and a pizza party on the last day.

Dana also reported on several building maintenance issues.

There was no unfinished business.

Under new business the library board meeting attendance policy was discussed. Farrah Harper and Mychal English had missed most of the meetings since being appointed to the board. Their terms are up in September, but it is yet to be determined by the City Council if they will be reappointed due to their attendance history.

The terms of Bill Buchanan and Tinya Griffin will also expire but they are eligible to serve another term, and they have agreed to do so if reappointed. They were given City of Liberty board applications to fill out.

Dana then told the group that she is retiring on September 30. The board asked who might become the next director and Dana said that Administrative Assistant Amber Ursprung is very interested in the position. There was discussion among the board about Amber's qualifications and Sandy Pickett made the motion for President Tinya Griffin to write a letter of recommendation in support of Amber Ursprung for the director position, and the letter will be signed by the board members. Bill seconded, and the motion was approved.

With no further business the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15.