



Minutes Library Board

Thursday, November 11, 2021

7:00 PM

177 N. Hartz Rd

Notice is hereby given that the Cozby Library and Community Commons Advisory Board met on Thursday, November 11, 2021, in the Conference Room of the Library at 177 North Hartz Road, Coppell, TX 75019.

Regular Session (Open to the Public)

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Frank Gasparro at 7:03 p.m. Other Board members present were Jan Lorrain, Anne Diamond, Matthew Ittoop, Martha Garber, Sherry Carr-Smith, Michelle Ostrander, and Adrienne Morton. Youth Advisors Vishnu Marella and Kate Markham were also present. Staff in attendance were Library Director Dennis Quinn, Assistant Director Amy Pittman-Hassett and Administrative Technician III Laurie Arnold.

Frank acknowledged Veteran's Day and the 100th Anniversary of the 2,000,000th Unknown Soldier. He expressed appreciation for Serviceman and their families.

2. Citizens' Forum

None

3. Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2021

Anne Diamond moved to approve minutes and Adrienne Morton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

4. Receive an Update on the Strategic Plan Process

Dennis reviewed the results of the October 23rd Strategic Planning Workshop. Three Board Members, two staff members and 18 community members were present for the workshop.

The workshop was structured around a series of question-and-answer sessions. Participants were introduced to the City's Vision 2040 Plan. More specifically, Pillar 1: Perpetuate a Learning Environment and Pillar 2: Foster an Inclusive Community Fabric. Through that lens, the groups discussed the needs challenges and opportunities facing the Coppell Community and the Cozby Library.

Three common themes emerged through group discussion: (1) Invitation (2)

Belonging and (3) Connection.

Invitation includes finding ways to include the public in current activities by tapping unrecognized resources and partnering with the public to effectively communicate the library's message.

Understanding the community and seeing their world through a different lens to appropriately meet their needs. Asking the right questions and changing the way things are perceived. What would it mean to others for me to participate?

Belonging includes recognizing the diversity of the community not just as a strength, but as the fabric of the community itself. The library needs to be accessible to all members of the community; to draw people in as a safe space to convene and learn cross culturally, cross industrially, and cross generationally.

Connection connects the three. It includes the heart of the library's function; both in the traditional sense with collection development, and the non-traditional role as a community gathering space. Keeping network alive, engaged, and excited through intergenerational connections.

The next workshop will reflect on the original findings and review the staff and Board responses. The Library's Strategic Plan, focusing on the library through the lens of Vision 2040, will be developed from the workshop's final recommendations. The plan will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

5. Director's Report

Dennis reviewed library statistics. The graphs do not reflect large changes from month to month, but do reflect the gradual uptick in some services, including room reservations.

Programs continue to reflect different, noticeable changes. Staff has directed their attention to fewer, well-attended programs. Librarians have begun surveying program participants to determine if the programs meet their intended purpose.

Dennis acknowledged that there have been book challenges reported in neighboring school districts and counties. He is in contact with the Coppell School District and policies are in place to review book challenges should the need arise.

There is a Library Advisory Board Meeting on December 9th. Prior to the meeting, Board members are invited to attend dinner in the Meeting Room.

The Council will hold reception in the Atrium at Town Center between the Work Session and the Regular Session. New Board members will be sworn in and leaving members will be acknowledged. This year, the library honors the service of four regular board members and two youth advisors who will not serve on the board next year. Dennis expressed his gratitude to all for their service.

6. Board Member and Youth Advisor Reports

Frank discussed a teen program he attended. He was impressed with the program and the work by the teen librarians.

Vishnu suggested a program of teen volunteers teaching coding to younger children.

Kate reviewed the status of the Adulting programs: November 18th is creating resumes for professional and academic applications. Kate is working with Frank and the teen librarian on more adulting classes in the future.

7. Friends of Coppel Library Report

Adrienne reviewed the events on the Friends calendar. The Friends' monthly board meeting was held October 25th. On October 30, over 200 pumpkins were distributed at the annual pumpkin and bookbag sale held at the Farmer's Market. The Amazon wish list has successfully initiated delivery of items to the children's librarians for the Discovery Backpacks.

The Annual Big Book Sale will be held at the library from November 19-21, 2021. It will include a China auction. Signs have been posted throughout the city.

The next Friends Board Meeting is December 6, 2021, at 7:00 pm

8. Library Board Goals and Objectives

The goals and objectives were reviewed. With a new Strategic Plan, these goals and objectives will be refreshed.

9. Adjournment

Chair Frank Gasparro adjourned the meeting at 8:15.

Frank Gasparro, Library Board Chair

Laurie A. Arnold, Administrative Technician III