

**Alpine Public Library, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room**  
*October, 14 2021, 5:30 p.m.*

**Mission:** The Alpine Public Library works to build community, encourage literacy, and promote lifelong learning. We endeavor to create and maintain a welcoming facility with relevant and enriching resources that connect our diverse and geographically remote area to the world.

**Vision:** The Alpine Public Library envisions a future in which individuals and families are engaged, lifelong learners.

Members present: Linda Bryant; Lee Smith; Amelie Urbanczyk; Jaime Escuder, John Roe; Kathy Donnell, Betsy Evans; Chris Ruggia; Ellen Ruggia; Executive Director Don Wetterauer. Absent: Mike Pallanez; Cynthia Salas(excused); Martin Sandate; Bernadette Devine(excused)

The meeting was called to order by Linda Bryant at 5:30 p.m.

- A. Changes to agenda- CR requested to continue ReReads discussion in Ongoing Business
- B. Introduction of guests - no guests
- C. Minutes from 09/09/21; AU edited the minutes to include the absence of Martin Sendate at the September meeting and corrected a misspelling of the name Jamieson; it was then moved, seconded, and unanimously approved that the minutes of the September meeting be accepted.
- D. Consent Agenda- JR clarified budget concerns and expressed that our current financial status is “ok”, though he suggested that we look carefully at the 2022 budget and make adjustments where necessary and possible; CR asked if government grants can be used for operations, though DW stated that these grants are mostly used for programming; JE asked if we are able to meet payroll, DW said “yes”; JR expressed that DW does a very good job of managing expenses; Consent Agenda is approved through motion by CR, seconded by AU.
- E. Ongoing Business —

**The Capital Campaign** DW discussed that we were approved to transfer \$300,000 from WTNB to our Schwabb account to continue the investment strategy.

**Community Reading** —A “community conversation” forum is scheduled for Saturday, 10/16, at 1PM, expected to last one hour and 15 minutes, can accommodate 25 people, and will be filmed and posted on YouTube; the gathering is expected to be covered by the Big Bend Gazette; the outcome of the discussions will be reported to various government agencies and government officials; KD comments that the author’s discussion (see August minutes) was amazing and recommend that those who could not attend try to access it on the library’s YouTube channel: Alpine Public library Productions; LS is now brainstorming other ways to promote community discussions, suggests hosting candidate forums during election cycles.

**Silent Auction** — LB will send out an updated master list of donors to everyone involved in helping procure items for the Silent Auction; for the auction itself, items need to be at least \$25 in value or will be sold at the “Buy it Now” table, both places are of equal interest to the library’s fundraising efforts; LB and KD clarified how to document the donation forms, especially when dealing with

original works of art from the artist... those items need a physical address so that the library can send a hand-written note of thanks; if a donor wants an item to be sold at a minimum price, then that reserve amount must be noted; items procured by board members should have a phone/text number where you can be reached quickly with any questions about the item; businesses that donate items should be given a poster to hang at their location that recognizes their contribution; KD asked the Ruggia to come up with a template for recognizing specific items from businesses to display in their window; flyers to post around town soliciting donations were handed out to board members present, updated versions by the Ruggias will be forthcoming; JE recommended that we put a list of desired items on the website instead of on the flyer; ER will update the webpage; tickets for the wheelbarrow of beverages will be sold, along with coffee and (hopefully) pecans.

#### **F. New business**

Board Training Review - roles and responsibilities of board members was discussed. The library continues to work on having things accountable, accessible and relevant to the community; the board needs to check the policy manual to make sure that everything is the way we want it to be today; LB reviewed the list of board roles and functions:

- LB stressed that every board member is expected to make some financial donation every year because it resonates with grantors when 100% of our board members make a monetary contribution;
- LB reviewed our vision statement and feels we fall short because we are not fostering engaged, lifelong learners, mostly through the absence of teens utilizing the library;
- LB asked that we share ideas for marketing strategies to reach the community;
- LB reminded the board that while we are encouraged to familiarize ourselves with the staff and daily operations, it is the director only that deals with staff issues, so please go to him with concerns;
- all board members should actively participate in fundraising which can include but it not limited to offering recommendations for people and places that would have the wherewithal to provide financial support to the library;
- attending board meetings is very important and communication is key if you cannot attend;
- LB asks each board member to consider our individual strengths and skills and how we can share these attributes to enrich the board;
- it is important to know the history of the library, especially as it pertains to how we are funded, as we are representatives in the community; 30% of the library's funding comes from the city and county, the rest is fundraised;

LB asked for honest opinions and input from the board self-evaluation;

JR suggested we make more of an effort to appeal to tourists with our fundraising campaigns;

JR suggested that we draw from the Jamieson endowment to reach our 50% goal with Campaign for Kids;

CR suggested talking about library on the podcast "Alpine, TX: Heart of the Big Bend"

Next meeting announced: November 11, 2021, at 5:30

Meeting adjourned at 6:41PM

Respectfully submitted,  
Amelie Urbanczyk, secretary  
2021 APL Board of Directors