

Alpine Public Library Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 14, 2023
5:30 PM
AEP Foundation Multipurpose Room and Zoom

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.

Board Members Present: Don Wetterauer, Linda Bryant, Ellen Ruggia, Chris Ruggia, Kathy Donnell, Marilyn Gruebel, Ralph Gruebel, Judy Bowers, Betsy Helesic, Isabel Jones
Board Members Excused: Mary Bennett

A. Call to order - Linda Bryant called the meeting to order.

B. Changes to the agenda - Linda Bryant asked for additional changes to the agenda. Additional discussion of the Start Local, LLC proposal was added to New Business. Ralph Gruebel asked for a report from the Turkey Trot. Ellen and Chris Ruggia shared that \$365 were raised with about 21 walkers. The report from the Granada staff suggests that they could double funds raised next year.

C. Introduction of guests and announcements - Linda Bryant introduced guests and asked for announcements.

1. Benjamin Garcia of Start Local, LLC joined the meeting as a guest to discuss his proposal, shared in the Consent Agenda. Discussion took place following the proposal presentation. Linda Bryant recommended moving forward with joint hosting of talent show to start. Discussion took place about the date, which is still tentatively set for Saturday, February 10, 2024 with a call to action by January 5, 2024 and collateral produced by the Granada staff before the holidays. Chris Ruggia moved that the Board partner with Start Local, LLC on the Talent Show. Betsy Helesic seconded. Passed.
2. Linda Bryant reminded the Board that Members volunteer to help run the Library during the holidays to give staff time off. Discussion took place. Linda passed around the calendar for Board Members to sign.
3. It was announced that today marks Kathy Donnell's last meeting as a Board Member! Thank you, Kathy.
4. It was announced that Chris Ruggia's term as President of the Friends is ending along with the broader changes being made to the Friends structure! This marks Chris Ruggia's last meeting with the Board. Thank you, Chris!
5. It was announced that Ellen Ruggia is resigning from the Board effective end of January. Ellen encouraged fellow Board Members to consider taking on the role of Treasurer. Thank you, Ellen!

D. Approve minutes - Linda Bryant asked for discussion on the minutes from November's meeting. Ellen Ruggia pointed out that 'Donnell' needs a spell check. Ellen Ruggia moved to approve the minutes pending corrections. Marilyn Gruebel seconded. Passed.

E. Consent Agenda - Linda Bryant asked for discussion on the Consent Agenda. On the topic of the Director's Report, Ellen Ruggia asked of the Big Bend Regional Resource Directory: What happens to the directory if we don't have a grant to fund it every year? Don Wetterauer says without funding it will not be hosted online, but that there are ongoing discussions and plans to maintain funding via grants or other local organizations. Ellen Ruggia then asked about who would be teaching classes related to the Texas Rural Communities grant. Don Wetterauer shared community members who have been considered for teaching roles. Linda Bryant asked for additional discussion on the consent agenda. Linda Bryant asked Don Wetterauer to include that the City of Alpine recommended the Library apply for an award from the Municipal Library Directors of Texas in the Director's Report. Judy Bowers made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda with included updates. Ralph Gruebel seconded. Passed.

F. New Business

- 1. Budget for 2024** - Linda Bryant shared that Don Wetterauer sent the budget as part of the Consent Agenda. She encouraged questions to be directed to Don. Additional discussion on the 2024 budget proposal will take place at the January meeting.
- 2. Start Local, LLC proposal** - Linda Bryant led additional discussion related to the Start Local, LLC proposal of a Public Private Partnership. Linda Bryant recommended that a committee consider the proposal further, and outlined what she would like a committee to research as part of the decision-making process. Linda Bryant shared that she views the Dancing and Talent show as viable events for such a partnership. Discussion took place about Silent Auction debrief and consensus was met that the Silent Auction is not suitable for public-private partnership at this time. Board Members took this opportunity to congratulate Marilyn Gruebel on her hard work on the Silent Auction. Linda Bryant asked for committee members. Marilyn Gruebel, Ralph Gruebel, Judy Bowers, and Linda Bryant will serve. Ralph Gruebel will Chair. Linda Bryant asked Ralph Gruebel to host a meeting in early January.

G. Ongoing business

- 1. Direct Mail promotion** - Chris Ruggia reported that the third and final mailing was complete. It brought in \$2069, and the Library spent \$500 in postage and return postage. Linda Bryant asked about the next mailing. Chris Ruggia shared that he is not in a position to plan future mailings. The Board can consider future mailings knowing that Judy Ford and Petra and others seem interested to continue volunteering in the effort. The Library has a permit for mailings that will expire in 2024, so it would need to be renewed. Linda Bryant recommended further discussion at the January meeting.
- 2. Building Committee** - Linda Bryant asked Don Wetterauer for an update from the Building Committee. Don Wetterauer shared that the crew is making progress on construction: Permits received, dirt work done, pouring concrete next week to cure over Christmas. \$230,000 has been spent to date.

- 3. Friends of the Alpine Public Library structure** - Linda Bryant opened discussion on the shift in the Friends group structure. The Friends will not exist as a separate group. Linda Bryant recommends a standing committee of Friends with a Board Member as Chair, and reminds the Board that Board Meetings are open to the public. Linda Bryant is looking for someone to volunteer to be Chair in January. Linda Bryant shared that volunteer Kathy Bork re-wrote the Friends of the Library brochure to further illustrate the changes. Ellen Ruggia offered to do a layout of the form.

H. Next meeting date - The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 2024. Betsy Helesic is out of town that week and asked for a fellow Board member to record minutes. Instead, the meeting will be recorded and Betsy will transcribe notes at a later date.

I. Adjournment - Kathy Donnell moved to adjourn her last meeting as Board Member. Ellen Ruggia seconded at her second to last meeting as Board Member. Passed. Meeting adjourned.

2023 Board of Directors:

Linda Bryant, President (2024)

Isabel Jones, Vice President (2025)

Ellen Ruggia, Treasurer (2024)

Betsy Evans, Secretary (2024)

Kathy Donnell (2023)

Mary Bennett (2025)

Judy Bowers (2024)

Marilyn Gruebel (2026)

Ralph Gruebel (2026)

Chris Ruggia, Friends of APL Representative

Greg Henington, Brewster Co. Representative

Martin Sandate, City of Alpine Representative