

Alpine Public Library Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 8, 2024
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: Linda Bryant, Don Wetterauer, Mary Bennett, Marilyn Gruebel, Ralph Gruebel, Maggie Bootman, Betsy Helesic

Board Members Excused: Judy Bowers, Isabel Jones

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

B. Changes to the agenda

1. Linda Bryant and Betsy Helesic apologized for the lack of the meeting minutes from the January meeting. The Board will have opportunity to approve the January minutes at the March meeting.
2. Linda Bryant offered a change the agenda to add an announcement from Don Wetterauer.
3. Linda Bryant asked to add the Fish Fry (March 8) to the New Business, as discussed at the January meeting.

C. Introduction of guests and announcements

1. There were no guests.
2. Linda Bryant and Ralph Gruebel announced they were seeking volunteers to deliver ReReads books to the Recycling Center.
3. Linda Bryant announced that Cathy Wright needs assistance taking books to the train station in the future.
4. Don Wetterauer announced that APL had been granted the 2023 Achievement of Excellence in Libraries Award by the Texas Municipal Library Director's Association. This will be in the paper and go on the radio. This award symbolizes APL being within the top 15% of public libraries in the state.
5. A question was posed about the Patio Sale. Linda Bryant announced that it will take place on April 20, with setup to take place on April 19.

D. Approve minutes - Linda Bryant shared that the January meeting minutes would be reviewed for approval at the March meeting.

E. Consent Agenda

1. Linda Bryant asked for discussion on the Consent Agenda. Marilyn Gruebel highlighted the news of increased profits for ReReads in the month of January.

Marilyn Gruebel offered a correction to the agenda: that Ralph Gruebel's term as Treasurer would go to 2026. Then, Ralph Gruebel moved to approve the Consent Agenda as modified. Mary Bennett seconded. Motion passed.

F. New Business

- 1. Fundraising** - Marilyn Gruebel presented a working draft for a fundraising plan. She explained that while discussing the strategic plan, the Board agreed to add a fundraising plan as an addendum to the strategic plan as a way to plan for the library's operating budget. Marilyn Gruebel explained the draft document and recommended a committee be formed to maintain and tweak the plan. Linda Bryant thanked Marilyn Gruebel for her work and offered that the Board discuss this more at the April meeting.
- 2. Endowment** - Ralph Gruebel presented confidential draft document proposing Endowment Policies and Procedures. Discussion took place, particularly about needing guidance of a lawyer. Some suggestions were floated for consideration and invitation. Ralph Gruebel shared that he would also work toward drafting an implementation plan to accompany these policies and procedures. It was recommended that everyone have a close read of the draft. Linda Bryant thanked Ralph Gruebel for his work and recommended we focus on the fundraising plan first, before the Endowment Policies and Procedures.
- 3. Fish Fry, March 8** - Linda Bryant shared the ticket sign-up sheet and volunteer sign-up sheet with the Board. She asked everyone to sign up for serving and sell tickets.

G. Ongoing business

- 1. Direct Mail promotion** - Linda Bryant shared the draft of a letter for a potential mailing campaign. Volunteers Judy Ford, Nina Foley, and Petra will be asked to continue with this project. Marilyn Gruebel moved that we use the draft letter for a March mailing. Mary Bennett seconded. Passed. Don Wetterauer will take the March mailing letter draft to study and review. Marilyn Gruebel offered to assist.
- 2. Building Committee** - Linda Bryant asked for a Building Committee update. Don Wetterauer provided an update about the construction of the firewall and framing. Total expenditure to date is \$430,000.
- 3. Budget for 2024** - Linda Bryant reminded the Board that the 2024 budget passed during the January meeting.
- 4. Start Local, LLC proposal** - Linda Bryant reminded the Board that Alpine's Got Talent was postponed so there is nothing to discuss regarding the Start Local, LLC proposal at this time.

H. Next meeting date - Linda Bryant shared that the next meeting date is March 14, during Spring Break. Betsy Helesic reported she will be out of town. The meeting will be recorded and minutes transcribed again.

I. Adjournment - Ralph Gruebel moved to adjourn. Mary Bennett seconded. Passed.

2024 Board of Directors:

Linda Bryant, President (2024)

Isabel Jones, Vice President (2025)

Ralph Gruebel, Treasurer (2026)

Betsy Helesic, Secretary (2024)

Mary Bennett (2025)

Judy Bowers (2024)

Marilyn Gruebel (2026)

Maggie Bootman (2026)

Greg Henington, Brewster Co. Representative

Martin Sandate, City of Alpine Representative